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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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

**MACON HOSTS THE 90th GEORGIA FFA ASSOCIATION CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – A record crowd of more than 6,000 attended the 90th Georgia FFA Convention at the Macon Centreplex, April 26-28, 2018.

The convention featured seven general sessions full of award presentations, motivational speakers, FFA talent, and delegate business. The Convention kickoff speaker was Mr. Alex Sheen, founder of *Because I Said I Would*, encouraging FFA students to “make a difference and make a commitment to follow through.”Other speakers on the Convention docket included National FFA Vice President, Ian Bennett, the Honorable Sonny Perdue,

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and the Honorable Governor Nathan Deal to sign the Georgia Agriculture Education Act into law. In addition to the award sessions, the convention featured a career show, community service projects through the Rebuilding Macon organization, and state level Career Development Event and Agriscience Fair competitions.   
  
The convention wrapped up on Saturday, April 28th, with the conferring of the prestigious State FFA Degree on X members and the election of the 2018-2019 State FFA Officer Team. The new team consists of State President Bryce Roland from Perry, Secretary Clay Parker from Lowndes County, North Region Vice-Presidents Dos Harper from Newton County Career Academy and Ava Jane Teasley from Eastside, Central Region Vice-Presidents Brittany Braddy from Montgomery County and Thomas Maddox from Veterans, and South Region Vice-Presidents Dawson Adams from Coffee County and Emily Leonard from Echols County.

Ben Lastly, the Executive Secretary of the Georgia FFA Association states, “We are very excited to bring the FFA Convention back to Macon for an eleventh year; and excited to announce that we expect a record crowd of nearly 6,200 to attend. Our convention is a wonderful opportunity to feature the success of so many students from across our state.” Lastly goes on to say, “Agriculture is the number one industry in Georgia, and our young people are the greatest commodity in our state. Bringing these young people together to celebrate their success in both leadership and agriculture is good for the future of our state.”

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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