



Co-op Kudos

Congratulations to **GROWMARK** on their new [grain partnership](#) with COFCO.

Congratulations to Cedar Country Cooperative of Elk Mound, Lakeland Cooperative of Ridgeland, and United Ag Cooperative of Alma on the [unveiling](#) of their new name: **Synergy Cooperative**.

Cooperative Network Calendar

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...](#)



Cooperative Network News

In Memoriam

Cooperative Network has learned of the passing of two dear cooperative friends and advocates. Both of these gentlemen have left a lasting impact and were proud recipients of the [Cooperative Builder Award](#):



Francis W. "Frank" Groves

Francis W. "Frank" Groves was named Director of University Center for Cooperatives in 1970, a position he held until his retirement in 1989. Frank's passion for the power of economic democracy led him to teach people around the world how to create their own cooperatives and improve their financial stability and potential. Throughout his career he won numerous awards for work with Cooperatives and being a leader in cooperative education nationally and internationally. [Continue...](#)



Truman Frederick Graf

Truman Frederick Graf had an illustrious career with numerous areas of expertise including: dairy policy; dairy marketing; federal milk orders; dairy promotion; transportation; international trade; and dairy pricing such as butterfat, nonfat solids, components, protein and whey. His counsel was sought by various Governors, U.S. Senators and Members of Congress, and other government officials on programs to increase dairy and agricultural profitability. [Continue...](#)

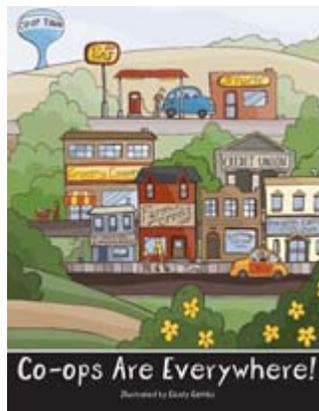
Sept. 21: Minnesota Agricultural Credit Issues Conference, St. Cloud, Minn.
[Learn More...](#)

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



Did you know there are Co-ops Are Everywhere coloring books available? You can download the digital copy [here](#) or complete the attached [form](#) to place an order.

Regional & Federal

NAFTA talks

Cooperative Network has been invited by Wisconsin Congressman Sean Duffy to discuss some of our agricultural priorities at his Agricultural Roundtable. One issue we will be discussing with Duffy will be trade. We plan to point out to Duffy that Wisconsin has exported more than \$3.4 billion worth of agricultural products to 150 countries. Canada and Mexico are Wisconsin's two largest customers. The NAFTA talks which began this week are very important to Wisconsin agriculture. For a report on dairy trade with Mexico from the U.S. Dairy Export Council click [here](#).

Wisconsin

Cooperative Network supports financial literacy legislation

Cooperative Network registered our support at a hearing by the Senate Committee on Education on Thursday on Assembly Bill 280. AB 280 directs each school board to adopt academic standards for financial literacy and incorporate instruction in financial literacy into the curriculum in grades K-12. Among those testifying at the hearing in support of the legislation was the Wisconsin Credit Union League and Summit Credit Union. The bill passed the State Assembly unanimously in June. It is authored by State Representatives Scott Krug (R – Nekoosa) and Jason Fields (D – Milwaukee) and State Senators Chris Kapenga (R – Delafield) and Lena Taylor (D – Milwaukee). Kapenga said that the legislation does not mandate any specific standards but rather leaves it up to local schools to choose. During testimony on the legislation, it was mentioned that only 57 percent of Americans are determined to be financially literate.

Jeff Lyon named interim DATCP Secretary

Jeff Lyon, previously the Deputy Secretary at DATCP, has been named interim Secretary by Governor Scott Walker. Lyon had been deputy to former Secretary Ben Brancel, who retired on Aug. 13.

PECFA stakeholders meeting Sept. 25

A meeting Sept. 25 in Madison for PECFA stakeholders will provide current information about the PECFA program, including claims activity, staffing, and time forecast for site closure. Cooperative Network will attend this meeting.

Farm Supply committee meeting Sept. 27 in Stevens Point

The quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin Farm Supply Committee will be held Wednesday, Sept. 27 at the office of AgCountry Farm Credit Services (formerly United FCS) in Stevens Point. All farm supply members of Cooperative Network are welcome to attend the meeting. Suggested meeting agenda items are welcomed and should be submitted [here](#).

Wisconsin's butter grading standards challenged in court

Cooperative Network previously reported that an Irish butter maker was not allowed to sell butter in Wisconsin because it was not graded in accordance with Wisconsin law. Cooperative Network was asked by DATCP to survey its members on the value of Wisconsin's butter grading standards. DATCP wanted this information in case the Wisconsin law was challenged in court. Cooperative Network's members supported the law that requires that butter sold in Wisconsin must be graded.

A judge in Ozaukee County denied the State of Wisconsin's attempt to have the case thrown out of court according to numerous new sources. The state claims that the law gives consumers information on the quality of the butter they are about to purchase. Those challenging that law claim it's protecting Wisconsin's dairy industry.

