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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By Katibeth Wise

**STATE WINNERS IN THE DIVERSIFIED HORTICULTURE PROFICIENCY  
RECOGNIZED AT THE 98<sup>th</sup> GEORGIA STATE FFA CONVENTION**

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

Elizabeth Ledford of Jackson-Empower placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Maci Dean of Liberty County and Noah Boykin of Screven County placed third.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). The Diversified Horticulture Proficiency involves activities where students acquire experience producing, processing and marketing plants used principally for ornamental or aesthetic purposes, as well as fruits and vegetables related to horticulture. This proficiency encompasses topics from the following areas: floriculture, nursery operations, landscape management, viticulture, pomology, and horticultural fruits and vegetables (excluding fruit and vegetable row crops).

The Diversified Horticulture Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by the Georgia FFA 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 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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