

Application

Consideration is given to projects/products produced in Georgia and involved in agriculture. The Center and producer must work in cooperation, which means the producer has an obligation to provide some of the essential information needed. All work is confidential.

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. County:
4. Phone:
5. Fax:
6. Email
7. Describe the idea or product for which you are forming the cooperative. (What will the cooperative do?)
8. Describe the membership field.
9. How/what is the competition?
10. What are your marketing plans? (Who is the targeted buyer, i.e. demographic group)
11. Do you have a business plan?
12. What to you believe to be the major risk associated with this product?
13. Have you formed a cooperative or other form of business? If you have not organized, what type of business are you considering?
14. What are your long-term goals for this project?
15. What is the magnitude of the assistance needed (marketing plan feasibility study, business plan, marketing research, or economic analysis).

We will do our best to assist you in any fashion needed.

Send to:

John C. McKissick, Director
Center for Agribusiness & Economic Dev.
201 Conner Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602-7509

Contact us at:

Room 323 West Albany Towers
235 W. Roosevelt Avenue
Albany, GA 31701-2326
229-420-5487
<http://www.GACOOOP.org>

Or

Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development:

201 Conner Hall
Athens, GA 30602
Phone: 706-542-1861 Fax: 706-542-4131
www.caed.uga.edu

USDA, Rural Development Cooperative Service

111 E. Spring St., Suite B
Monroe, Georgia 30655
770-267-1413 (Ext. 113)

OR

Contact your local county Extension Agent or RC&D Council

For information in your local area please see websites below

Georgia RC&D's

<http://www.rcdnet.org/directories/georgia.htm>

Cooperative Extension Service Contacts

<http://extension.caes.uga.edu/uit.cfm>

The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.
Scott Angle, Dean and Director



In Cooperation with

The University of Georgia



<http://www.GACOOOP.org>

About Us

The Georgia Cooperative Development Center (GCDC) was established as a partnership between The Georgia Resource, Conservation & Development Councils and The University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development. The GCDC is designed to expand jobs and income in rural Georgia, helping people examine the cooperative model to increase their profits and improve their quality of life. GCDC is here to provide the guidance and consultation necessary to ensure profitable, functioning cooperatives business ventures. Specialists in cooperative development, project design and implementation, marketing, and finance will help your group identify the resources you have and those you will need to reduce risk and enhance the benefits of your new or existing cooperative enterprise.

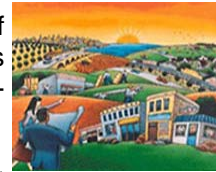
GCDC also work with existing cooperatives and businesses operating by cooperative principles. Technical assistance is provided to ensure that existing businesses continue to be healthy and viable enterprises, which can continue to increase the economic well being of the citizens of rural Georgia.

A third mission is to provide education about cooperatives to individuals and groups interested in learning more about this business structure.



Keys to Success

GCDC offers a wide variety of services to bring new ventures to life or assist existing enterprises diversify and grow.



Feasibility Studies — Expert evaluation of proposed projects before activity begins can increase their likelihood of success. From physical and monetary resources, to labor pools and products, a feasibility study will give you the information to make wise business decisions.

Business Planning — Development and implementation of a solid business plan is the first step to guiding your operations and achieving business goals.

Technical Assistance — Our specialists assist with the technical issues involved in cooperative development and help your group overcome difficulties they may encounter throughout the development stages.

Board Training — Some of the most powerful advocates for your business are found in the governing body of your organization. Let us help you attract the right mix of energies and talents for membership and then put their individual expertise to work.

Market Identification — Target your products and services for maximum profit and explore new markets locally or around the world. We can help you select the right opportunities and focus your promotion and marketing efforts.



Survey Design and Execution — There's nothing more valuable than hard data to help guide your work. We can design and execute membership

and marketing surveys as well as compile and analyze results.



Management Consulting

— When personnel resources are tight, our experts can function as consultants to your management team. You get the value of their expertise without the long-term financial commitment.

Incorporation and By-Law Creation Consulting

— Incorporation and by-law development processes require strict attention. Our specialists can assist your legal representative in crafting the documentation necessary to support your organization.

Impact Analysis — We can determine the impact of your cooperative on the local and state economies as well as employment and local, state and federal tax inputs.

Cooperative Advantages

A cooperative is a business owned and controlled by the people who use it — the member owners. Cooperatives enable members to pool their resources and reap the benefits of working with a large group, without sacrificing individual freedoms and control.

Cooperatives are organized to allow members to:

1. Increase income
2. Increase bargaining power
3. Obtain products or services otherwise unavailable
4. Expand new and existing market opportunities
5. Improve product or service quality
6. Lower operating costs