April 27, 2018

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED AT THE 90th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Recipients of the National Chapter Award were announced at the 90th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 26-28, 2018. The National Chapter Award recognizes FFA chapters who exemplify chapter excellence by creating a balanced Program of Activities and provide opportunities for members to grow as individuals.

The state winner in Chapter Achievement was Pelham. Chapter Achievement Awards were presented to Creekview of Area 1; West Jackson Middle of Area 2; Jones County of Area 3; Screven County High School of Area 4; Pelham of Area 5 and Jeff Davis of Area 6.

National Gold Emblem Chapter Awards, representing the top 10% of FFA chapters, were presented to north region chapters: Apalachee, Cambridge, Chattanooga Valley Middle School, Cherokee County, Creekview, Eastside, Franklin County Middle School, Jackson County, Jefferson Middle, Lincolnton, Loganville Middle School, Madison County High School, Madison County Middle School, Morgan County Middle School, Newton College and Career Academy, North Oconee, Oglethorpe County Middle School, Rome Middle School, West Jackson Middle School, and Winder Barrow. In the central region, Bonaire Middle School, Islands, Jefferson County, Jones County, Pike County, Screven County High School, Screven County Middle School, Southeast Bulloch, Stockbridge, and West Laurens also received gold emblem awards. Finally, in the south region, Atkinson County, Brantley County Middle, Jeff Davis, and Pelham were also recognized for their outstanding programs.

Chapters must complete a detailed application to be eligible for the National Chapter Award. The applications are scored based on the chapters’ goals and the achievement of the set goals. State FFA Associations recognize the top 10% of chapters as Gold Emblem chapters. The top application in each area is named an area winner in Chapter Achievement, and the highest scoring chapter is named the state winner.

The National Chapter Awards were sponsored by the Farm Credit Associations of Georgia.

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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