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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Land 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, Tucker Felkins of Bleckley County was the high scoring individual, followed by Merry Spradlin of Madison County and Evan Thomas of Bleckley County placing second and third respectively. The senior team state winner was Mary Persons, followed by Bleckley County in second place and Madison County in third.

The junior division high individual was Lizzy Parks of Bleckley County, followed by Ashton Hooks of Mary Persons in second place and Jared Matthew Kierulf of Athens Christian in third place. The junior team state winner was Athens Christian, with second place going to Eighth Street Middle and third place to Mary Persons.

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 Land Evaluation CDE helps students learn skills to determine agricultural land use and treatment practices. Additionally, the CDE provides the opportunity to learn about soil and water conservation, while using land in its most efficient capacity.

Both the senior and junior Land Evaluation Career Development Events were sponsored at the state level by CSX Transportation and 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. Additionally, the advisor of the state winning team received a $100 cash award. The first place team will also receive $2,000 in travel money to go to the national competition held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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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