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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**HONORARY STATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED AT THE 90th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Recipients of the Honorary State FFA Degree were recognized at the 90th State FFA Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 26-28, 2018.

The Honorary State FFA Degree is given to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to agricultural education and the National FFA Organization. A total of 59 individuals have received Honorary State Degrees based on their exceptional work in the state of Georgia.

Honorary State FFA Degrees were awarded to 19 individuals for their outstanding service and commitment to agricultural education and Georgia FFA. Recipients included Mrs. Hannah Elrick,
Mr. Van Mills, Mr. Donald Dalton, Mr. Shawn Collins, Mrs. Myria Shipman, Mr. Dale McWhorter, Mrs. Katrina Jones, Mrs. Rhonda Mathews, Mr. David Calloway, Mr. Wayne Juers, Representative Bubber Epps, Representative Robert Dickey, Senator Freddie Powell-Sims, Senator Jeff Mullis, Mr. Jerry Cooper, Ms. Linda Luttrell, Mr. Gene Sutherland, Jr., Mr. Thomas Carter, and Mrs. Christy Smith.

Honorary State FFA Degrees were also awarded to the parents of State Star finalists for their efforts in supporting their child’s Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program and the parents of the State FFA Officer team also received the Honorary State FFA Degree for encouraging and supporting their child during their year of service to the Georgia FFA Association.

All recipients received a plaque and a medal in recognition of their service.

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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