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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt

**STATE WINNERS IN THE NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Nursery and Landscape Career Development Event (CDE) were recognized at the 89th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017.

In the senior division, Sean West of Evans was the state high scoring individual, followed by Rhine Brady of White County and tying for third were Audrey Barr and Emsley Smith of Mary Persons. In the team competition, the state winner was Mary Persons, followed by Portal in second place and White County in third.

In the junior division, Katie Bowen of North Murray was the state high individual, followed by Kristen Palmer of Pelham and Rose Coleman of Echols County finishing second and third, respectively. In the team competition, the state winner was North Murray, followed by Pelham in second place and Echols County in third.

CDE awards are granted to FFA members and teams who have exhibited premier leadership, personal growth, and career success in a variety of competitions. The Nursery and Landscape CDE tests participants’ knowledge and skills in various aspects of the industry. This event includes the identification of plant materials and disorders, as well as a hands-on problem solving and a written exam involving the production, design, installation, and maintenance of landscape plants, related products, equipment and services.

The Nursery and Landscape Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by the Georgia FFA Foundation and Pennington Seed, Inc..

All individual and team winners received a plaque and a cash award. Individual winners received $100. Second place individuals received $50 and third place individuals received $25. The winning team was awarded $2,000 travel money to attend the National FFA Convention. Additionally, the advisor of the state winning team received a $100 cash award.

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