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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE STAR IN AGRISCIENCE FINALISTS RECOGNIZED AT THE 98th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION

MACON, Ga. – The 2026 State Star in Agriscience finalists were recognized at the 98th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 22-25th, 2026.

Elizabeth Whitley of Franklin County was recognized as the North Region Star in Agriscience. Olivia Hogg of LaGrange represented the Central Region. Emerson Toews of Tift County was recognized as the South Region Star in Agriscience.

Emerson Toews of Tift FFA Chapter was named the 2025 State Star in Agriscience.

The State Star in Agriscience Award recognizes the most outstanding science-based Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program among all State FFA Degree recipients. To receive the State FFA Degree and apply for Star in Agriscience, members must meet several requirements outlined by the National FFA Organization. Requirements include enrollment in agriculture education courses and active status as an FFA member for a minimum of two years. Additionally, recipients must obtain their Chapter FFA Degree prior to receiving the State Degree, actively participate in the planning and implementation of the chapter's Program of Activities, and complete a minimum of five different activities exceeding chapter level. Members must demonstrate leadership by performing ten parliamentary law procedures, giving a six minute speech on agriculture, and serving as an FFA officer, committee chairperson, or committee member. Applicants must maintain a satisfactory academic record and complete a minimum of 25 hours of community service in at least two different service activities.

Students establish SAE projects early in their FFA career that they then develop throughout their involvement in agricultural education. FFA members receiving their State Degree and applying for the Star in Agriscience Award must maintain accurate records pertaining to acquiring and investing a minimum of \$1,000 or documenting a minimum of 300 hours of work outside scheduled class time.

The Star in Agriscience Award was sponsored by the Georgia Peanut Commission and the Peanut Institute on the state level.

Winners receive a \$250 cash award, as well as \$500 travel money to attend the National FFA Convention. All finalists received a plaque, \$125 cash award, and were recognized on stage at the state convention. Additionally, the parents of each finalist received an

Honorary State FFA Degree for their support while the finalists' advisors received a certificate of appreciation and \$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 more than 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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