April 27, 2018

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By McKenzie Lewis, Loren Lindler, Shelby Mumma, & Sarah Spradlin

**STATE WINNERS IN THE NURSERY OPERATIONS PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 90th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Nursery Operations Proficiency were recognized at the 90th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 26-28, 2018.

Kirei Parks of Tift County placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Nathan Gober of Rutland, and Darby Pierce of Lee County received third place.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Students who participate in the Nursery Operations Proficiency are provided with job-entry experiences in plant production and sales.

The Nursery Operation Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by Atlas Manufacturing, Inc. and McCorkle Nurseries.

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.

###

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