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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Livestock 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, Chase West was the high scoring individual, followed by Callie Ollis and Emma Huff of Madison County finishing second and third, respectively. In the team competition, the state winner was Madison County, followed by Gordon Central in second place and Berrien in third.

In the junior division, Suzanne Woodberry of Mary Persons placed first in the individual CDE competition, followed by Jolie Nicholson of Stephens County and Jesse Cronic of West Jackson Middle finishing second and third, respectively. In the team competition, the state winner was Stephens County, followed by Gordon Central in second place and West Jackson Middle in 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 Livestock Evaluation CDE is designed for participants to demonstrate skills in the selection and marketing of livestock to satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers. Participants evaluate breeding and market cattle, swine, sheep and market goats. Contestants also present oral reasons on selected classes to defend their selection.

The Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by Merial.

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 41,000 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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