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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Katibeth Mims

**STATE WINNERS IN THE VETERINARY SCIENCE PROFICIENCY  
RECOGNIZED AT THE 97<sup>th</sup> GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

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

Searlait Frey of Creekview placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Candance Aldridge of Golden Isles Career Academy, and Sage Ward of Jones County finished third.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Students in the Veterinary Science Proficiency work with veterinarians by participating in clinical practices, touring research facilities and colleges of veterinary medicine, and assisting veterinarians by performing duties related to the health and welfare of both large and small animals.

The Veterinary Science Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association Foundation.

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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