



April 23, 2026  
*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Katibeth Wise

**STATE WINNERS IN THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH –  
PLANT SYSTEMS PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE  
98<sup>th</sup> GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

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

James Wise of Tift County placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Cordelia Simmons of Franklin County, and Joy Sanders of Warner Robins received third place honors.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). The Agriscience Plant Systems Research Proficiency involves activities where students research plant life cycles, classifications, functions, and practices through the study of crops, turf grass, trees, shrubs, or ornamental plants.

The Agriscience Plant Systems Research Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by Ms. Sierra Milligan.

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.

###

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