

Contact: Karen Jones  
Phone: 309/557-6184  
E-mail: [kjones@growmark.com](mailto:kjones@growmark.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GROWMARK Announces 2019 Wisconsin Essay Contest Winner**

Marie Hamlin of Roberts, Wisconsin, has been named the Wisconsin state winner of the 2019 GROWMARK essay contest for FFA members. The theme of this year's contest was "What does the future of agriculture look like to you, and what skills will you need to play a part in it?"

In her contest entry, Hamlin said: "The future of agriculture needs to be thoughtfully designed, tested, and produced. Improvements in technology will help connect farmers and engineers globally to resolve common issues faced in the agricultural field. Issues resolved will be beneficial for the environment, groundwater systems, and plant and animal life."

Hamlin is a student at St. Croix Central High School and a member of the St. Croix Central FFA chapter. Her FFA advisor is Gretchen Rozeboom.

As the contest winner, Hamlin will receive a \$500 award from GROWMARK at the Wisconsin FFA State Convention in Madison, held in June. The St. Croix Central 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: Chelsea Braun, Kiel FFA, New Holstein, Wisconsin; Sara Nehring, Weyauwega-Fremont FFA, Weyauwega, Wisconsin; Madison Russell, Shullsburg FFA, Shullsburg, Wisconsin; and Douglas Woyak, Elkhorn FFA, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

This is the 26th 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 an agricultural cooperative with annual sales of \$7.3 billion (FY 2017 data) providing agronomy, energy, facility planning, and logistics products and services, as well as grain marketing and risk management services throughout North America. Headquartered in Bloomington, Illinois, GROWMARK owns the FS trademark, which is used by affiliated member cooperatives. More information is available at [www.growmark.com](http://www.growmark.com).

-30-

*Winner's photo available upon request.*