April 28, 2017

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt

**STATE WINNERS IN AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS AND WOOD WORKING MIDDLE SCHOOL RECORD BOOK COMPETITION RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Agricultural Mechanics and Wood Working Middle School Record Book Competition were recognized at the 89th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017.

Kaz Pickering of Pelham Middle, representing Area 5, was the state winner in the competition. The Area 1 winner was Peyton O’Neal of Fannin County Middle. Riley Yancey of Madison County Middle took honors in Area 2. Thailer Farber of Thomson Middle was the winner in Area 3. The Area 4 winner was William Christmas of South Effingham Middle. Brayden Gibson of Brantley County Middle was the winner in Area 6.

The Middle School Record Book award program encourages students to begin and maintain a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project and keep accurate, detailed records. Students compete in one of seven categories: Agricultural Sales, Services and Marketing; Agricultural Mechanics and Wood Working; Forestry and Natural Resources; Horticulture; Livestock Care; Production Agriculture; and Specialty and Small Animal Care.

Each area winner received a plaque and a $50 cash award. The state winner received a plaque and an additional $100 cash award. The advisor of the state winner also received a $100 cash award.

The Middle School Record Book Awards were sponsored by Wm. J. Redmond & Son, Inc..

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 41,000 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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