April 26, 2018

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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

**STATE WINNERS IN FORESTRY CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 90th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Forestry Career Development Event (CDE) were recognized at the 90th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 26-28, 2018.

In the senior division, Wheeler County placed first in the team competition, followed by Echols County and Ware County placing second and third, respectively.

In the junior division, Echols County received first place, followed by Banks County in second place and Pelham Middle in third place.

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 Forestry Career Development Event tests participants’ knowledge and skills in various aspects of the industry. The team event includes identification of plant materials and disorders, as well as hands-on problem solving; and a written exam involving the production, use of plant material and their maintenance, related products, equipment and services.

The Forestry Career Development Event was sponsored on the state level by Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber of Commerce.

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 620,000 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