April 27, 2018

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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

**STATE WINNERS IN THE SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 90th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Specialty Animal Production Proficiency were recognized at the 90th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 26-28, 2018.

Kellie Smith of Franklin County placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Mary Tostenson of Colquitt County, and Josef Steinseifer of Burke County finished third.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Specialty Animal Production involves the use of the best management practices available to efficiently produce and market specialty animals including bees, goats, mules, donkeys, miniature horses, meat rabbits, mink, worms, ostriches, emus, alpacas, or llamas. Placement experiences can involve working at a zoo or at any specialty animal facility.

The Specialty Animal Production Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by Titan/Goodyear Farm Tires.

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.

###

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