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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Meats 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, Thomas Maddox of Veterans was the state high scoring individual, followed by Allison Horton of Veterans and Mallory Lee of Perry finishing second and third, respectively. In the team competition, the state winner was Veterans, followed by North Murray in second place and Perry in third.

In the junior division, Cassidy Horton of Veterans was the state high individual, followed by Sara Matthews of Bainbridge and Alexis Parson of North Murray finishing second and third, respectively. In the team competition, the state winner was Veterans, followed by Oconee County Middle in second place and Bainbridge 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 Meats Evaluation CDE is designed to develop employment skills in the meat industry, expand students’ knowledge of meat animal marketing and merchandising, and develop an understanding of appropriate meat terminology.

The Meats Evaluation Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by FPL Food.

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 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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