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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By Katibeth Wise

**STATE WINNERS IN THE SMALL ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND CARE
PROFICIENCY RECOGNIZED AT THE 98th GEORGIA FFA STATE
CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Winners of the Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency were recognized at the 98th Georgia FFA State Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 22-25, 2026.

Kyndal Walker of Irwin County placed first in the proficiency competition. Placing second was Hayley Locke of Washington County, and Annelise Lance of White County. Proficiency awards are granted to FFA members who have excelled in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).

Participants in the Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency manage, produce, care for and/or market small pet animals, such as rabbits, cats, dogs, mice, hedgehogs, guinea pigs or other companion animals. Participants also provide animal care services by working in a pet shop or kennel, grooming or training dogs, serving as a veterinary assistant, or providing pet sitting services.

The Small Animal Production and Care Proficiency was sponsored at the state level by the Georgia FFA Foundation.

All proficiency winners received a plaque and a cash award. State winners receive \$100, as well as \$500 travel money to attend the National FFA Convention. Additionally, the advisor of the state winner received \$100 cash. Second place winners received \$50, and third place winners received \$25.

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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