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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Poultry Evaluation 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, Camille Evans of Oconee County was the high scoring individual, followed by Alyssa Rauton of Burke County and Zach Neese of Franklin County placing second and third respectively. The senior team state winner was Burke County, followed by Pickens County in second place and Oconee County in third.

The junior division high individual was Jacob Gafner of Athens Christian, followed by Alexander Caro of Oconee County Middle in second place and Alex Huff of Oconee County Middle in third place. The junior team state winner was Athens Christian, with second place going to Oconee County Middle and third place to Berrien County.

CDE awards are granted to FFA members and teams who have exhibited premier leadership, personal growth, and career success in a variety of competitions. Poultry Judging teams participate in a set of comprehensive events related to judging, placing, grading and identifying live birds, carcasses, eggs, poultry parts, chicken patties, nuggets or tenders. Participants presented oral reasons, participated in a team activity, and were given a management test.

The Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by Centurion Poultry, Inc. and Zaxby’s.

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.

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