April 28-30, 2016

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan Dewitt, students of the University of Georgia Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication

**MACON HOSTS THE 88th GEORGIA FFA ASSOCIATION CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – A record crowd of more than 6,500 attended the 88th Georgia FFA Convention at the Macon Centreplex, April 28-30, 2016.

The convention featured six general sessions full of award presentations, motivational speakers, FFA talent, and delegate business. The Convention kickoff speaker was Mrs. Jane Herlong, a singer, comedian, public speaker and author of *Bury Me with My Pearls.* Other speakers on the Convention docket included National FFA Vice President, Abbey Gretsch, Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association President, Mr. Stacey Beacham, and Georgia’s State School Superintendent, Hon. Richard Woods. In addition to the award sessions, the convention featured a career show, community service projects through the Rebuilding Macon organization, and state level Career Development Event and Agriscience Fair competitions.   
  
The convention wrapped up on Saturday, April 30th, with the conferring of the prestigious State FFA Degree on 680 members and the election of the 2016-2017 State FFA Officer Team. The new team consists of State President Willie Sizemore of Lee County, Secretary Lizzi Neal of Perry, North Region Vice-Presidents Sadie Lackey of Gilmer County and Kylie Bruce of Franklin County, Central Region Vice-Presidents Madison Parker of Johnson County and Nicole Bridges of Thomson County, and South Region Vice-Presidents Morgan Hart of Colquitt County and Courtney Barber of Ware County.

Ben Lastly, the Executive Secretary of the Georgia FFA Association states, “We are very excited to bring the FFA Convention back to Macon for an eleventh year; and excited to announce that we expect a record crowd of nearly 6,500 to attend. Our convention is a wonderful opportunity to feature the success of so many students from across our state.” Lastly goes on to say, “Agriculture is the number one industry in Georgia, and our young people are the greatest commodity in our state. Bringing these young people together to celebrate their success in both leadership and agriculture is good for the future of our state.”

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 600,000 FFA members nationwide. The Georgia Association has more than 40,000 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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**Media Contact:** Ben Lastly, 706-552-4456, blastly@uga.edu