



Co-op Kudos

Congratulations to **Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association** on their [95th anniversary!](#)

Cooperative Network Calendar

Aug. 8: Electric Sector meeting, St. Cloud, Minn.

Aug. 23: Dairy Plant & Field Reps Conference, Eau Claire, Wis.
[Learn More...](#)

Sept. 6: Farm Supply, Grain and Fuel Committee meeting, Brainerd, Minn.

Sept. 20: Employment Law Update, Eau Claire, Wis.
[Learn More...](#)

Sept. 21: Minnesota Agricultural Credit Issues Conference, St. Cloud, Minn.



Cooperative Network News

Regional & Federal

How safe is your milk check? "We had a wake-up call about market risk when a number of Wisconsin and Minnesota farms lost their milk markets. That situation serves as a reminder that our grandfathers and great-grandfathers had a few good reasons to market milk cooperatively through co-ops."



Read the rest of this Hoard's Dairyman article [here](#).



Cooperative Network's Dairy Plant and Field Reps Conference set for Aug. 23. Hear from experts on a wide range of issues impacting dairy processors and farmers. Attendees will take away valuable information that can be used by dairy plant and field staff who work directly with farmers. Topics of discussion include changes in regulations, macro-economic trends, new health care options and farm safety.

For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

Minnesota

Cooperative Network Credit Managers Network meets

The Minnesota Credit Managers Network meeting took place on Monday, July 24 at Crystal Valley in Lake Crystal, Minn. All credit managers at

Oct. 18: Wisconsin Co-op Day at the Capitol, Madison, Wis.
[Learn More...](#)

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

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

Link of the Week



[Our Cooperative Story](#) is a blog launched in October 2016 for national Co-op Month to showcase the diverse stories of our member cooperatives and the services they provide their communities.

Cooperative Network member-cooperatives are welcome to attend the event held annually for networking and educational opportunities. Attendees had the opportunity to hear a legislative update, discuss current issues, learn about risk management in commodity marketing and begin planning for the annual Minnesota Agricultural Credit Issues Conference. This year's program will be held on Sept. 21 in St. Cloud, Minn. Alan Bush, credit manager at New Vision Co-op was elected as chair of the Credit Manager Network and will take over for Gary Hulke, credit manager at Crystal Valley.

First "25 by 25" water quality town hall meeting to be held on July 31 in Rochester

Earlier this year, Gov. Dayton announced a series of "water quality town hall" meetings intended to offer Minnesotans an opportunity to discuss the water quality challenges facing communities in the state and to engage with policymakers. The first of these 10 town hall meetings is set for Monday, July 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Rochester Community and Technical College. The meetings are geared to build support for the "[25 by 25](#)" water quality goal proposal that was announced by the governor back in February, with a state goal of achieving a 25 percent improvement in water quality statewide by the year 2025. In addition, other goals are to reduce phosphorus 12 percent by 2025 and nitrogen 45 percent by 2040 in the Mississippi River. Later meetings will be held in Mankato, Marshall, Crookston, St. Cloud, Ely, Bemidji, Minneapolis, Burnsville, and Stillwater. The dates and locations of the meetings can be found at the following [link](#) on the Environmental Quality Board's website.

Reminder to RSVP for Cooperative Network's Electric Sector meeting on Aug. 8

If you haven't done so yet, there is still time to RSVP for Cooperative Network's Electric Sector meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 8 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in St. Cloud, Minn. Rep. Jim Newberger (R - Becker), Vice-Chair of the Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance Committee, and Sen. Andrew Mathews (R - Milaca), Vice-Chair of the Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee, are both scheduled to provide their perspectives on the 2017 legislative session. As usual, there will be no cost for Cooperative Network members. The cost for non-member cooperatives is \$50 per person. Checks should be made payable to "Cooperative Network" and mailed to 145 University Avenue West, Suite 450, St. Paul, MN 55103-2044. To RSVP, please [click here](#) or call (651) 280-4901.

