



Missouri Institute of Cooperatives

MIC Sponsored FFA Public Speaking Contest

Dear Agricultural Educator:

On behalf of the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives (MIC), we appreciate your commitment to educate students about the cooperative form of business. We value our collaboration with agricultural educators.

The purpose of the **FFA Public Speaking Contest** is to foster a greater understanding of the cooperative form of business and to enhance skills in speaking about agriculture and cooperatives that serve rural Missouri.

The theme for 2015-2016 is **Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World**.

- The local, area, and district contests will be held simultaneously with other speaking contests to avoid an additional evening of activity for instructors. The state contest for the MIC FFA Public Speaking Contest will be held during the MIC Annual Meeting in early 2016. District winners will be notified of the specific time and place.
- Encourage students to visit local cooperatives and interview the manager or a director of the cooperative. New resources, developed by C-FARE with support from CHS Foundation, are excellent and can be found at <http://www.econedlink.org/c-fare/cooperatives-community.php>.
- The top three contestants at the state level and their chapters receive cash awards. The first and second place state contestants receive an expense paid trip to a Cooperative Youth Leadership Institute.
- If you have students interested in the contest, please contact your district supervisor.

Detailed program information for the speaking contest is enclosed. Information is also available at MIC's website www.mic.coop including suggestions for resources and reference materials to help students learn more about cooperatives.

Please note for 2015-2016, MIC will temporarily suspend the Organize a Cooperative Contest. During this time, MIC's goal is to work closely with MVATA to develop a module on agricultural cooperatives for use in the classroom and as a complement to the Organize a Cooperative Contest. MIC will directly contact FFA chapters who have participated in the contest previously to involve the educators in development of the curriculum. **Please contact Kristi Livingston at 573-882-0140 or at LivingstonK@missouri.edu if you have questions or need additional information regarding either contest.**

Thank you for giving generously of your time to support students' opportunity to learn about cooperatives.

Sincerely,

Matt Staley
Chair Cooperative Education Committee
Missouri Institute of Cooperatives
660-886-6897