

Honor a Cooperative Builder!

Co-op Kudos

Congratulations to [Medford Cooperative](#) for their new Rib Lake Cenex.

Congratulations to Wisconsin's credit unions, which "[posted a solid first half of 2017](#)".

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...](#)

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



Cooperative Network News

In Memoriam



Michael F. Dummer

Cooperative Network was saddened to learn of the passing of our friend Michael F. Dummer. Michael served cooperatives in a number of ways including through National Farmers Organization, Equity Livestock and DATCP. He will be truly missed.

Regional & Federal



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

Sen. Mathews and Rep. Newberger address Electric Sector in St. Cloud

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 that Cooperative Network members establish the association's positions on state and federal policy through a process set forth by the Resolutions Committee? The committee reviews and recommends any changes to the association's positions prior to the annual meeting and as necessary throughout the year.

Cooperative Network's resolutions guide is available [online](#) or downloadable [here](#).

Cooperative Network's Electric Sector meeting was held on Tuesday, Aug. 8 in conjunction with the 2017 Minnesota Rural Electric Association's (MREA) Energy Issues Summit in St. Cloud. Approximately 125 attendees heard from Senator Andrew Mathews (R – Milaca), Vice-Chair of the Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee, and Representative Jim Newberger (R – Becker), Vice-Chair of the Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance Committee, as they provided their perspectives on the 2017 legislative session. A Cooperative Network legislative and political update was also provided, which among the highlights were discussions on the new agricultural cooperative healthcare law and the MREA-led local democracy initiative, both of which were signed into law this past session.

Please RSVP for Farm Supply, Grain and Fuel Committee on Sept. 6

Cooperative Network's Farm Supply, Grain and Fuel Committee will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Madden's Resort in Brainerd. Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will be on hand to discuss their proposed [Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule](#). Several local legislators have also been invited to join us. The meeting is being held in conjunction with Minnesota Statewide Managers Association Meeting, which is being held from Sept. 6-8. Please RSVP [here](#) or by phone at (651) 280-4901.

Senate Majority Leader Gazelka and House Majority Leader Peppin to address Statewide Managers Association on Sept. 7

On Thursday, Sept. 7, Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R – Nisswa) and House Majority Leader Joyce Peppin (R – Rogers) will address the Minnesota Statewide Managers Association meeting. Cooperative Network secured both leaders for the meeting, who plan to discuss the 2017 legislative session, what is on the horizon for the 2018 session, and looking forward to the 2018 elections. Next November, all 134 members of the House of Representatives will be up for re-election, while the 67 members of the Senate will not be on the ballot until the fall of 2020.

"Grand Opening" held for Minnesota State Capitol

This past weekend featured the grand opening of the Minnesota State Capitol after the completion of a \$310 million restoration project that took approximately four years to finish. Festivities were held on the Capitol grounds, including the official ribbon-cutting, of which Cooperative Network was in attendance. Opened in 1905, the Capitol had seen its share of wear and tear over the past 100 years. In addition to restoring the building to its original state, other highlights of the renovation included a doubling of public space, new year-round meeting rooms for the public, and improving accessibility around the complex. The 2017 legislative session was the first in several years to feature both the House and Senate chambers fully functioning for floor sessions. The building was completely shut down in 2015 and the only portion of the Capitol that operated in 2016 was the House chamber on days when they were in session. Information on how to visit the Capitol or take a tour can be found at the Department of Administration's [website](#).

"25 by 25" water quality town hall meetings continue

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 was recently held in Rochester, with the next one set for Wednesday, Aug. 16

in Mankato. 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. 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.



America's 838 distribution cooperatives provide electricity to an estimated 42 million people in 47 states. Their service territories, which collectively cover 56% of the nation, are highlighted in this [map](#).

Wisconsin

UW-Discovery Farms Field Days

Join UW Discovery Farms at Roger Rebout & Sons Farm in Janesville on Aug. 17 to step inside a soil pit, hear about the latest in Big Data and UAVs (drone technology). You also will be able to learn about results from UW Discovery Farms' first cash grain monitoring site. On Aug. 31 at Brad Dorwin Farms in St. Croix County will feature an in-depth look at a soil pit with UW-Madison Soil Scientists Francisco Arriaga and Matt Ruark. Both events are free and will include lunch.

UW Discovery Farms develops on-farm and related research to determine the economic and environmental effects of agricultural practices on a diverse group of Wisconsin farms; and educates and improves communications among the agricultural community, consumers, researchers and policymakers to better identify and implement effective environmental management practices that are compatible with profitable agriculture. UW Discovery Farms is governed by a Steering Committee. This farmer-led group identifies program priorities and participates in the selection of research locations Cooperative Network is represented on the Steering Committee. Click [here](#) for more information.

State budget stalled as Foxconn legislation moves in Assembly

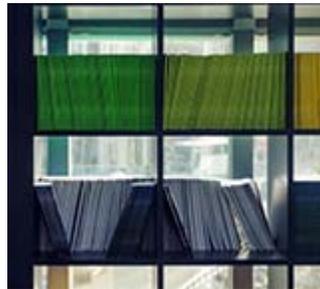
Progress on the biennial budget bill remains stalled as the legislative Republican leaders continue to disagree on the timing of action on the Foxconn special session legislation. Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald continues to hold open the dates of Aug. 21-23 for possible action on the budget and Foxconn. That is due to the Senate Republican members of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) all being available for a meeting. Fitzgerald has favored consideration of the Foxconn legislation by the JFC. The Assembly Jobs and the Economy Committee held a briefing and hearing on the Foxconn legislation last week. They are hoping to take executive action on the Foxconn bill Tuesday, Aug. 15 and

the Assembly could take action on the floor on Thursday, Aug. 17. Jobs and the Economy Committee Chair Adam Neylon has said "We've had an unprecedented level of amendments that have been proposed that we're working on." Senate Republicans were caucusing on the Foxconn bill on Thursday, Aug.10.

Cooperative Network to participate in September managers and directors meetings in Eau Claire

Cooperative Network is on the agenda for the Sept. 12 Wisconsin Cooperative Managers Association meeting and Sept. 13 CHS region 5 Directors/Managers meeting at the Sleep Inn & Suites in Eau Claire. The focus of the presentation will be to provide a current legislative and regulatory update, including the status of the biennial budget bill and the cooperative statute modernization legislation.

Featured Event



[Register today!](#)

Employment Law Update - Sept. 20

Protecting your employees and cooperative

In the business climate, the areas where you need to be legally up-to-date are seemingly endless, and one mistake can be too many. This update is packed with information and insight into today's constantly changing employment law. The highly qualified instructors will provide you with an overview of the most pressing issues, case studies and necessary information related to difficult legal challenges you could potentially face.

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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