April 26, 2018

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By McKenzie Lewis, Loren Lindler, Shelby Mumma, & Sarah Spradlin

**STATE WINNERS IN THE LAWNMOWER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 90th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Lawnmower Operations and Maintenance Career Development Event (CDE) were recognized at the 90th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 26-28, 2018.

In the senior division, Kirk Beacham of Colquitt County placed first in the individual CDE competition. Luke Dickens of Oconee County placed second, followed by Luke Perdue of Madison County finishing third.

In the middle school division, Larson Craft of Hart County Middle placed first in the individual CDE competition. Michael Bruce of Union County Middle placed second, and Mason Bass of CA Gray Middle finished 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 Lawnmower Operations and Maintenance CDE helps students develop skills in operating commercial lawnmowers and various pieces of machinery safely.

The Lawnmower Operations and Maintenance Career Development Event was sponsored by Blalock Machinery and Exmark.

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. 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.

###

**Media Contact:** Ben Lastly, 706-552-4456, blastly@uga.edu