

# Controller

Controllers maintain all finances for the cooperative. They oversee bookkeeping, budgets, and financial reporting. The controller works closely with the General Manager and the Board of Directors to ensure maximum profits and minimal losses for the cooperative.

## *What responsibilities will I have?*

- Manage the finance, accounting functions, resources and financial assets of the company and subsidiary companies
- Maintain a documented system of accounting policies and procedures
- Create, implement, administer, and evaluate all financial programs, procedures, and supporting information systems of the company
- Provide leadership in continuous evaluation of short and long-term strategic financial objectives
- Ensure credibility of company finance team by providing timely and accurate analysis of budgets, financial trends, and forecasts
- Develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive job-cost system
- Coordinate changes and improvements in automated financial information systems of the company
- Ensure compliance with local, state, and federal financial reporting requirements
- Serve as the primary interface with lenders and CPA firms
- Partner with senior management in the development and execution of strategic business and/or operational plans
- Hire and retain key accounting and financing talent
- Act as the point person for all tax and audit activities
- Stay informed about the regulatory environment and developments to the industry, as well as the competitive landscape to incorporate best practices throughout the company
- Provide recommendations to strategically enhance financial performance and business opportunities
- Monitor debt levels and compliance with debt covenants

## *What education and training is necessary?*

A bachelor's degree in accounting or business administration is required to become a controller. It is suggested to obtain either a CPA certification, a CMA certification, or both.

## *What high school courses are recommended?*

Agriculture education, mathematics, English, business, and statistics

## *Who are typical employers in agriculture?*

Cooperatives, corporate or regional offices for varying sizes of companies

## *Other Titles and Roles:*

Chief Financial Officer (CFO), executive accountant, bookkeeper, accountant, financial advisor