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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By Katibeth Wise

STATE WINNERS IN THE NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE 98th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Nursery and Landscape 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, Autumn Smith of the Mary Persons FFA Chapter was the state high scoring individual, followed by Joseph Thompson of Mary Persons in second, and Micah Griffin of Colquitt County in third. In the team competition, the state winner was Mary Persons, followed by Colquitt County in second place and Clarke Central in third.

In the junior division, Gracie Addison of Lee County Middle West was the state high individual, followed by Zaylee Kirkpatrick of Lee County and Makenna Snelson of Lee County Middle West finishing second and third, respectively. In the team competition, the state winner was Lee County, followed by Lee County Middle West in second place and Jackson Empower in 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 Nursery and Landscape CDE tests participants' knowledge and skills in various aspects of the industry. This event includes the identification of plant materials and disorders, as well as a hands-on problem solving and a written exam involving the production, design, installation, and maintenance of landscape plants, related products, equipment and services.

The Nursery and Landscape Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by Pennington Seed and Georgia's Ag Tag Sales.

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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