

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL SUMMER CO-OP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Objectives

- Provides agricultural majors with the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of how an agricultural cooperative functions on a day-to-day basis
- Assist students in the development their professional and communication skills
- Give students the opportunity to grow their network
- Allow students the opportunity to apply their education in practice

Contact Information

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Cooperative Council on **Facebook**
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WORK



Potential hosting co-ops are located across the state and offer a dynamic range of industry knowledge in cotton, grain and farm supply operations.

Interns have the opportunity to gain real-life work experience in varying areas of business such as marketing, accounting, sales, and operations.

LEARN



Bridge the gap between education and what it takes to run a successful, farmer-focused agribusiness.

Expand your understanding of the cooperative business model and further develop your professional skillset.

EARN



This is a paid internship opportunity, and some students may also have the opportunity to gain class credit for completion of the program.

With manager approval, interns are invited to attend an industry-wide meeting in July, as well as a Capitol tour in Austin, TX.

REQUIRED:

- Completion of at least Freshman year at a 4-year university
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher

PREFERRED:

- Agriculture major
- Strong ability to communicate effectively with agricultural producers
- Self-motivated, reliable, flexible, teachable, and hard-working individual
- Experience or interest in cotton ginning, grain, or farm supply
- Completion of relevant course work: Accounting, communications, futures & options, agricultural economics, soil science, etc.



TACC Summer Co-Op Interns with Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Sid Miller

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

INTERN SELECTION PROCESS

1) Application:

- Submit a **1-page cover letter** and **resume** (in PDF format) to Raley Kirk (raleym@texas.coop) by **March 4, 2024**
 - Within your email, please include rural areas of Texas where you have family/friends with whom you could live with during the duration of the internship.
- If selected to continue, you will receive an email with instructions on how to sign up for an interview

2) Interview:

- Interviews will be conducted via Zoom
 - Panel style interview with 4-6 members consisting of TACC staff, industry representatives, agricultural university faculty, past interns, etc.
- All applicants are guaranteed an interview.

3) Placement:

- TACC serves as a placement agency to match candidates with hosting cooperatives of compatible culture and work style to ensure the most productive and enjoyable "fit."
 - Could be based on a candidates' specific interest (cotton, grain, farm supply, commodity markets, etc.), learning style, career goals, etc.

4) Formal Hiring:

- TACC will inform intern candidates of decision reached
 - Selected candidates will be put into contact with their host manager who will take over the process from there

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is a cooperative?

- A cooperative is a type of business formed, owned and governed by its members; in this case, the farmers who trade their commodities with the co-op.
- At the end of the year, members reap the financial reward in the form of a patronage dividend, or check, equal to their percent of business with the company.

Where did cooperatives come from?

- The cooperative business model grew popular in the 1920s and 1930s during periods of economic adversity primarily for three reasons:
 - 1) Necessary processing services were not provided in the area
 - 2) Co-ops were able to provide these services at a more competitive price
 - 3) This allowed farmers to consolidate market power and compete against larger corporations.

Well, I've never heard of any cooperatives...

- Actually, if you recognize companies like Land O' Lakes, Ocean Spray, Sun-Maid and Blue Diamond, then you're already familiar with some of the largest co-ops in the world! Each one of these companies were formed by, and are still owned and governed by farmers today.

What is Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council's role?

- As an organization, TACC serves as the voice of agricultural cooperatives.
 - They do this by representing and furthering the interests of these agribusinesses in the Texas legislature in Austin.
 - They are also the premiere education and training organization for all levels of the co-op business structure.
- In an internship capacity, TACC serves as the coordinating placement agency to match interested students with a hosting cooperative and manager.

How can I learn more about the internship program or the cooperative business model?

- Raley can be reached by email (raleym@texas.coop) or by phone at (512) 450-0555