



Co-op Kudos

Congratulations to Harvest Land and Co-op Country on the [unveiling](#) of their new name: **Farmward Cooperative**.

Congratulations to member GROWMARK for their successful annual meeting and agribusiness symposium "Execute with Excellence" Aug. 22-24 in Chicago. Cooperative Network staff were in attendance at the event.

Cooperative Network Calendar

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.



Cooperative Network News

Labor Day

Due to the holiday, there will be no edition of *Cooperative Network News* next week. **We wish you a happy and relaxing Labor Day!**

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.

Cloud, Minn.
[Learn More...](#)

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

Oct. 25: Federal Dairy Issues Forum, Rochester, Minn.

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 watch the solar eclipse last week? Check out [Viewing the Solar Eclipse, Co-op Style](#) for an interesting perspective and some fun photos!

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

Regional & Federal

Dairy Situation and Outlook

At Cooperative Network's Dairy Plant and Field Reps Conference, Dr. Robert Cropp, Professor Emeritus at UW-Madison visited with attendees about the latest information on dairy production and consumption, as well as provided a forecast on milk prices. Cropp and Mark Stephenson, Director of Dairy Policy Analysis at UW-Madison, host a podcast on many of the issues Cropp talked about at the conference. Here is a [link](#) to the podcast.

Congressman Duffy's Agriculture Roundtable

Cooperative Network was invited to participate in Congressman Sean Duffy's (R-WI) Agriculture Roundtable on Aug. 22 in Marshfield, Wis. Among the issues discussed were the Margin Protection Program for dairy, crop insurance, trade, and immigration. Cooperative Network also reminded Duffy of the importance of the Domestic Production Activities Deduction (DPAD) to cooperatives. Here is a [link](#) to Cooperative Network's memo to Duffy.

Dairy Plant and Field Reps Conference

On Aug. 23, Cooperative Network held its Dairy Plant and Field Reps Conference in Eau Claire, Wis. The conference was designed to give dairy plant and field rep personnel information they can use in the dairy plant and in dealing with dairy producers.

Mike Boland, Director of the Food Industry Center at the University of Minnesota, discussed the new trends in consumer wants and how the food industry is reacting in response. Mike also discussed some of the geographic issues our trading partners are trying to negotiate into trade agreements.

Laura Traas, a Food Safety Supervisor at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), reviewed the recent National Conference of Interstate Milk Shippers (NCIMS). Laura outlined proposed changes to the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) and how they have been proposed to better reflect the recent Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Laura also updated the group on the pilot program on Tetracycline testing. Cooperative Network led a discussion of the need to have annual rBST affidavits. Those in attendance thought a longer period of time would save money and paperwork without compromising the rBST free markets.

Charlene Vrieze, Project Manager for 40 Square Cooperative Solutions, discussed how the new cooperative is gearing up to serve the health insurance needs of Minnesota farmers. Melissa Ploeckelman and Scott Heilberger of the National Farm Medicine Center interacted with attendees on common farm accidents and how to prevent and respond to them.

Minnesota

Cooperative Network participates in ag leadership meeting with MDA Commissioner Frederickson and Lt. Gov. Smith

Last Friday, Cooperative Network participated in an agriculture leaders meeting hosted by Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Commissioner Dave Frederickson. The goal of the meeting was for MDA to provide updates to key stakeholder groups in the agriculture community, hear from organizations about issues they have been engaged on, and discuss opportunities for future collaboration on various state and federal issues. Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, MDA Deputy Commissioner Matthew Wohlman, and MDA assistant commissioners Andrea Vaubel and Susan Stokes also provided updates on several issues and programs the Dayton administration has been engaged on. They also discussed the results of several department initiatives from the 2017 legislative session. Cooperative Network provided an update on [40 Square Cooperative Solutions](#), the health care cooperative plan that has been started as a result of the passage of Cooperative Network-led language to allow for the establishment of an agriculture cooperative health coverage option. Cooperative Network thanked Commissioner Frederickson, lawmakers, administration officials, and other stakeholders who had worked to advance the effort.

Cooperative Network submits comments on MDA's proposed draft nitrogen fertilizer rule

Cooperative Network recently submitted comments regarding the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) proposed [draft nitrogen fertilizer rule](#). 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 proposed rule and associated Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP) identify areas of the state where groundwater is vulnerable to contamination, such as sandy soils or karst geology. Our comments indicated that we support maintaining and improving the quality of the state's waters. We also indicated that pollution controls should be of a practicable and workable nature, protecting the gains made in agricultural production and the living standards of both rural and urban people. It was also noted that MDA should engage local stakeholders with knowledge of water conditions and farming practices. MDA plans to 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 submitted comments during the rule's first [comment period](#) in the winter of 2016.

