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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By Katibeth Wise

**STATE WINNERS IN THE TRACTOR AND MACHINERY OPERATIONS AND
MAINTENANCE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT RECOGNIZED AT THE
98th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

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

Cole Faust of Oglethorpe County placed first in the individual CDE competition. Placing second was Luke Wheatley of Banks County, and Tucker Smith of Schley County was the third place individual.

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 Tractor and Machinery Operations and Maintenance CDE helps students develop skills in operating tractors and other machinery in a safe manner, while also teaching students to maintain tractors and other machinery properly.

The Tractor and Machinery Operations and Maintenance Career Development Event was sponsored at the state level by John Deere.

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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