April 29, 2016

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan Dewitt, students of the University of Georgia Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication

**STATE WINNERS IN AGRICULTURAL SALES CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 88th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Agricultural Sales Career Development Event (CDE) were recognized at the 88th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 28-30, 2016.

Joseph Terry of East Jackson placed first in the individual CDE competition, followed by Doug Evans of East Jackson and Robert Hodges of Statesboro, finishing second and third, respectively. In the team competition, the state winner was East Jackson, followed by Gilmer County in second place and Madison County in third.

CDE awards are granted to FFA members and teams who have exhibited premier leadership, personal growth and career success in a variety of competitions. The Agricultural Sales CDE is a team event designed to provide an individual with the basic skills to take advantage of the career opportunities offered in the sales field. Sales are an essential part of a market economy. Agricultural products benefit from sales skills, both for inputs for production and the marketing of the products.

The Agricultural Sales Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by Verizon and at the national level by Monsanto.

All individual and team winners received a plaque and a cash award. Individual winners received $100. 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.

###

**Media Contact:** Ben Lastly, 706-552-4456, blastly@uga.edu