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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Houston County High Wins National Awards at FFA Competition**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County High's FFA Agricultural Sales Team placed ninth in the nation at the National FFA Convention held in October in Indianapolis, Ind. Junior Brittanie Edwards (pictured) also won fifth high individual and a \$1,000 scholarship. In addition, Ryan Powell and Taylor Young won Silver medals in their competitions.

Houston County High's Agriculture Team members are: Brittanie Edwards, Tori Burke, Diana Sacks and Krissy Adams. This event includes actual sales presentations, a written exam, a team sales situation, and an individual practical situation focusing on customer service or prospecting for customers. Each team competed at local and state levels for the privilege of representing their state at nationals.

Ryan won a silver medal for his Environment Science fair project. He built a methane digester using cow manure as his energy source.

The gases he produced burn 10 minutes or longer. Individual and team activities in this event include a national and global issues interview, environmental and natural resources problem solving, soil tests and profiles, air and water analysis, GPS use, waste management and more. Ryan serves as his school's FFA President.

Taylor, Houston County High's FFA Secretary, won a silver medal in Dairy Showmanship. She earned the privilege to represent Georgia by winning 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Showmanship last spring at the Georgia Junior National Livestock show. More than 300 students competed at state. Dairy cattle events help students develop skills in dairy cattle selection and herd management. Participants evaluate the cattle's physical characteristics, explain their various classes and analyze a herd record as a team.

The national FFA convention is held each October with nearly 55,000 attending from across the country. Members participate in general sessions, competitive events, leadership workshops, career show and expo and more. It is one of the largest annual student conventions in the country.

**MORE**

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FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 523,309 student members as part of 7,487 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. 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.

Ronnie Thomas serves as FFA adviser. Houston County High is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Sherri Freeman serves as principal. For more information, please contact Thomas at 478-230-4108 or [Ronald.Thomas@hcbe.net](mailto:Ronald.Thomas@hcbe.net), or visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org).

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