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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Perry High FFA Students Win 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> at National Competition**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – **Perry High School FFA students won two national awards** this month at the 2009 National FFA Fair. Perry High won second place in the nursery and landscape event and third place in the agriscience competition. Participants were honored at the National FFA Convention banquet, held Oct. 21 - 24, in Indianapolis, Ind.

At the end of the two-day competition, Perry's nursery and landscape team missed winning first place by just one point. Team members are: Thomas Burnham, Spencer Freeman, Morgan Strickland and Nick Wood. Argene Claxton serves as their FFA adviser. During the nursery/landscape event, students identified plant specimens according to their technical and common names and took a multiple-choice exam. FFA members also performed hands-on activities ranging from landscape drawing to interpersonal relations.

Perry High's agriscience team award-winners are Samantha Strickland and Tal Lineberger. They won medals and ribbons in the Junior Division of Food Science and Microbiology. Their project was titled, "Where's the Beef? A Comparison of the Fat Content of Grass-fed Beef to Other Types of Ground Beef." The students earned the right to compete at the national convention while attending Perry Middle School. The team was accompanied to the competition by Melissa Moulton, Perry Middle agricultural teacher, and Philip Gentry, Jr., Perry High FFA adviser. Agriscience is the application of scientific principals and emerging technologies in agriculture.

**MORE**

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The career development events connect classroom learning and careers. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.

Perry High School is located at 1307 North Avenue in Perry. Dr. Darryl Albritton serves as principal. For more information, please contact Claxton at [Argene.Claxton@hcbe.net](mailto:Argene.Claxton@hcbe.net).

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Note: Pictured are members of the Perry High FFA nursery and landscape team: Thomas Burnham, Spencer Freeman, Morgan Strickland and Nick Wood, shown with their adviser Argene Claxton. Also pictured are the Perry High FFA agriscience team members, Samantha Strickland and Tal Lineberger.