Cooperative Network to attend Farm Fest

Cooperative Network plans to attend Farm Fest this week to meet with multiple members and agriculture leaders. This annual gathering held in southwestern Minnesota is an excellent venue to connect with a variety of individuals and groups on cooperative, agricultural and policy issues. Among others, Cooperative Network staff have connected with elected officials and congressional staff during this event in the past.

CO-OPS COMMIT

Co-op Month 2017

Don't forget this year's Co-op Month theme: Co-ops Commit!

Wisconsin

Cooperative Network responds to WFU attacks on cooperative legislation

Cooperative Network has responded to the effort of the Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) to oppose provisions of the Cooperative Modernization legislation, AB 353 and SB 281. We visited all offices of the bills' sponsors and co-sponsors this past week and distributed a [document](#) explaining the provisions that the WFU is taking issue with. The WFU board has recently voted opposition to the legislation. The document WFU is distributing to legislators takes issue with several provisions in the bills. Cooperative Network's [document](#) accurately explains the provisions and discusses the following components:

- The process of meetings over several months that resulted in the legislation, which engaged members and cooperative lawyers in the effort
- Allowing boards to choose appointed directors with valuable perspectives to supplement elected boards
- Allowing boards to limit access to financial records to three years, similar to IRS audit reach backs
- Eliminating arbitrary 8 percent limit on capital stock where allowed, to provide greater access to capital for cooperative needs
- Allowing a cooperative holding company to consider implementing voting based on members' current or recent patronage activity. Only one such entity exists in Wisconsin.

Meeting held on Petroleum Contingency Plan

Cooperative Network attended a meeting July 26 on the revision process for the Petroleum Contingency Plan at the Wisconsin Emergency Management office in Madison. One question that was raised was "Which gas stations have backup generator hookups or generators in place?" The motor fuel technical report from the 1988 plan was distributed at the meeting. The Public Service Commission's Megan Levy reported on the statutory clean up that resulted from the State Energy Office being transferred from the Department of Administration (DOA) to the Public Service Commission (PSC) in the 2015-17 biennial budget. However, numerous items were inadvertently missed during that process. Several functions remain under DOA's purview in the statutes and administrative code that are being recommended for transfer to the PSC through clean up legislation during the fall 2017 legislative session. The next meeting of the work group is anticipated in late August or September.

Dairy Issues addressed at Wisconsin Ag Credit Issues Conference

At Cooperative Network's Agricultural Credit Issues Conference last week, Daniel Smith, Administrator of Agricultural Development at DATCP, told attendees that when Grassland Dairy Products sent a letter to 58 Wisconsin dairy producers announcing that they would no longer be picking up their milk "it was a shock to the dairy industry in Wisconsin." Smith went on to explain how DATCP worked with the affected dairy producers and were able to find buyers for 56 of those producers' milk supply. Smith told attendees that dairy cooperatives played a key role. Cooperative Network and other producer and processor groups continue to discuss ways to maintain a vibrant dairy industry in Wisconsin. Dr. Robert Cropp, Professor Emeritus at UW-Madison, reviewed milk production data and believes milk prices could get close to \$18.00 per hundredweight before the end of the year. One reason for Cropp's price forecast is increases in production have slowed down.

Cooperative Builder Awards



Applications due Sept. 1 for Cooperative Network's highest honor

Nominations are due Sept. 1 for Cooperative Network's [Cooperative Builder Award](#), our region's highest honor for individuals who have made outstanding contributions at the local, state, or national level to advance the cooperative philosophy and ideals. Honorees will be celebrated at our annual general meeting banquet, Nov. 14, at the InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront, St. Paul, Minn.

Nominees may be co-op members, employees, or supporters. [Previous winners](#) and current [Cooperative Network board members](#) are ineligible. Applications are kept in the selection pool for three years and may be updated with additional information.

Submit your nomination no later than Sept. 1, 2017. Please [contact us](#) with any questions.

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