

**PRESS RELEASE
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Contact: Amy Lyman
501-210-4003 • 501-519-2065**

Writing Competition sponsored by Arkansas Women in Agriculture

In 2006, the Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference sponsored a writing competition for high school and college students. The four finalists, Sarah Wright, Har-Ber High School; Hillary Osier, Augusta High School; Brittany Kaufman, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville; and Lindsay L. Thomison, Arkansas State University, were honored during the conference.

Arkansas Women in Agriculture is sponsoring a writing competition in conjunction with the 2007 Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference. The 2007 competition topic is: My Role in Agriculture in 2020. "One of the big issues facing agriculture right now is how we will transition to the new generation of farmers and ranchers. By having our student competition focus on the future of agriculture, we hope to get a glimpse at how our young people see themselves and ag in future years and in so doing allow us to take steps today that will make their transition into ag leadership easier," said Janie Hipp, President, Arkansas Women in Agriculture.

The competition is open to men and women enrolled in Arkansas high schools and in undergraduate degree programs in Arkansas colleges and universities. Two high school and two undergraduate finalists will be chosen. Each finalist will be recognized at the conference and will receive a cash prize of \$250 along with conference registration and accommodations. Essay guidelines include: 1,000 word limit, typed, one inch margin, double spaced, 12 point font, and 3 to 5 references/sources to support information within the essay. To receive complete competition details, please send an email to arwomeninag@gmail.com or contact Dr. Jennie Popp at 479-575-2279 or jhpopp@uark.edu. **Deadline for entries is 5 p.m. December 15, 2006.**

The 2007 Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference is scheduled for March 8-9 and will be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Conference registration information is available at www.arwomeninag.com.

The Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference began with the intention of preparing Arkansas women to meet the challenges of an ever-changing agricultural marketplace and rural landscape. The conferences are aimed at women involved in all aspects of agriculture, whether production, processing, marketing or retailing with the purpose of providing a network with other Arkansas women involved in agricultural and rural community issues; identifying new ways to balance the demands of family, community and professional lives; and to help women discover ways to use their unique talents to improve the circumstances of Arkansas women in their communities.