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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**STATE WINNERS IN FLORICULTURE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Floriculture 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, Lily Reed of White County was the high scoring individual, followed by Katherine Mims of Seminole County and Allison White of Mary Persons placing second and third respectively. The senior team state winner was Seminole County followed by White County in second place and North Murray in third.

The junior division high individual was Lindsey Grimes of Wheeler County, followed by Brianna Beard of Thomas Middle in second place and Kristen Palmer of Pelham High in third place. The junior team state winner was Thomson Middle, with second place going to Appling County Middle and third place to Pelham High.

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 Floriculture Career Development Event tests participants’ knowledge and skills in various aspects of the industry. The team event includes identification of plant materials and disorders, as well as hands-on problem solving and a written exam involving the production, use of plant material and their maintenance, related products, equipment and services.

The Floriculture Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by County Plant Farm and the Georgia FFA Foundation.

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 $2000 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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