

Alabama Farmers Cooperative

Management Trainee Program

Who are we?

Alabama Farmers Cooperative (AFC), originally the Tennessee Valley Fertilizer Cooperative, was organized in Decatur in 1936 by a group of local county Co-ops. Upon becoming a single entity, the new cooperative developed a modest plant in Decatur to satisfy the farmers' need for fairly priced fertilizer.

By the 1940s, the Co-op began making feed for local cattle and hog farmers. By the 1950s, they were selling tires, lubricants and tools. In 1957, in order to provide a more direct and ready market for farmers' grain, AFC added a grain marketing service. AFC now owns or manages granaries all over the state and merchandizes grain for several other facilities.

In 1961, AFC added a merchandising function to its operations. With the purchase of Farmers Marketing and Exchange Stores, customers could now buy home gardening items, automotive products, hardware and other home needs. Today, there are nearly eighty Quality Co-op stores in the system serving the needs of farmers, gardeners and homeowners.

Bonnie Plant Farm, headquartered in Union Springs, became part of AFC in 1975. Today, Bonnie sells vegetables, herbs and flowering annuals in every state in the continental U.S.

In early 1993, AFC created a financing subsidiary to finance the local cooperative member. Cooperative Financial Services provides financing for member cooperatives' seasonal and long term needs.

Currie Gin, located in McCullough became part of AFC in 1997.

In 1999, AFC joined forces with SouthFresh Farms in Indianola, MS, to form SouthFresh Aquaculture, LLC that provides feed, fingerlings and processing for Alabama and Mississippi catfish farmers.

In 2003, Agri-AFC, LLC, was formed when AFC and Agriliance, teamed up to purchase for AFC cooperatives competitively priced crop protectants, crop nutrients and seed.

In 2005, AFC formed an LLC with Mossy Oak's BioLogic division. BioLogic is headquartered in West Point, MS, and develops crop protectants, feed products, seed and fertilizer for wildlife and wildlife managers for everything from deer and turkey to fish and waterfowl.

AFC is a cooperative in the truest sense of the word. All facilities operated by AFC are governed by local, farmer-owned cooperatives. Each member Co-op shares in the financial proceeds from AFC operations and benefits from the research and marketing services of the entire Co-op system.

AFC has a competent Board of Directors who consist of farmers actively participating in the agricultural growth of Alabama and Northwest Florida. An unselfish dedication to the mutual objectives of growth and success for its member farmers is the hallmark of this company.



Through diversity and strong leadership, Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc. has grown to become one of the largest farmer' owned agriculture related businesses in the Southeast.

AFC's Management Trainee Program

The following is a Trainee's responsibilities, tasks and duties, but is not limited to:

- Work in a retail store with a proven manager
- Learn all aspects of a retail (Co-op) store which includes: Point-of-Sale, Merchandising, Product Knowledge (Feed, Animal Health, Lawn & Garden, Hardware, Apparel, Seed, Chemical and Fertilizer), Warehousing, Customer Service, Accounting, Store Financial Analysis, Fertilizer Blending & Application, Chemical Application, etc.
- Attend monthly training sessions

Excellent Benefits

- Vacation, holidays and sick leave
- 401K retirement plan
- Medical & dental insurance program
- Life & disability insurance
- Credit Union
- Competitive salary (salary based on degree & experience)

Before You Interview

- Be mobile
 - Management Trainees currently have the opportunity to work in Alabama and the panhandle of Florida.
- "Know thy self"
 - It's that simple. Before you meet with us you should know your personal and professional goals, what things in life are most important to you, and what you're looking for in an employer and a career. There are many others items you should ponder as well.
- Be computer literate
 - You don't have to be a rocket scientist. Be able to perform normal tasks with programs such as Excel, Word, Outlook, etc.
- Be able and willing to perform physical tasks.
- If you don't like working and getting dirty from time to time, then we may not be for you. We are an agriculture-based company and we work side-by-side with agriculturists.
- Understand that we work from "can to can't"
 - We get the job done. You'll work long, but rewarding, hours in the spring at most stores. Fall and winter are slower times.

Before We Offer You a Position

You'll need:

- A valid drivers license
- Be willing to relocate
- Dependable transportation
- Must have minimum of liability insurance
- Pass a drug screening, background check & Motor Vehicle Record (MVR)