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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Katibeth Wise

**STATE WINNERS IN THE LAWNMOWER OPERATIONS AND  
MAINTENANCE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE  
98<sup>th</sup> GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Lawnmower Operations and Maintenance Career Development Event (CDE) were recognized at the 98<sup>th</sup> Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 22-25, 2026.

In the senior division, Christopher Green of South Effingham High placed first in the individual CDE competition. Andrew Conner of Rabun County placed second, followed by Sam Chesser of Pierce County finishing third.

In the middle school division, Hank Pohm of Central Middle placed first in the individual CDE competition. Wyatt Hunter of C.A. Gray Middle placed second, and Arion Huffstutler of Sumter County Middle finished third.

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 Lawnmower Operations and Maintenance CDE helps students develop skills in operating commercial lawn mowers and various pieces of machinery safely.

The Lawnmower Operations and Maintenance Career Development Event was sponsored by the Georgia FFA Foundation and Grasshopper Company.

All individual and team winners received a plaque and a cash award. Individual winners received \$100. Second place individuals received \$50, and third place individuals received \$25. 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 nearly 940,000 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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