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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**STATE WINNERS IN THE PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event (CDE) were recognized at the 89th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017.

In the senior division, Dawson Adams of Coffee County placed first in the individual CDE competition. Sara Herendon of Gilmer County placed second, Courtney Cameron of Lowndes County, and Tenisha Harper of Oglethorpe County finished fourth.

In the junior division, Joey Blackstock of Jefferson Middle placed first in the individual CDE competition. Chloe Pullian of Franklin County Middle, Jostina Carr of Redbud Middle, and Sarah Mathis of Screven County Middle finished second, third, and fourth respectively.

CDE awards are granted to FFA members and teams who have exhibited premier leadership, personal growth, and career success in a variety of competitions. Prepared Public Speaking CDE is designed to enhance the speaking skills of participants by encouraging civic participation and cultivation of a better knowledge of agriculture. Prepared competitors in the Prepared Public Speaking CDE present a speech before a panel of judges and respond to questions from the judges.

The senior division Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by the Georgia Association of Past State FFA Officers and at the national level by Monsanto. The junior division was sponsored by the Tommy Irvin Endowed Fund.

All individual and team winners received a plaque and a cash award. First place individuals winner received $100 cash and $500 in travel money for the National Convention. Second place individuals received $50, and third place individuals received $25. The winning team was awarded $2,000 travel money to attend the National FFA Convention. Additionally, the advisor of the state winning team received a $100 cash award.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, changed its name in 1988 to reflect the growth and diversity of agriculture. There are more than 600,000 FFA members nationwide. The Georgia Association has more than 40,000 members, making it the third largest Association in the nation. The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success, through agricultural education.

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