



Resolutions Committee makes recommendations

The Cooperative Network Resolutions Committee met July 20 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where members took action on legislative and regulatory resolutions pertaining to Wisconsin and Minnesota. Members from credit union, dairy, Farm Credit, local supply, regional supply, service, utility distribution, and utility generation and transmission sectors attended the meeting in person. The committee will advance the following changes to the Cooperative Network board of directors:

WISCONSIN

- **AG 3.01 Cabinet Form of Government.** Delete “with restoration of board authority to appoint the secretary.”
- **AG 3.06 Food Quality Protection Act.** Delete.
- **AG 3.09 Performance-Based Milk Quality Program.** Delete.
- **AG 3.10 Producer Security.** Add “Cooperative Network will support legislation that will allow milk contractors to enter into deferred payment contracts, much like that currently provided to grain dealers.”
- **AG 3.11 Groundwater.** Add “which will require approval of legislation that provides permitting certainty for high capacity wells.”
- **AG 3.12 Agri-chemical Clean-up.** Add “Cooperative Network supports changes leading to an approximate annual balance of program revenues and expenditures.”
- **AG 3.14 Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award (PECFA) Program Reform.** Delete.
- **GC 3.03 Good Government and Clean Politics.** Delete “immediate” from “Full disclose of the names of all organizations and individuals making campaign donations.”

WISCONSIN & MINNESOTA

- **AG 1.08 Integrity of Organic Agriculture.** Add language noting that the National Organic Standards Board includes numerous stakeholders within

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Photos added to stock collection for members



In coordination with several Cooperative Network member cooperatives, about 750 photos have been added to the association's stock photography collection for members. The entire collection now contains nearly 2,000 high-resolution photos and is provided as a Cooperative Network member benefit thanks to financial support from the CHS Foundation.

The collection is at cooperativenetwork.smugmug.com. All member co-op managers should have received an email July 5 with the password. Contact Jenny Bernhardt, jenny.bernhardt@cooperativenetwork.coop or (608) 258-4391, if you have trouble accessing the site.

Manske recognized for protecting family farms



The Wisconsin National Farmers Organization has recognized John Manske, Cooperative Network director of government relations, for his “Outstanding Service in the Preservation of the Family Farm.” Don Hamm, Wisconsin National Farmers Organization president (left), presented the award to Manske (right) at a July 14 Wisconsin NFO board meeting in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Co-op Builder Award nominations open

Cooperative Network is accepting nominations through Sept. 2, 2016, for its prestigious Cooperative Builder Award. The recognition honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions at the local, state, or national level to advance the cooperative philosophy and ideals. Nominees may be co-op members, employees, or supporters. Honorees will be celebrated at the Cooperative Network annual meeting banquet at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, on Nov. 14.

Nomination forms and a list of past winners are online at cooperativenetwork.coop. Contact Dawn Bausch, dawn.bausch@cooperativenetwork.coop or (608) 258-4390, with questions.

Resolutions

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the organic community.

- **AG 1.15 Biotechnology and Genetically Enhanced Products and Dairy Product Labeling.** Delete “Cooperative Network opposes mandatory labeling of federally approved products that contain genetically enhanced traits.”
- **AG 1.29 Card Processing Fees and Cash Discounts (previously titled Credit Card Processing Fees and Cash Discounts).** Delete “Since credit card processing fees are based on a percentage of the sale, as retail prices move higher, more consumers make credit purchases.”
- **AG 1.33 Animal Health and Crop Protection Products in Food Production.** Add “Regulations developed for neonicotinoid use should be science-based, focus on agricultural productivity, and improve pollinator health. Science continues to show use of neonicotinoid pesticides protects crops from insect damage, increases agricultural productivity, and are safe to use. Agriculture is committed to protecting pollinators while using the body of science on neonicotinoids to guide future use.”
- **CU 1.07 Credit Unions Fighting Predatory Practices, Helping Low-Wealth Individuals.** Delete “the Real Solutions and Real Deals” language.
- **GC 1.01 Cooperative Development Services.** Replace “Northcountry Cooperative Development Fund” with “Shared Capital Cooperative.”
- **GC 1.12 Transportation.** Revise part #6 on expansion of rail service.
- **IN 1.05 Small Mutual Investment Income.** Delete.
- **UT 1.02 State Regulation of Utility Cooperatives.** Change “customers” to “members.”
- **UT 1.06 Alternative Energy.** Add “geothermal” to types of energy sources.

A full copy of Cooperative Network's resolutions is available at cooperativenetwork.coop under "Legislative/Regulatory." Contact John Manske, john.manske@cooperativenetwork.coop or (608) 258-4403, with questions or to learn how to get involved with the Resolutions Committee.

APS Council advances recommendations

Wisconsin's Agricultural Producer Security (APS) Council met June 27 at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in Madison, where the group considered several APS Program policy changes. The APS Council is a statutory council created to advise the DATCP secretary on matters related to the APS Program. Cooperative Network Director of Government Relations John Manske chairs the council.

Two of three proposed changes of interest to Cooperative Network's dairy members received majority support at the

meeting. They included an assessment rate reduction for milk contractors and an allowance for them to enter into deferred payment contracts with their producers. The council did not approve a motion to segregate the APS fund by industry group. The proposal stemmed from the use of dairy and grain contractor assessments to reimburse vegetable producers upon an out-of-state contractor default in 2014. Manske spoke in favor of the change, referencing a Cooperative Network resolution that calls for limiting each industry's indemnity fund access to the amount its producers put into the fund.

Other proposals that advanced included: an assessment incentive for vegetable contractors who voluntarily agree to 30-day payment terms with their producers; combining grain dealer and grain warehouse keeper APS subaccounts; and requesting that DATCP consider the pros and cons of providing an incentive for grain warehouses to obtain a federal warehouse license. The proposed changes will be forwarded to DATCP Secretary Ben Brancel for consideration.

Drone legislation signed into law

On July 15, President Barack Obama approved a bill that streamlines the permitting process for drone use; allows drones to fly beyond the line-of-sight and at nighttime to conduct duties aligning with federal, state, or local regulations; and establishes a process to restrict drone operation near energy production, transmission, and distribution facilities and equipment, oil refineries, and chemical facilities. The law also increases civil penalties to \$20,000 for drone users who interfere with law enforcement or emergency response activities. Agricultural, insurance, and utilities cooperatives have increasingly used drones to more efficiently and cost-effectively serve their members.

Co-ops explore key credit-related issues

The Wisconsin Credit Issues Conference was July 21 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Approximately 40 credit professionals attended the program, which is designed to provide updates on relevant credit topics and related issues for those involved in making credit decisions at cooperatives involved in agriculture.

Presenters covered a range of topics including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency programs, the agricultural economy, credit card security, related legislative activity, and services provided by the Wisconsin Farm Center.

Co-op Calendar

Aug. 4—Federal Dairy Issues Forum, Onalaska, Wis.

Aug. 17—Wis. Farm Supply, Grain, and Fuel Committee Meeting, Location TBD

Aug. 23—Wis. Dairy Legislative and Regulatory Committee Meeting, Madison, Wis.

Nov. 14-16—Cooperative Network Annual Meeting, Stevens Point, Wis.

For more information about these events, call (608) 258-4400 or go to www.cooperativenetwork.coop.



Prepared and distributed to provide timely information on matters pertaining to Wisconsin's member-owned cooperatives.

Cooperative Network

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