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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan Dewitt,

**STATE WINNERS IN THE TURF GRASS MANAGMEMENT PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Turf Grass Management Proficiency were recognized at the 89th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017.

Owen Paulk of Irwin County placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Daniel Holcomb of Habersham County, and Cameron Byers of Troup County placed third.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Student participation in Turf Grass Management involves the planting and maintaining of turf for outdoor beautification, owning a lawn mowing service, improving recreational areas, producing sod for sale, and managing golf courses.

The Turf Grass Management Proficiency was sponsored by Georgia Crop Improvement Association at the state level.

All proficiency winners received a plaque and a cash award. State winners receive $100, as well as $500 travel money to attend the National FFA Convention. Additionally, the advisor of the state winner received $100 cash. Second place winners received $50, and third place winners received $25.

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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