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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By Katibeth Wise

**STATE WINNERS IN THE FRUIT & NUT PRODUCTION PROFICIENCY
RECOGNIZED AT THE 98th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Fruit & Nut Production Proficiency were recognized at the 98th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 22-25, 2026.

Marley Powell of Jeff Davis placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Landon Richardson of Central of Carroll, and Kameron Smoak of Screven County received third place.

Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). The Fruit & Nut Crop Production Proficiency provides students with opportunities to participate in activities to produce and market fruit crops.

The Fruit & Nut Crop Production Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Foundation & Sutherland's Foodservice, Inc.

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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