

# FLORIDA COUNCIL OF COOPERATIVES

[www.flcoop.coop](http://www.flcoop.coop)

Todd Lawrence, President  
C/o Farmers Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O.Box 610

Live Oak, Florida 32064

Telephone: 386-362-1459, Fax: 386-364-7007

March 14, 2014

TO: Members of Florida Council of Cooperatives

RE: 2014 Dues Request

It is that time again. Attached is your 2014 Florida Council of Cooperatives Dues Invoice. If you have been a member in the past, we want to say thank you. If you have not been a member before, we urge you to support and become a member of the Florida Council for Cooperatives. As a General Manager of a Cooperative, I realize the need to educate our members about the benefits and necessity of cooperatives. I am sure that you find, like I do, that in many cases, the younger generations do not understand how a cooperative operates and the benefits that the members enjoy because of the cooperative. In most business models, success is achieved by good communication and education of those that work in the business and those that buy from the business. The main goal and purpose of the Florida Council of Cooperatives is to educate the staff and members of our cooperatives about how they are governed, operate, and the necessity of cooperatives.

Please note there are several additional requests this year at the bottom of the invoice. Your board of directors is working hard to continually strengthen the Council and bring new cooperatives and allied members into the group. We need your help in this effort. Membership is minimal but the benefits received from being a member and educating our members is countless.

The Annual Leadership and Education Conference is right around the corner, August 8-10, 2014. It will once again be held at the Hyatt Sarasota. The board is working on the agenda and looking forward to an excellent event. We also need for you to begin thinking about some of your members or staff you would like to invite to the conference. Conference information will go out around the first of June. However, it is not too early to begin to search for those perfect participants that will not only represent your cooperative well but bring home a lot from the conference experience. Many of the participants will be our future industry leaders and board members.

The invoice also includes two opportunities for additional youth related sponsorships. One is the "Youth Educational Program". Your council funded

some \$7,500 to assist the University of Florida in developing a Coop curriculum for incorporation into middle and high schools lesson plans. The information will also assist in the redesign of the "FFA Coop Contest" at the high school level. If you would like to donate to help fund this project, please indicate the amount and send back with your dues. It is never too early to start educating our youth about the benefits of coops as the next generation prepares to lead us.

The second opportunity is the "*FFA Participant Sponsorship*". The Council sponsors 4 participants and their advisor from the outstanding FFA Chapter that wins the "FFA Coop Contest" to the Annual Leadership and Education Conference in Sarasota. Based on their participation, the Chapter participants may be invited back the next year for the Advanced Session. These youth have proven to be some of the most involved participants in the Leadership and Education Conference. The Sponsorship is to help offset the costs of the returning chapter for the Advanced Session. If you would like to donate to help fund this sponsorship, please indicate the amount and send back with your dues.

Also included in this package is a database update form. Please fill it out and return it with your dues payment. If you have any questions about the enclosed dues invoice or the upcoming conference please do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed above. I appreciate your continued membership in the Council and your support for Florida's cooperatives.

Sincerely,

Todd Lawrence  
President, Florida Council of Cooperatives  
General Manager  
Farmers Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 610  
Live Oak, Florida 32064  
toddl@farmerscooperative.org

Enclosures (2)

**FLORIDA COUNCIL OF COOPERATIVES**

**2014 Membership Database Update**

Cooperative: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR 2014  
DUES, THANK YOU!**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call:

Todd Lawrence  
President, Florida Council of Cooperatives  
Phone: 386-362-1459  
Fax: 386-364-7007  
e-mail [toddl@farmerscooperative.org](mailto:toddl@farmerscooperative.org)

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2014 Membership Dues	\$300.00
Additional Contribution for Youth Educational Program, etc.	_____
FFA Participant Sponsorship	_____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	_____

Please make check payable to: *Florida Council of Cooperatives*  
And remit to:

**Todd Lawrence, President  
c/o Farmers Cooperative Inc.  
PO Box 610  
Live Oak, Florida 32064**

## Additional information requested: (optional)

- How many members does your Cooperative Serve: \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes I would like more information about becoming involved with the Florida Council of Cooperatives Board of Directors.
- Please forward any future correspondence to \_\_\_\_\_  
in my organization, they are the most appropriate person to receive it.

- I have attached a list of potential Cooperatives or potential allied members and their contact information, for you to contact about membership in the Council.