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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Katibeth Wise

**STATE WINNERS IN THE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTS  
PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 98<sup>th</sup> GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

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

Elizabeth Griner of Pierce County placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Ellsworth Brown of Screven County, and Jackson Ledbetter of Jefferson City received third place honors.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Participants in the Forest Management and Products Proficiency implement best management practices for the conservation, or accumulation, of the economic value of a forest and/or forest products through practices such as thinning, pruning, weeding, stand improvement, reforestation, insect and disease control, planting, and harvesting.

The Forest Management and Products 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 also 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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