April 28, 2017

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**STATE WINNERS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SALES ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship Proficiency were recognized at the 89th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2016.

Rhet Thornton of Pike Central placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Alana G. Atkinson of Coffee County, and Matthew Reynolds of Gordon Central placed third.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). The Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship Proficiency involves programs where students independently acquire industry experience selling and merchandising crops, feed, seed, agricultural chemicals, livestock, processed agricultural commodities, agricultural equipment, horticultural or forestry items at either the retail or wholesale level.

The Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by Walton EMC.

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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