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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt

**STATE WINNERS IN HORSE EVALUATION CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Horse Evaluation 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, Rachel Zaccaro of White County placed first in the individual CDE competition, followed by Maggie Stimpson of Lee County and Amanda Daniel of Lee County placing second and third, respectively. In the team competition, the state winner was Lee County, followed by Cambridge in second place and White County in third.

In the junior division, Katy Griffin of Athens Christian was the first high individual, followed by Camden Misamore of Lee County Middle School in second and Emma Long of LaFayette Middle in third. The junior division team winner was Fannin County, with LaFayette Middle placing second and Coffee County Middle placing 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 Horse Evaluation CDE is designed to develop the ability to select and evaluate both conformation and performance in horses. Participants in the Horse Evaluation CDE evaluate a variety of horse breeds and present oral reasons on selected classes.

The Horse Evaluation Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by Titan/Goodyear Farm Tires and Georgia FFA Foundation.

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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