

Co-op Kudos

Congratulations to **ProVision Partners Cooperative** on the grand opening of their new Cenex Travel Center in Auburndale.

Congratulations to **Gary Mohr, CAO of Central Farm Service (CFS)**, on his retirement. Thank you Gary for your dedication and service to the cooperative way!

Member Spotlight



Check out this [article](#) to see how MiEnergy teamed up with a student-led Model Legislature to draft a bill passed by the Minnesota legislature last month.

Cooperative Network Calendar

July 27: Wisconsin



Cooperative Network News

Resolutions Committee makes recommendations

Cooperative Network members practiced Cooperative Principle 2: "Democratic Member Control" last week when they met in Eau Claire, Wis. Members took action on legislative and regulatory resolutions pertaining to both Minnesota and Wisconsin issues. Cooperative Network's member-driven resolutions process put members in control of Cooperative Network's policy positions. Members from credit union, dairy, Farm Credit, local supply, regional supply, service, utility distribution, and utility generation and transmission sectors attended the meeting. The committee will advance changes to the Cooperative Network Board of Directors for their approval later this summer. A full copy of Cooperative Network's 2017 resolutions is available on our website.

Dairy Committee's gather in La Crosse

Cooperative Network's Dairy Committee and its Dairy Legislative and Regulatory Committee met jointly last Wednesday in La Crosse. Laura Trass, a Food Safety Supervisor at DATCP, visited with committee members on the recently held National Conference of Interstate Milk Shippers. Trass explained that some changes to the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) were suggested at the conference to bring the PMO in compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). These changes must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration. She also told committee members about a pilot testing program for tetracycline that will begin on July of 2017, and that plants will be testing one in every 15 loads of milk for tetracycline. The purpose of the pilot program is to get a handle on tetracycline in milk and brings up the question of do we need to do more testing. Trass also explained changes to ATCP 77, the Laboratory Certification rule, that will take new technologies into account and give DATCP more flexibility. She indicated that the changes to ATCP 77 could be in place by the end of 2018. Frank Friar from DATCP's Farm Center reviewed the agency's response to 58 Wisconsin dairy producers losing their milk contractor last April. Committee members also reviewed Cooperative Network's resolutions pertaining to agriculture and dairy by recommending minor changes that will be considered by the Cooperative Network Board of Directors.

Wisconsin

Agricultural Credit Issues Conference, Stevens Point, Wis.
[Learn More...](#)

Save the Date!
Aug. 8: Electric Sector meeting, St. Cloud, Minn.

Nov. 14-15: Cooperative Network Annual General Meeting, St. Paul, Minn.

April 30 - May 1, 2018: SCH Conference, Minneapolis, Minn.

Registration open: Wisconsin Ag Credit Issues Conference

Registration is open for Cooperative Network's Wisconsin Agricultural Credit Issues Conference. CEOs, general managers, finance and credit professionals from credit union, Farm Credit, farm supply, livestock, genetics and fuel cooperatives are encouraged to attend. Attendees will hear updates on credit-related issues and how they affect your cooperative and members. [Click here](#) for full agenda and registration.

Assembly and Senate remain apart on budget issues

Assembly and Senate Republican leaders are reported to remain far apart on transportation funding in the budget for 2017-19, as well as K-12 education funding and property taxes. The level of bonding for transportation projects is a major difference according to the co-chairs of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). In addition, the JFC has yet to consider the items in DATCP's proposed budget, including the items resulting from the Rev/Ex project that proposed major changes to the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program and Agrichemical Management fund surcharges. It is becoming more likely that the budget will not be finished by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Farm Supply Committee meeting Thursday in Stevens Point

A report on the work to update the state's energy assurance plan, which includes the petroleum shortage contingency plan, has been added to the agenda of the Farm Supply Committee for Thursday's meeting in Stevens Point. The meeting will commence at 10:30 a.m. at the office of AgCountry Farm Credit Services, 1216 Wildwood Drive. This was formerly the United FCS office. In addition to the report which will be provided by the Public Service Commission's Megan Levy, there will also be presenters on the work of the Ag Chem. Management Bureau and on rule and legislative proposals pertaining to the Agricultural Producer Security program. Freshman State Rep. Pat Snyder (R - Wausau) is scheduled to visit with the committee. A review of farm supply sector resolutions will also occur.

APS rule hearing site details announced

The DATCP public hearing locations and times have been announced on proposed changes to the Agricultural Producer Security (APS) program assessments on grain dealers, milk contractors and vegetable contractors. The hearings are as follows:

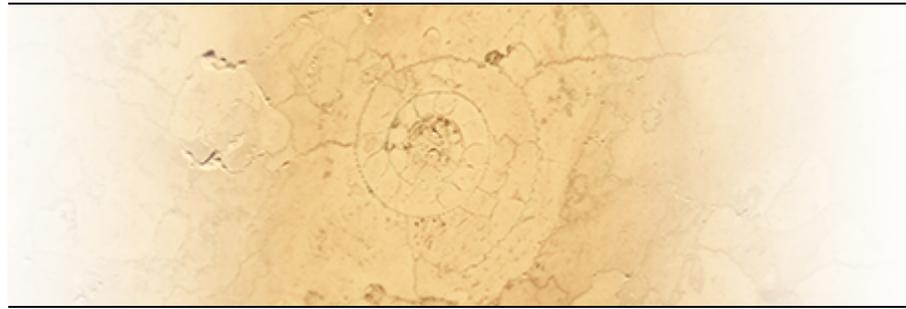
- Friday, July 14, 1 p.m. - Conference Room 1 and 2, UW-Extension Portage County Annex Building, 1462 Strong Ave, Stevens Point
- Wednesday, July 19, 9 a.m. - DATCP Board Room, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison

The proposed rule would provide an automatic reduction in the fund assessments paid by grain dealers when the grain dealer portion of the fund exceeds the statutory maximum, which is \$6 million.

