

2020 FARMERS COOPERATIVE

OUR MISSION

The mission of the 2020 Farmers Cooperative is to create and operate a marketing cooperative that promotes fair and equitable agricultural opportunities for black and socially disadvantaged farmers nationwide.



Our values:

Are based upon **self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity.** As our ancestors believed, we believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Our Principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

We are voluntary organization, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control

We are democratic organization controlled by our members, who actively participate in setting our policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. One member, one **vote**.

3. Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of our cooperative. Part of the capital is used for common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing our cooperative, setting up reserves, part of which would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

F.A.Q.

What is a Cooperative?

A cooperative, also known as a co-op, is a type of organization that is both owned and controlled by its members. Co-op's are different from other types of companies, because they are formed and operate for the benefit of their members.

Why join a Cooperative?

Membership has its privileges. Businesses come together and organize for improving the bargaining power of individual members. Additionally, assisting and improving the product, services or service quality provided by the members.

What is the main goal of a Co-Op?

Co-op's are organized for improving the bargaining power of its individual members. They also aim to reduce costs incurred during the production process, provide competition to larger companies with deeper pockets, expand opportunities in the market and take advantage of them, and to obtain products and services that would otherwise be unavailable.

How do I benefit?

People usually join a co-op for the benefits – to enjoy such things as the pooling of risk, the ability to make large purchases in a group, technical training, assistance, advocacy and to become empowered and feel like they are part of a meaningful company. Equity ownership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

We are an autonomous, self-help organization controlled by our members.

5. Education, Training, and Information

We provide education and training for our members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of our co-operative.

6. Cooperation among Cooperatives

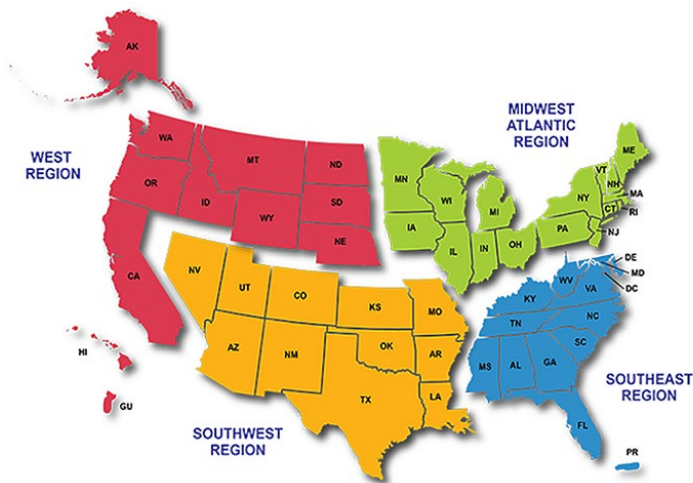
We serve our members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

We work for the sustainable development of our communities through policies approved by our members.

“Being the change we need to see.”

2020 Co-Op Regional Hubs



What are the disadvantages of a Co-op?

- Co-op's have fewer incentives for large investors making it difficult when raising capital. As a result, they aren't that appealing to those wealthy investors. Knowing that the size of their investment does not determine the size of their influence.
- Traditional businesses have centralized power, so they can make decisions quickly. With cooperative businesses, all members need to be involved, which makes it more time-consuming. When fast decisions are necessary, a cooperative may run into some issues. Because everyone has equal authority, deliberations may take a while.
- Most cooperative businesses do not have professional managers because they are just too expensive. Many do not have the necessary resources to support the high salaries. For this reason, the co-op can eventually fail because of poor management and organization.

Despite some disadvantages, Co-op's occupy a unique space in the context of their wider communities. Co-op's are viable enterprises that put the needs of their members and communities first. Because of their humanistic approach to things, they tend to transform the industries within which they operate and lead them toward being more responsive and humane in their practices.

How do I join?

We value our members and encourage you to visit us at www.2020farmersco-op.com, once there, click on the [member application](#) and you are on your way. If you have questions, leave your contact information and we will get back with you.

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www.2020farmersco-op.com