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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt

**HONORARY STATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Recipients of the Honorary State FFA Degree were recognized at the 89th State FFA Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017.

The Honorary State FFA Degree is given to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to agricultural education and the National FFA Organization. A total of 35 individuals have received Honorary State Degrees based on their exceptional work in the state of Georgia.

Honorary State FFA Degrees were awarded to 11 individuals for their outstanding service and commitment to agricultural education and Georgia FFA. Recipients included Dr. Jerry Baker, Mr. Michael Berry, Mr. Eric Holton, Mrs. Luann Jones, Mr. Tim Lewis, Mrs. Diane McClearan, Mr. John Osborn, Mr. John Seginak, Dr, Ronnie Silcox, Mr. Boddy Smith, Mr. Bryan Tolar, Mr. Grag Waits.

Honorary State FFA Degrees were also awarded to the parents of State Star finalists for their efforts in supporting their child’s Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program and the parents of the State FFA Officer team also received the Honorary State FFA Degree for encouraging and supporting their child during their year of service to the Georgia FFA Association.

All recipients received a plaque and a medal in recognition of their service.

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 41,000 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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**Media Contact:** Ben Lastly, 706-552-4456, blastly@uga.edu