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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**BMS Wins State Championship ~ FFA Horse Evaluation Event**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Bonaire Middle School FFA Horse Evaluation Team won first-place at state plus three individual awards in the Junior Horse Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE). The competition was held at the University of Georgia on May 7. Twenty teams and 77 students competed.

Members of Bonaire Middle’s state championship team are: (pictured from left) Rachel Kelly, sixth grade; Ali Ikner, eighth grade; Skye Ramirez, sixth grade and Gene Marie Shremshock, seventh grade. In addition Ali won 5<sup>th</sup> high individual, Gene Marie won 13<sup>th</sup> high individual, and Rachel won 14<sup>th</sup> high individual.

Cheralyn Keily, agricultural education teacher and FFA adviser, commented, “This win is especially impressive because my students competed not only against other middle school teams but also against ninth-graders.” (High school teams that compete are only allowed to have ninth-grade students.)

**MORE**

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The official FFA CDE description states “Participants in the Horse Evaluation CDE will evaluate both conformation and performance of a variety of horse breeds. Contestants will also present oral reasons on selected classes to defend their selection decisions.”

The students evaluated six classes consisting of four horses. Three of those classes were conformation classes and three were performance classes. Conformation classes may be Quarter Horse, Conformation Hunter, Appaloosa, Arabian, Paint, American Saddlebred or Morgan. Performance classes may be Western Pleasure, Western Riding, Reining, English Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle or Hunter Hack. The students then give two sets of oral reasons to the judges, one conformation and one performance. They also take a written test on horse management.

Keily said, “I am extremely proud of these girls! They have worked very hard this year and they did an amazing job!”



Gene Marie is pictured (center in blue FFA jacket) evaluating a class of conformation horses.

Bonaire Middle School is located at 125 Highway 96 E. in Bonaire. Cindy Randall serves as principal. For more information, please contact Keily at 478-929- 6235, ext. 52559.

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