Forage transport to drought states eased

Governor Walker has signed executive order 251 declaring a 30-day state of emergency for the purpose of transporting loads of forage to drought impacted Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. Under Walker's order, interstate and intrastate motor carriers providing direct assistance for the transportation of baled hay, straw, cornstalks, and stover used for feed are relieved from certain federal motor carrier requirements. In addition, WDOT Secretary Ross has authorized the issuance of general permits allowing transportation of forage on highways within Wisconsin but excluding the interstate system in excess of the weight limitation in statute. The permits authorize weights not more than 90,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, if the vehicle is in combination and the combination has five or more axles; or not more than 10 percent greater than the gross axle weight and axle combination weight limitation, and not more than 15 percent greater than the gross weight vehicle limitation; and to exceed length limitations in statute, authorizing only combinations of two vehicles with an overall length of not more than 75 feet or a single vehicle with an overall length of not more than 45 feet. To obtain a no-fee 72-hour trip permit, call (608) 266-9900.

Governor's small business summit Sept. 26 in Rothschild

The annual Governor's Small Business Summit will be held from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center in Rothschild on Tuesday, Sept. 26. The summit brings cabinet secretaries and other state agency personnel together with small business owners to exchange ideas and information. Governor Walker and Lt. Governor Kleefisch are expected to provide an update on Wisconsin's business climate and economy. Registration is \$50 per person with the deadline of Sept. 15 for registration. To register, click [here](#). Registration requires use of Visa, Mastercard or Discover cards.



Every cooperative has a story. What's yours?

Minnesota

Reminder: Comments on Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule ends next Friday

The comment period for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) draft proposal for regulating the use of nitrogen fertilizer in Minnesota ends next Friday, Aug. 25. MDA's stated purpose of the rule is to minimize potential sources of nitrate pollution in the state's groundwater and to protect Minnesota's drinking water. The draft rule and updates on

the rule writing process can be found [here](#). After comments are submitted, MDA will publish the final draft of the rule later this fall. It is then expected that the rule will be adopted in the fall of 2018. Cooperative Network plans to submit comments once again and did so during the Rule's [first comment period](#) in the winter of 2016. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on comments, please let [Cooperative Network](#) know by the end of the day today so that they can be considered for the deadline later this week. If you wish to submit your own comments, they should be mailed and postmarked to Larry Gunderson, Fertilizer Technical Unit Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155 or emailed to larry.gunderson@state.mn.us.

Supreme Court to hear Dayton's appeal of legislative branch funding ruling on Aug. 28

Gov. Mark Dayton's appeal of a District Court's ruling that overturned his line-item veto of funding for the legislative branch will begin on Monday, Aug. 28. In a ruling made last month by Ramsey County Judge John Guthman, he indicated that the governor had offended the Separation of Powers clause of the Minnesota Constitution. After the ruling was rendered, the governor contended that his veto was legal and was done to bring legislators back to the bargaining table to discuss fiscal and policy differences that he feels could jeopardize Minnesota's future. The Supreme Court's decision on the appeal could end up setting a precedent that could favor either the legislative branch or the executive branch during future legislative sessions. If they uphold the lower court's ruling, it could embolden future legislatures when it comes to end-of-session showdowns on differences in budget and policy provisions. Conversely, if the ruling is overturned, it could force lawmakers back to St. Paul to re-negotiate the items Dayton opposed in his [veto letter](#) back in late May.

Dayton attends "25 by 25" water quality town hall meeting in Mankato

Gov. Dayton attended a "water quality town hall" meeting in Mankato to hear from the public about the water quality challenges facing communities throughout the state. Dayton was informed that one way to gain support from the agriculture community for his "[25 by 25](#)" water quality goal proposal was to work with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Among the stated goals of his proposal is to achieve a 25 percent improvement in water quality statewide by the year 2025. In addition, several other goals include reducing phosphorus 12 percent by 2025 and nitrogen 45 percent by 2040 in the Mississippi River. Upcoming meetings will be held in 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.

Minnesota Credit Union Network "It's Your Choice" video explains benefits of membership

The "It's Your Choice" public awareness media campaign sponsored by the Minnesota Credit Union Network (MnCUN) recently introduced a [video](#) that further explains the benefits of joining a financial services cooperative. The video compliments the [microsite](#) that was previously introduced several months ago by further explaining how credit unions are co-ops that offer full spectrum of financial services from checking to home loans. Differences between credit unions and other financial institutions are referenced as well, including credit unions being owned by their member-owner customers. The campaign followed in the footsteps

of a recent [survey](#) showing millennials prefer credit unions when it comes to financial preferences.

Featured Event



[Register today!](#)

Minnesota Agricultural Credit Issues Conference - Sept. 21

New policies, trends and developments in ag credit

Registration is open for Cooperative Network's Minnesota Credit Issues Conference. The event will be held on Sept. 21 at the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn in St. Cloud. CEOs, general managers, finance and credit professionals from credit union, Farm Credit, farm supply, livestock, genetics, and fuel cooperatives are encouraged to attend. Hear the latest on policy, trends, and developments in member lending:

- Strategic lending issues
- Economic update and forecast
- Mitigating risk
- Farm Service Agency update
- Difficult debt collections
- Interactive credit manager best practices panel

More information and registration is available [here](#).

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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