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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By Katibeth Wise

**STATE WINNERS IN SMALL AND SPECIALTY ANIMALS
MIDDLE SCHOOL RECORD BOOK COMPETITION RECOGNIZED AT THE
98th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Small/Specialty Animals Middle School Record Book Competition were recognized at the 98th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 22-25, 2026.

The Area 1 winner was Lydia Carr of Red Bud Middle. Ava Srodoski of Franklin County Middle took honors in Area 2. Mikah Harris of Eagle’s Landing Middle was the winner in Area 3. The Area 4 winner was Sydney Morgan of Ebenezer Middle. Bowman Hall of Eighth Street Middle was the winner in Area 5. Hadley Arington of Pierce County Middle took honors in Area 6.

Ava Srodoski of Franklin County Middle was the state winner in the competition.

The Middle School Record Book award program encourages students to begin and maintain a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project and keep accurate, detailed records. In the area of Small/Specialty Animals, students own their own business, work for someone, or do research on efficiently producing and marketing small animals or specialty animals. Specialty animals can include the following: aquaculture, bees, mules, donkeys, bison, oxen, mink, worms, ostriches, pigeons, emus, alpacas or llamas. Small animals include all rabbits, cats, dogs, mice, hedgehogs, guinea pigs, lizards, small birds (such as canaries, cockatiels, cockatoos, parakeets, parrots, etc.) and programs that typically provide a service in caring for the well-being of pets. Programs could include working at a pet shop, as a groomer, as a dog trainer, providing pet sitting services, working at a kennel, or preparing guide and assistance animals. Also includes animals not covered in any of the existing award categories.

Each area winner received a plaque and a \$50 cash award. The state winner received a plaque and an additional \$100 cash award. The advisor of the state winner also received a \$100 cash award.

The Middle School Record Book Award in the area of Small/Specialty Animals was sponsored by the Georgia FFA Foundation.

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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