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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**STATE WINNERS IN THE PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 90th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Prepared Public Speaking 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. Kylie Whitworth of Madison County placed second, Taylor Davis od Jefferson City FFA finished third, and Kaylee Roberts of Tift County finished fourth.

In the junior division, Sarah Mathis of Screven County placed first in the individual CDE competition. Adeline Bennett of Jenkins County Middle School, Carolyne Turner of William J. Williams Middle School, and Tinsley Cramer of North Murray finished second, third, and fourth respectively.

CDE awards are granted to FFA members and teams who have exhibited premier leadership, personal growth, and career success in a variety of competitions. Prepared Public Speaking CDE is designed to enhance the speaking skills of participants by encouraging civic participation and cultivation of a better knowledge of agriculture. Prepared competitors in the Prepared Public Speaking CDE present a speech before a panel of judges and respond to questions from the judges.

The senior division Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by Farm Credit Associations of Georgia. The junior division was sponsored by the Tommy Irvin Endowed Fund.

All winners received a plaque and a cash award. The first place winners received $100 cash and $500 in travel money for the National Convention. 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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