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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**STUDENTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL AT THE 90th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – 2017 national competition winners were recognized at the 90th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 26-28, 2018 for their exemplary performance in various competitions at the 90th National FFA Convention October 25-28, 2017. Georgia was proud to celebrate 18 national winners at National Convention this year.

In order to compete nationally, FFA students must first win on the local, area, and state levels. From there, many students must compete for a limited number of spots at nationals in their award areas such as proficiencies or the agrisicence fair. Finally, they showcase their talents at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana with the hope of being named the winner.

Winning a national competition takes dedication, punctuated by long hours of preparation, skill, and passion, and this year Georgia saw much success on the national stage. The Georgia FFA is excited to present the following FFA members who received this honor: Gracy Sexton and Brooklyn Carr from Sonarville place first in Agriscience Animal Systems Division 4. Cedric Montgomery and Zachary Gay from Lowndes County placed first in Agriscience Environmental/ Natural Resources Division 4. Zachary Daw from Lowndes County Middle placed first in Agriscience Food Products and Processing Division 1. Jaylin Johnson and Alexis Herring from Lowndes County placed first in Agriscience Food Products and Processing Division 4. Ty Parks of Lowndes County Middle placed first in Agriscience Plant Systems Division 1. Gabreiella Daughtery and Dawson Peek from Lowndes County placed first in Division 4. Levi Herring and Shaw Wacter from Lowndes County place first in Agriscience Plant Systems Division 6. Carol-Ann Worsham and Benjamin Worsham from Gordan Central placed first in Agriscience Power, Structure and Technology Division 6.

Cambridge High was the national winner for the Agricultural Communications CDE. Bleckley County was the national winner for the Forestry CDE along with first, second and third high individuals. West Jackson Middle was the winner for Middle School Model of Excellence

Garrett Harrell from Colquitt County was the national winner for the Agricultural Processing Proficiency. Courtney Cameron from Lowndes County was the national winner for the Agriscience Research - Plant Systems Proficiency. Thomas Waldrop from Franklin County was the national winner for the Beef Production - Placement Proficiency. Landon Herring from Lowndes County was the national winner for the Diversified Crop Production Placement Proficiency. Cody Waddford from Madison County was the national winner for the Equine Science - Placement. Ben Murray from Berrien County was the national winner for the Home and/or Community development Proficiency.

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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