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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE WINNERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 98th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event (CDE) were recognized at the 98th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 22-25, 2026.

In the senior division, Eli Castonguay of Banks County was the high scoring individual, followed by Kaleb Mathis of Jefferson County and Autumn Smith of Mary Persons placing second and third respectively. The senior team state winner was Banks County, followed by Mary Persons in second place and Jefferson County in third.

The junior division high individual was Cate Gilbert of Banks County, followed by Wayne Holcombe of Banks County in second place and Trey Murphy of Banks County in third place. The junior team state winner was Banks County, with second place going to Tift County and third place to Brantley County.

CDE awards are granted to FFA members and teams who have exhibited premier leadership, personal growth and career success in a variety of competitions. The Environmental and Natural Resources CDE is a four-person team event, designed to help FFA members develop an understanding of our state's natural resources, while allowing them to explore and prepare for possible careers in Natural Resources and Environmental Science.

The Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event was sponsored by Mr. Bill Lott & The Harley Langdale Jr., Foundation.

All individual and team winners received a plaque and a cash award. Individual winners received \$100. Second place individuals received \$50, and the third place individuals received \$25. The winning senior team was awarded \$2,000 travel money to attend the National FFA Convention. Additionally, the advisor of the state winning team received a \$100 cash award.

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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