



News Release – 10/31/20

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Georgia Celebrates 16 National Winners and National President at 93rd National FFA Convention

FORT WORTH, Texas – The Georgia FFA Association’s engagement in the 93rd National FFA Convention was highlighted by 16 national winners and the election of Doster Harper as the 2020-2021 National FFA President. Among Georgia’s national winners were seven national proficiency award winners, eight national Agriscience Fair winners and the nation’s Outstanding Middle School chapter. Due to COVID-19, the 93rd National FFA Convention was a virtual event broadcast from the RFD-TV studios in Fort Worth, Texas. Georgia’s official voting delegates gathered at the Georgia FFA/FCCLA Center in Covington to observe the virtual convention, while local FFA chapters across the state and national joined online.

Doster Harper, a member of the Newton College & Career Academy (NCCA) FFA chapter and a student at the University of Georgia (UGA), was elected from a field of 38 candidates to serve as one of six National FFA Officers for 2020-21. Harper will take a one-year leave of absence from his studies at UGA to serve as an ambassador for the National FFA organization. Harper went through seven rounds of interviews in a virtual process and is the fourth Georgian to be elected to serve as National FFA President. Harper is the son of Lance and Debbie Harper of Covington. His agricultural education teachers and FFA advisors are Dr. Marcus Pollard, Mrs. Cecily Gunter and Mr. Andrew Pollard.

The Franklin County Middle School FFA chapter was named the nation’s Outstanding Middle School chapter as part of the National Chapter Award program. Franklin County Middle was one of five national finalists for the award, including Central of Carroll Middle and Pierce County Middle, both of Georgia. Each chapter had students make a presentation explaining their chapter’s activities in the Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture portions of the FFA Program of Activities. The agricultural education teachers and FFA Advisors at Franklin County Middle are Mrs. Anna Watkins and Mrs. Taylor Brown.

Madison Taylor of the Newton College & Career Academy FFA (Agricultural Education), Lane Douglas of the Screven County FFA (Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance - Placement), Cayden Mathews of the Lowndes County FFA (Agriscience Research – Plant Systems), Octavia Bushey of the Gilmer County FFA (Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship), Kaylie Roberts of the Tift County FFA (Diversified Horticulture), Cory Yarbrough of the Madison County FFA (Diversified Livestock Production) and Ella Griner of the Pierce County FFA (Forest Management & Products) were each named national FFA proficiency award winners for the success they earned in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs. Only four students from across the nation are named National Finalists in each of the 45 proficiency areas. Georgia led the nation with 26 national proficiency award finalists and second in the nation with seven proficiency winners.

Georgia FFA’s eight winners in the national Agriscience Fair included Kylie Hurd of the Red Bud Middle FFA (Animal Systems – Division 1); James Jones and Madison Webb of the Lowndes County FFA (Environmental/Natural Resources Systems – Division 6); Conner Anderson of the Franklin County Middle FFA (Food Products & Processing Systems – Division 1); Heaven Smith and Caileigh Goldstein of the Youth Middle FFA (Food Products & Processing Systems – Division 2); Chloe and Carah Pulliam of the Franklin County FFA (Food Products & Processing Systems – Division 4); Kathleen Rothwell-Adcock and Allie Royston of the Franklin County FFA (Food Products & Processing Systems – Division 6); Madison McDonald of the Lowndes County FFA (Power, Structure & Technology Systems – Division 5) and Canyon Randall and Alexander Turner of the Franklin County FFA (Social Systems – Division 4).

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Georgia also had ten additional Agriscience Fair entries that earned top 3 national honors. Those top 3 finishers included Gokul and Roshan Selvaraj of the Malcom Bridge Middle FFA (3rd place; Animal Systems – Division 2), Henry Throne and Taylor Spurlin of the Oglethorpe County Middle FFA (2nd place; Environmental/Natural Resources – Division 2), Emily Brown of the Franklin County FFA (2nd place; Environmental/Natural Resources – Division 3), Zachary Daw of the Lowndes County FFA (2nd place; Food Products & Processing - Division 5), Jackson Rutledge and Lily Carson of the Youth Middle FFA (3rd place; Plant Systems – Division 2), Katie Spivey and Fraser Faith Knappek of the Perry Middle FFA (2nd place; Power, Structure & Technology – Division 2), Taylor and Brook DuMay of the North Oconee FFA (2nd place; Power, Structure & Technology – Division 4), Calen Bridges of the Franklin County Middle FFA (3rd place; Social Systems – Division 1), Anna Cornwell and Ansley Cary of the Franklin County Middle FFA (2nd place; Social Systems – Division 2), and Gracie Sutton of the Lowndes County FFA (3rd place; Social Systems – Division 3).

Thirty-two Georgia FFA chapters received a national 3-Star ranking, the highest ranking offered in the National Chapter Award program. Those chapters included Apalachee (Barrow County), Atkinson County, Bonaire Middle, Cambridge, Carver Middle, Central of Carroll Middle, Coahulla Creek, Commerce, Commerce Middle, Creekview, Denmark, Eastside, Franklin County Middle, Haralson County, Jackson County, Locust Grove, Loganville Middle, Morgan County, Morgan County Middle, Newton College & Career Academy, Northside Middle, Oglethorpe County Middle, Pataula Charter, Pepperell, Pierce County Middle, Screven County, Screven County Middle, Stockbridge, Treutlen County, West Jackson Middle, Winder-Barrow, and Youth Middle. Cambridge (Growing Leaders) and Commerce Middle (Growing Leaders and Strengthening Agriculture) were named National Finalists (top 10) in the Premier Chapter competition, while Creekview was named a top 10 finalist in the Models of Excellence program.

One hundred and seventeen Georgia FFA members received the prestigious American FFA Degree, the highest degree offered to an active FFA member. These students spent years developing their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs to reach this honor. Will Kellum of the Jefferson City FFA (Star in Agribusiness) was honored as an American Star Finalist. Less than 1% of FFA members nationwide receive the prestigious American FFA Degree.

A complete set of results and a variety of highlights from the 93rd National FFA Convention can be found at <https://www.georgiaffa.org/page.aspx?ID=47>

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