

## Member co-ops address Dayton's pollinator order

Cooperative Network's Farm Supply, Grain, and Fuel Committee met Sept. 7 in Brainerd, Minnesota, in conjunction with the Minnesota Statewide Managers Meeting. Discussion centered on reaction and feedback to Gov. Mark Dayton's recent executive order on the perceived pollinator decline in Minnesota. The gathering featured speakers from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) as well as Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Nisswa).

Dayton's Aug. 25 executive order declared a decline in pollinators due to pressures including habitat loss, pesticides, diseases, and parasites. The order requires the MDA to: verify need before growers can use neonicotinoid pesticides; increase inspections and enforcement of label requirements for pesticides; and mandate state contracts to accommodate the purchasing of neonicotinoid-free plants and pesticides where applicable.

Cooperative Network members and staff expressed their policy and process concerns to MDA representatives, particularly the lack of consultation with key

—continued on back page—

## Cooperative Builder honorees announced Early bird annual meeting registration ends October 19

David Cramer, United Cooperative president and CEO; Tim Harrington, Premier Cooperative chairman; and Judy Ziewacz, National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA CLUSA) president and CEO, will receive Cooperative Network's 2016 Cooperative Builder Award. The annual distinction honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions at the local, state, and/or national level to advance cooperative philosophy and ideals. Cramer, Harrington, and Ziewacz will be recognized at a Nov. 14 evening banquet during the Cooperative Network annual meeting, Nov. 14–16, at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

The theme of the meeting is Cooperatives Build, celebrating the partnerships, innovation, and commitment that set cooperatives apart. Sessions will address key economic trends, communications-centered initiatives for growth, cooperatives in higher education, and an election recap.

A full schedule, speaker bios, lodging, election, and registration information are online at [www.cooperativesbuild2016.com](http://www.cooperativesbuild2016.com).



**David Cramer**  
United Cooperative



**Tim Harrington**  
Premier Cooperative



**Judy Ziewacz**  
NCBA CLUSA

## October is Co-op Month

Our Cooperative Story showcases co-op difference



Cooperative Network has launched [www.ourcooperativestory.coop](http://www.ourcooperativestory.coop) in celebration of national Co-op Month and the many ways "Cooperatives Build." Each day, the blog features a new video or photo story from a cooperative in Minnesota or Wisconsin. Sign up online to receive posts by email or watch for them on social media.

Many thanks to the cooperatives that opened their doors to this project and to the CHS Foundation for its funding support.

View Gov. Mark Dayton's official Co-op Month proclamation online at [bit.ly/MNproclamation](http://bit.ly/MNproclamation).

## Call for auction items!

**Please support our cooperative political action committees.**

Silent and live auction proceeds at the annual meeting help fund the campaigns of legislators who have consistently supported priority issues for cooperatives.

**Minnesota residents:**

Contact Vicky Chaput

[vicky.chaput@cooperativenetwork.coop](mailto:vicky.chaput@cooperativenetwork.coop)

*Please note that by law, we can only accept donations from individuals.*

## Senior co-op housing council convenes in Richfield

Members of the Cooperative Network Senior Cooperative Housing Council gathered Sept. 15 at Gramercy Park Cooperative in Richfield, Minnesota, to discuss several issues of importance to the senior cooperative housing community.

The council expressed its support for Bill Buending, a member of Gramercy Park Cooperative Northwest, to be reelected as Cooperative Network's board of directors housing representative. Board elections take place Nov. 15. The group also re-

viewed the Cooperative Network resolutions process; legalities of campaigning at senior housing cooperatives; and feedback from the 2016 Senior Cooperative Housing Conference, Senior Cooperative Foundation golf tournament, and a recent identity theft presentation.

The meeting was followed by a workshop on HO-6 insurance for members, including what it covers, what is at risk without it, and how it works in tandem with the cooperative's property insurance.

## Co-op event explores trusts, liens, debt collection

Approximately 35 attendees gathered in St. Cloud on Sept. 21 to participate in the 2016 Minnesota Credit Issues Conference. Topics included how to deal with trusts, LLCs, and DBAs, an update from the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office on farm product liens, proactive approaches to debt collection and bankruptcy issues, and credit card security standards as they relate to cybersecurity. The conference concluded with a best practices panel featuring representatives from Central Farm Service, Crystal Valley Cooperative, Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company, and Genesis.

The topics and issues addressed at the conference were designed to help credit managers and others build stronger, more effective credit programs that will lead to stronger cooperatives. Cooperative Network thanks all who attended the conference, as well as CoBank and CliftonLarsonAllen for their sponsorships.

## Dayton order

—continued from front page—



Cooperative Network President and CEO Tom Liebe voices concerns to Minnesota Department of Agriculture staff regarding Gov. Mark Dayton's executive order on pollinators. Pictured (l-r) are Liebe, United Farmers Cooperative's Jeff Nielsen, Community Co-op's Dave Blomseth, and MDA staff Dan Stoddard

stakeholders. MDA-supported legislation is expected in the 2017 session that would amplify the impact of the order on Minnesota's agriculture community,

including the creation of a treated seed program and a dedicated "pollinator protection account" funded by fees on pesticide-treated seeds and on pesticides.

Other topics at the meeting included the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Process Safety Management standard as it relates to anhydrous ammonia retail sites; the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) federal rule regarding pesticide applicator certification; the EPA's draft ecological risk assessment, which threatens the use of atrazine for weed control; and the MDA's third-party anhydrous ammonia inspection program.

### Cooperative Network Dispatch

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

#### Cooperative Network

145 University Avenue, Suite 450  
St. Paul, MN 55103-2044  
(651) 228-0213 fax: (651) 228-1184  
[www.cooperativenetwork.coop](http://www.cooperativenetwork.coop)

## Upcoming Events

December 12

### Co-op Directors Forum

Discuss the most pressing questions related to equity, board governance, and legal issues your cooperative faces. Early registration ends Nov. 30. This program is offered in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives. Details are online at [cooperativenetwork.coop](http://cooperativenetwork.coop).

## USDA funds rural co-op development

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Development has awarded \$200,000 to the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (UWCC) and Cooperative Network to provide technical assistance and counseling to more than 150 existing cooperatives and 25 groups interested in forming new cooperative businesses in the Upper Midwest. UWCC and Cooperative Network will use the funds to address five key issues in rural areas: regional food systems, broadband access, senior cooperative housing, business succession, and cooperative education.

This is the sixth year Cooperative Network and UWCC have received USDA's Rural Cooperative Development Grant, which was awarded to 29 grantees in 22 states this year.

## Co-op Calendar

**Oct. 19**—Employment Law Update, Eau Claire, Wis.

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

**Dec. 12**—Co-op Directors Forum, Baraboo, Wis.

**March 15**—Minnesota Co-op Day at the Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.

For more information about these events, call (651) 228-0213 or go to [www.cooperativenetwork.coop](http://www.cooperativenetwork.coop).