UW-System hosts Dairy Summit

The UW-System recently hosted a Dairy Summit to discuss the current dairy situation in Wisconsin. UW-Systems President Ray Cross explained that a similar event took place in the mid-1990s when Wisconsin's dairy industry was losing farms, cows and production at a record pace. Cross explained that discussion and others led the UW-System, DATCP, the legislature and Wisconsin's dairy industry to take steps to reverse the downward trend and put into place policies and incentives to grow Wisconsin's dairy industry to the record production we are seeing today. DATCP Secretary Ben Brancel told attendees that when he graduated from college in the 1970s, his generation was advised not to go back to the farm. He also reminded those in attendance that we are now in a world market and that gives the Wisconsin dairy industry a new set of challenges. Mark Stephenson from UW-Madison's Center for Dairy Profitability discussed the history of milk production trends in Wisconsin and that stated dairy policies in the world impact the dairy industry in Wisconsin. Other topics at the summit focused on what needs to be done

to create a vibrant dairy industry for Wisconsin's future. Much of that discussion centered on the need to listen to what consumers want and how we can use the R&D tools of the UW-System to deliver to that consumer need.



Picture Pop Quiz: Do you see the fossil in the middle? Can you name the room or the building where this is located?

Minnesota

Court to hear lawsuit on Governor Dayton's veto of legislative branch funding today

The Ramsey County District Court will hear from attorneys for the Legislature today on why they are suing Governor Mark Dayton for his line-item veto of legislative branch funding for the upcoming biennium. Filed by the leaders of both the House and Senate, Speaker Kurt Daudt (R – Crown) and Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R – Nisswa) contend in their suit that what the governor did was a violation of the separation of powers clause in the Minnesota State Constitution. They have stated that his veto controls and restrains the action of the Legislature in the exercise of its official and constitutional powers. Dayton held a meeting with the leaders a few weeks ago to see if a courtroom debate could be avoided, but they would not agree to remove provisions from several bills that he had already signed into law. As a result, the governor hired legal counsel to defend him in what could be a contentious courtroom battle.

The contract signed by the governor states his legal defense team fees are capped at \$150,000, while the legislature has no such provision in their legal retainer. If the legal bills surpass the cap for the governor, it is anticipated they will need special approval for additional funding. Legal teams for both sides are being paid for with taxpayer dollars, however, the final total will be unknown until the case concludes. On Friday afternoon, attorneys for both sides asked the courts to order the Legislature be funded until October or by the end of the case. If the agreement is approved, it would avoid a mix of possible layoffs and furloughs of legislative staff once their reserve funds run out later this year.

Lieutenant Governor Smith leads trade mission to Cuba

Last week, Lt. Governor Tina Smith lead members of a Minnesota trade delegation to Cuba to discuss trade relations and visit agriculture sites. Others joining the delegation included Senate Finance Committee Chair Julie Rosen (R – Fairmont), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Secretary Dave Frederickson, MDA Deputy Commissioner Matt Wohlman, and members of other agriculture and commodity groups. The trip comes on the heels of a decision by President Donald Trump to restrict travel and trade dealings with the Caribbean island nation located just south of Florida. The decision repeals travel and trade restrictions that were eased by former President Barrack Obama in 2014. The [U.S. Cuba Cooperative Working Group](#) has stated that the President's policy actions could hinder economic growth in a country that cooperatives have played an important role by changing its economic model. Cuba's approximately 5,000 cooperatives are largely found – and historically rooted – in its agriculture

sector, but non-agricultural co-ops have been forming since 2013, when Cuba began shifting many of its state-owned enterprises to autonomous co-ops. Members of Minnesota's congressional district have also weighed in on the issue, including U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D) and Congressman Tom Emmer (R), who are supporting legislation that would end the trade embargo with Cuba.

Save the Date! Cooperative Network Electric Sector to meet August 8 in St. Cloud

Cooperative Network is hosting its Electric Sector meeting on Tuesday, August 8 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in St. Cloud, Minn. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's Energy Issues Summit at the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, adjacent to the River's Edge Convention Center. Be sure to watch for a full agenda via email as the event draws near. This event is no cost to Cooperative Network members and \$50 for nonmembers.

Waste pesticide collection reminder

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is providing payment for waste pesticides collected by collaborating with counties and through single day events throughout the state. MDA receives and distributes funding for this program which oversees the collection, management and disposal of unwanted and unusable pesticides. Those eligible include agriculture businesses and growers who are able to dispose of 300 pounds of waste pesticide for free. After 300 pounds are accepted annually, participants will be asked to help pay a portion of the costs for additional waste, with some exceptions applying. If you have questions please contact Jane Boerboom at MDA at (651) 201-6540 or Jane.boerboom@state.mn.us.

Publications



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