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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**PHS FFA Wins National Awards**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Perry High School’s FFA placed third in the nation in the Nursery /Landscape Career Development Event. Team members Jake Parker, Tyler Claxton, Chace Benefield and Mitchell Freeman were each awarded a Gold emblem. In addition, Tyler, a Perry High junior, was named the top individual in the national Nursery/Landscape.

In addition, for individual awards, Jake placed 15<sup>th</sup>, Chace 18<sup>th</sup> and Mitchell 29<sup>th</sup>. The team was accompanied by agricultural education teacher Dr. Argene Claxton. Pictured (from left) are: Dr. Claxton, Chace, Tyler, Mitchell and Jake. Dr. Phil Gentry and Mr. Phillip Gentry also teach the students.

Perry High’s FFA members were among 162 students from 42 states who competed in this year's event. More than 3,200 youth from across the U.S. participated in 24 different events during the 84<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention held Oct. 19-22, 2011, in Indianapolis, Ind. The top six individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships to further their education at a postsecondary institution of their choice.

During the Nursery Landscape competition, FFA members test their knowledge and skills in nursery practices and landscaping. Participants must complete a general knowledge exam testing horticultural principles to include plant anatomy, production, marketing, turf, landscape design and maintenance. Each participant must also complete practicums involving a landscape drawing, landscape estimating, plant propagation or potting, identification of plants, disorders and equipment.

Perry High is located at 1307 North Avenue in Perry. Dr. Darryl Albritton serves as principal. For more information, please contact Dr. Claxton at [argene.claxton@hcbe.net](mailto:argene.claxton@hcbe.net) or 478-988-6298, ext. 21312.

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