April 28, 2017

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt,

**STATE WINNERS IN THE EQUINE SCIENCE PLACEMENT PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Equine Science Placement Proficiency were recognized at the 89th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017.

Cody Wofford of Madison County placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Destiny Cheely of Washington County, and Ashleigh Barwick of Lee County received third place.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). The Equine Science Placement Proficiency participants acquire career experience from working alongside industry professionals in activities such as horse production, breeding, marketing, showing and other aspects of the equine industry. Programs can also include calf roping, barrel racing, rodeo, racing, riding lessons and therapeutic horseback riding if horses are owned and/or managed by a member.

The Equine Science Placement Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by Georgia’s Equine Commodity Commission.

All proficiency winners received a plaque and a cash award. State winners receive $100, as well as $500 travel money to attend the National FFA Convention. Additionally, the advisor of the state winner received $100 cash. Second place winners received $50, and third place winners received $25.

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.

###

**Media Contact:** Ben Lastly, 706-552-4456, blastly@uga.edu