



# How can ag co-ops stay relevant to future generations?

## 2023 ESSAY CONTEST

### For high school FFA members

#### This year's topic:

Cooperatives have been around for more than 100 years. During that time, many things have changed, not only in agriculture, but in the world as a whole. As a young person looking to the future, how do you think co-ops can remain relevant to your generation and beyond?

#### Contest goals are to help students:

- Develop writing skills.
- Learn about current issues in agriculture.
- Understand the unique role of cooperatives.

#### Contest procedures and instructions:

- I. Schools may submit one essay; however, no more than two students from the same state will be selected for the top five awards.
- II. Students must be FFA members in good standing to be eligible for awards.
- III. Essay length should be no more than 500 words.
- IV. Works cited are not required, but are accepted. They do not count toward your 500 word limit.
- V. Submit the requested information and your essay to:  
**[www.bit.ly/GMKEssay2023](http://www.bit.ly/GMKEssay2023)**

#### Suggestions for writers:

- Pay special attention to your opening and closing paragraphs.
- Find facts from state agriculture associations, your FFA advisor, local cooperatives and others.
- Visit credible websites to learn more.
- Have a parent or teacher proofread your essay.
- Spell-check your essay.
- Your local FS cooperative is a good resource for information.

**Submit your essay to:**  
**[www.bit.ly/GMKEssay2023](http://www.bit.ly/GMKEssay2023)**

**Submission deadline:**  
**October 28, 2022**, midnight central time

Essays become the property of GROWMARK and all content can be reprinted for promotional uses and/or posted to the GROWMARK website or other printed/electronic media.

#### Awards:

**National winner: \$1,000 award**  
**FFA chapter of national winner: \$750 award**  
**Four national runners-up: \$500 award each**  
**FFA chapters of national runners-up: \$300 award each**  
**States with at least 25 essays submitted will have one state winner selected to receive a \$300 award.**

#### Questions?

Call Karen Jones at 309-557-6184 or  
e-mail [kjones@growmark.com](mailto:kjones@growmark.com).

#### Sponsored by the GROWMARK System and participating FS member cooperatives, proud supporters of the FFA.

GROWMARK is an agricultural cooperative serving almost 400,000 customers across North America, providing agronomy, energy, facility engineering and construction, and logistics products and services, as well as grain marketing and risk management services. Headquartered in Bloomington, Illinois, GROWMARK owns the FS trademark, which is used by member cooperatives.



LOCALLY OWNED, GLOBALLY STRONG®