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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Katibeth Wise

## **STATE WINNERS IN THE AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 98<sup>th</sup> GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Agricultural Processing Proficiency were recognized at the 98<sup>th</sup> Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 22-25, 2026.

Brock Hunter of North Hall placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Charles Cowart of Southwest Georgia Academy, and Erynia McCarty of Tatnall County received third place honors.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). The Agricultural Processing Proficiency involves programs where students produce and process food and fiber products. Programs may include the processing of meat, milk, honey, cheese, raisins and other dried fruits, maple syrup and/or other food items.

The Agricultural Processing Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by Fieldale Farms Corporation.

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 over 1 Million 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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**Media Contact:** Katibeth Wise, (229) 254-4811, [kwise@gaaged.org](mailto:kwise@gaaged.org)