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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt

**STATE WINNERS IN THE DISCUSSION MEET CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Discussion Meet Career Development Event (CDE) were recognized at the 89th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017.

Courtney Conine Pelham placed first in the individual CDE competition. Other finalists were Guerin Brown of Green County, Rebecca Wallace of Cambridge, and Rachel Baker of Jackson County.

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 Discussion Meet CDE is designed to teach the three fundamental bases of discussion: constructive criticism, cooperation, and communication. The role of the contestants is to exchange ideas and information to solve a problem. The Discussion Meet is patterned after the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Young Farmer Discussion Meet. Students discuss topics to foster constructive ideas and problem solve.

The Discussion Meet Career Development Event was sponsored by the Georgia Farm Bureau.

The state winner received a $500 savings bond. Each finalist received a $250 savings bond.

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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