MDA officials and legislators invited to address Farm Supply Committee meeting on Sept. 6

Cooperative Network will be hosting the Farm Supply, Grain and Fuel Sector Committee meeting next Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Madden's Resort on Gull Lake in Brainerd. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Minnesota Statewide Managers Meeting. Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and several local legislators have been invited to join us. If you plan to attend, please RSVP at (651) 280-4901 or [here](#).

Senior Cooperative Housing Council to meet on Sept. 13 in St. Louis Park

Members of the Senior Cooperative Housing Council will be gathering on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at Aquila Commons in St. Louis Park from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Council members will discuss the recent United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing policy which now precludes senior housing cooperatives from restricting occupancy to seniors. In addition, other topics to be covered will include a recap of the 2017 Senior Cooperative Housing annual meeting, a

legislative and resolutions committee update from Cooperative Network, and ideas for possible workshops in the future. If you plan to attend, please contact Cooperative Network [here](#) or (651) 280-4900.

Field for 2018 governor's race continues to grow

Last week, yet another legislator announced their candidacy for the 2018 governor's race. Sen. Dave Osmeck (R – Mound) joined a growing field of candidates for the seat that will be vacated by current Gov. Mark Dayton after next fall's elections. Among the higher profile republicans who have already declared their intentions to run are 2014 gubernatorial GOP nominee and current Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson, Rep. Matt Dean (R – Dellwood), Ramsey County Commissioner Blake Huffman, and former Minnesota GOP party chair Keith Downey. On the DFL side, among the candidates who have thrown their hats in the ring include Congressman Tim Walz (CD1), state auditor Rebecca Otto, Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL – Rochester), Rep. Erin Murphy (DFL – St. Paul), Rep. Paul Thissen (DFL – Minneapolis), and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman. Several of the candidates have indicated that if they do not receive their parties endorsement next spring, they will exit the governor's race. However, others have not and may choose to run in a primary for the party nomination later in the year. Gov. Dayton was not endorsed at the DFL convention back in 2010, but went on to defeat the DFL's endorsed candidate, former House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL – Minneapolis).



Youth cooperative leaders recently attended The Cooperative Experience. [Click here](#) to learn more about their trip.

Wisconsin

DATCP Budget

The Joint Committee on Finance met on Thursday to continue work on the 2017-19 Wisconsin State Budget, which is almost two months overdue. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) was among the items discussed.

Cooperative Network was part of an industry work group that dealt with the revenue and expenditures (RevEx) within the agrichemical management (ACM) fund and the agricultural chemical cleanup (ACCP) fund and made recommendations which mostly were included in Governor Walker's proposed budget. RevEx attempts to match the revenues coming into the fund with dollars that are used to fund management and cleanup activities and to simplify fee collection. RevEx was part of an omnibus motion that the committee passed unanimously. Included in the motion was approval of the Governor's proposal to increase the lifetime maximum ACCP reimbursement for a site to \$650,000 from the current \$400,000. Also included was the expansion of ACCP eligibility to bulk

storage facilities constructed after July 2013. Numerous ACM and ACCP fees will change under the motion. For example, the motion assesses a flat fee of \$500 per pesticide product and modifies ACCP fertilizer tonnage surcharges by decreasing that from \$0.35 per ton to \$0.10 per ton.

In addition, \$100,000 was added to the Livestock Premises Registration program using ACM segregated revenue. County fair aids were increased by \$25,000 general purpose revenue annually.

APS Council meets on final draft rule

The Agricultural Producer Security (APS) Council met Friday to review the final draft proposed APS administrative rule. The proposal would reduce assessments paid by milk contractors by 20 percent and create an automatic reduction in the assessments paid by grain dealers when the grain dealer portion of the fund exceeds the statutory maximum. In addition, the proposal increases the assessments paid by vegetable contractors. When Cooperative Network spoke on the proposal at the July 19 Madison public hearing on the rule, we supported the provisions dealing with milk contractors and grain dealers. The Council endorsed the final draft rule by a 7-1 vote at Friday's meeting. The DATCP Board is expected to take action on the rule at their Sept. 21 board meeting.

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](#).

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