

Contact: Karen Jones
Phone: 309/557-6184
E-mail: kjones@growmark.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROWMARK Announces 2018 Wisconsin Essay Contest Winner

Audrey Pelikan of Jefferson, Wisconsin, has been named the Wisconsin state winner of the 2018 GROWMARK essay contest for FFA members. The theme of this year's contest was "How can cooperatives demonstrate their value to the next generation of agriculturists?"

In her contest entry, Pelikan said: "By their long-standing legacy, advances in technology, and the uniqueness of their structure, cooperatives can and will remain relevant to the involvement of the next generation. They have struck a balance between history and advancing into the future. The way the next generation of farmers will do business is considerably different than their parents, but agricultural cooperatives will be with them every step of the way."

Pelikan is a student at Jefferson High School and a member of the Jefferson FFA chapter. Her FFA advisor is Gary Olson.

As the contest winner, Pelikan will receive a \$500 award from GROWMARK at the Wisconsin FFA State Convention in Madison, held in June. The Jefferson FFA chapter will also receive a \$300 award in honor of her accomplishment.

Four state runners-up will each receive a \$125 award. The runners-up and their FFA chapters are, in alphabetical order: Kendra Gillett, Beaver Dam FFA, Fall River, Wisconsin; Peter Gorman, New London FFA, Manawa, Wisconsin; Trevor Messmer, Lake Mills FFA, Lake Mills, Wisconsin; and Madison Russell, Shullsburg FFA, Shullsburg, Wisconsin.

This is the 25th year for the program, sponsored by the GROWMARK System and FS member cooperatives, in conjunction with state FFA leaders, to help young people develop their writing skills, learn about current issues in agriculture, and understand the unique role of cooperatives.

GROWMARK is a regional cooperative providing agronomy, energy, facility planning, and logistics products and services, as well as grain marketing and risk management services in more than 40 states and Ontario, Canada. GROWMARK owns the FS trademark, which is used by affiliated member cooperatives. More information is available at www.growmark.com

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Winner's photo available upon request.