

# GROWING AGRICULTURE *together.*

## WHAT IS A CO-OP?

Many farming cooperatives were formed in the early 1900's, but one of the first successful forms of a cooperative was a mutual insurance company which was formed in 1752. Today, there are many types of co-ops from telecommunications, wholesale grocery, financial cooperatives, and agricultural cooperatives, also known as farm cooperatives. A cooperative is defined as a farm, business, or other organization which is owned and run jointly by its members, who share the profits or benefits.



### THE FIRST CO-OP IN THE US

was a mutual insurance company founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1752.

**"Every man might help another, without any disservice to himself."**

*Benjamin Franklin*



## CAPPER-VOLSTEAD ACT (1922)

Cooperatives were initially formed by groups for economic clout. Agricultural local co-ops were formed by farmers to do what they couldn't do alone, and agricultural regional co-op's were formed by local co-ops to do what they couldn't do alone.

### BETTER TOGETHER

Legislation that allows farmers to pool on purchases and sales

### TAXES

Allows for the single taxation of cooperative business

### VOTING

Each member gets one vote; voting members must be ag producers

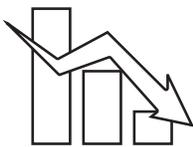
### MEMBERSHIP

Member business must be greater than non-member business

### BENEFIT

Operate for the benefit of members

## GROWTH IN THE 1930s



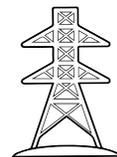
### GREAT DEPRESSION

Brought about additional support for the need to form cooperatives



### FARM CREDIT ACT 1933

Providing production loans for farmers in agriculture



### RURAL ELECTRICITY ACT 1937

Creating REAs to bring affordable utilities services to rural America

Anybody can become a member-owner of a cooperative by doing business with the cooperative. In fact, over 100 million Americans own & control more than 47,000 cooperative businesses that provide goods and services in every economic sector throughout the United States.

OWN THE COMPANY



WORK WITH THE COMPANY



HELP MAKE POLICY DECISIONS IN CO-OP

