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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan Dewitt,

**STATE WINNERS IN THE GOAT PRODUCTION PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

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

Hayden Echols of Madison County placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was John Tyler Gore of the Putnam County, and Sofia Lara of Jeff Davis placed third.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Students who participate in the Goat Production Proficiency implement best management practices to produce and market in the goat industry.

The Goat Production Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by Titan/Goodyear Farm Tires

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 also 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.

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