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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Katibeth Mims

**STATE WINNERS IN THE TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT PROFICIENCY  
RECOGNIZED AT THE 97<sup>th</sup> GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Turf Grass Management Proficiency were recognized at the 97<sup>th</sup> Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 24-26, 2025.

Austin Putnam of Apalachee placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Ethan Bertram of Mary Persons, taking third place honors is Nathaniel Landing of Seminole County.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Student participation in Turf Grass Management involves the planting and maintaining of turf for outdoor beautification, owning a lawn mowing service, improving recreational areas, producing sod for sale, and managing golf courses.

The Turf Grass Management Proficiency was sponsored by Georgia Crop Improvement Association at the state level.

All proficiency winners received a plaque and a cash award. State winners receive \$100, as well as \$500 travel money to attend the National FFA Convention. Additionally, the advisor of the state winner received \$100 cash. Second place winners received \$50, and third place winners received \$25.

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 nearly 940,000 FFA members nationwide. The Georgia Association has more than 80,000 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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