April 28, 2017

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt,

**STATE WINNERS IN THE FIBER AND/OR OIL CROP PRODUCTION PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency were recognized at the 89th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017.

Wilson Boyd of Screven County placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Damon J. Deese of Pelham, and Austin Beard of Effingham County finished third overall.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Participants in the Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency implement best management practices to produce and market fiber and/or oil crops such as cotton, sisal, hemp, soybeans, flax, mustard, canola, castor beans, sunflower, peanuts, dill, mint, and safflower.

The Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by the Georgia Cotton Commission and at the national level by Bunge North America and Kraft Heinz.

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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