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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt,

**STATE WINNERS IN THE FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

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

Justin McClain of Habersham Central placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Skylar Holle of Northside, and David Cheek of Tift County received third place honors.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). The Food Science and Technology Proficiency participants garner career-oriented knowledge from work and experience in microbiology, food biochemistry or food product research and development to improve taste, nutrition, quality and/or the value of food.

The Food Science and Technology Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by Birdsong Peanuts.

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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