April 27, 2018

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By McKenzie Lewis, Loren Lindler, Shelby Mumma, & Sarah Spradlin

**RECIPIENTS OF THE WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RECOGNIZED AT THE 90th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Recipients of the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) Scholarship were recognized at the 90th State FFA Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 26-28, 2018.

At the Washington Leadership Conference, FFA members from across the United States meet in the Capitol to put leadership into action. While at the conference, members learn to value people, take action, and serve others while participating in leadership activities and community service. The WLC Scholarships presented at the convention will pay for Georgia FFA members to attend the conference this summer.

The 2018 Larry and Gwen Corzine WLC Scholarship recipients were Spen Oliver of Harris County, Lauren Wheeler of East Laurens, and Ali Grace Bennett of Jenkins County. The parents of Central Region Agricultural Education Director, Chris Corzine, award these scholarships to FFA members from Areas 3 and 4.

The 2018 Terry England WLC Scholarship was awarded to Brooke Crowder of Fannin County. Representative England is a past Georgia FFA Alumni Association President and past member of the National FFA Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The winner of the 2018 Mort Ewing WLC Scholarship was Samantha Ayoub of Jefferson City. Mr. Ewing sponsors this scholarship annually in honor of his service as the Georgia State Farm Bureau President.

The 2018 Elliot and Christy Marsh scholarship went to Bailey Shuman of Southeast Bulloch. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh donate this scholarship annually to be received by an FFA member in Bulloch County.

The 2018 Warren Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship was presented to Christa Anderson of Franklin County. State Senator and retired Agricultural Education Program Manager, John Wilkinson, sponsors this scholarship in memory of his father, Mr. Warren Wilkinson, a former FFA member, agricultural education teacher, principal and county school superintendent. He was a passionate supporter of the FFA program and was awarded both the Honorary State and American FFA Degrees.

The winners of the 2018 Blue and Gold Gala WLC Scholarships were Ivey Cook of Tift County, Mattie Anne Davis of Brantley County, Reese Hancock of Worth County, Chandler Mills of Lee County, Callie Ollis of Madison County, and Rachel Spencer of Long County.

The winner of the 2018 Oglethorpe Power Scholarship was Mary Elizabeth Mallard of Burke County.

The 2018 WLC Scholarships sponsored by the Georgia FFA Alumni Association were received by Faith Wofford of Sonoraville and Erik Robinson of Effingham County.

The winners of the 2018 Young Farmer WLC Scholarships were Gage Nichols of Tift County and Katie Bowen of North Murray, which was sponsored by the Georgia Young Farmer Association.

The winner of the 2018 Georgia Federal State Inspection Service Scholarship was Thalik Hudson of Pelham.

The following local Farm Bureau WLC scholarships were awarded: the Madison County scholarship was awarded to Chase West of Madison County, the Colquitt County Farm Bureau Scholarship was awarded to Raymond Willis of Colquitt County, and the Miller County Farm Bureau Scholarship was awarded Caitlyn Preston of Miller County.

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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**Media Contact:** Ben Lastly, 706-552-4456, blastly@uga.edu