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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Katibeth Wise

**STATE WINNERS IN THE DISCUSSION MEET  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE  
98<sup>th</sup> GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Discussion Meet Leadership Development Event (LDE) were recognized at the 98<sup>th</sup> Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 22-25, 2026.

Kevin Ray of Bainbridge placed first in the individual CDE competition. Other finalists were Jabe Andrews of Banks County, Lily Headrick of Rome, and Boss Malcom of Mary Persons.

CDE and LDE awards are granted to FFA members and teams who have exhibited premier leadership, personal growth, and career success in a variety of competitions. The Discussion Meet LDE is designed to teach the three fundamental bases of discussion: constructive criticism, cooperation, and communication. The role of the contestants is to exchange ideas and information to solve a problem. The Discussion Meet is patterned after the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmer Discussion Meet. Students discuss topics to foster constructive ideas and problem solve.

The Discussion Meet Leadership Development Event was sponsored by the Georgia Farm Bureau.

The state winner received a \$500 savings bond. Each finalist received a \$250 savings bond.

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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