



Farming Together Starting Farm and Co-operatives Program

The Starting Farm and Co-operatives Program Launches

During these uncertain times, the resilience of collaborative farming models, which reduce supply chain risk and improve bargaining power, are more important than ever.

So, it is with great enthusiasm that we launch the next phase of the Farming Together program - The Starting Farm and Co-operatives Program - and offer you some opportunities to get involved.

This program will build further on Southern Cross University's successful collaborative model which reached 28,500 primary producers under the award-winning Farming Together Pilot program.

Designed by farmers for farmers, the two-year program demonstrated the impact of a model that championed ground-up partnerships and worked with farmers to identify business needs. It paired appropriate expertise and funded business expansion projects as well as built a national knowledge network.

Funding for The Starting Farm and Co-Operatives Program

In 2020, the Australian Government, through the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, provided Southern Cross University with funds to continue the work of the Farming Together Program. Officially called the Starting Farm and Co-operative Program, the funds will continue to help farmers, fishers and foresters to establish collaborative business models and co-ops to boost farm gate returns.

Get involved in some exciting new projects

As well as building on our collaborative model and resources through Farming Together, we have some exciting projects that we look forward to working with you on. These include:

- Regenerative Agriculture: soil research initiatives which include potential research partnerships
- Restore Australia: a massive co-ordinated restoration project that supports land managers to increase productivity and resilience to fire and drought.

Co-operative Farming Hotline is now open

The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) has launched the Co-operative Farming Hotline, to support Australian farmers, fishers and foresters to work together to establish and grow farm co-operatives.

The hotline service will operate Monday to Friday (9am to 5pm) on 1300 665 174.

