



# 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**

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#### 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).

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