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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt

**NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Recipients of the National Chapter Award were announced at the 89th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017. The National Chapter Award recognizes FFA chapters who exemplify chapter excellence by creating a balanced Program of Activities and provide opportunities for members to grow as individuals.

The state winner in Chapter Achievement was X. Chapter Achievement Awards were presented to Cambridge of Area 1; West Jackson Middle of Area 2; Pike County of Area 3; Screven County of Area 4; Northeast Tift FFA of Area 5 and Brantley County Middle of Area 6. National Gold Emblem Chapter Awards, representing the top 10% of FFA chapters, were presented to Berrien County High, Cook County High, Seminole County, Bonaire Middle, Crawford County, Jefferson County, Jones County, Perry Middle, Southeast Bulloch, Stockbridge, West Laurens, Alcovy, Apalachee, Chattanooga Valley Middle, Eastside, Franklin County Middle, Gilmer County, Gordon Central, Jefferson Middle, LaFayette Middle, Madison County Middle, Morgan County High, North Oconee, Oglethorpe County Middle, and Winder-Barrow.

Chapters must complete a detailed application to be eligible for the National Chapter Award. The applications are scored based on the chapters’ goals and the achievement of the set goals. State FFA Associations recognize the top 10% of chapters as Gold Emblem chapters. The top application in each area is named an area winner in Chapter Achievement, and the highest scoring chapter is named the state winner.

The National Chapter Awards were sponsored by the Farm Credit Associations of Georgia.

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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