



Co-op Kudos

Congratulations to **Land O'Lakes/WinField United** on the [opening of the WinField United Innovation Center](#) last week!

Cooperative Network Calendar

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

Oct. 25: Federal Dairy Issues Forum, Rochester, Minn.
[Learn More...](#)

Nov. 1-3: 20th Annual Farmer Cooperatives Conference, St. Paul, Minn.
[Learn More...](#)

Nov. 14-15: Cooperative Network Annual Meeting, St. Paul, Minn.
[Learn More...](#)



Cooperative Network News

Happy National Co-op Month!

Regional & Federal

Cooperative Network's Federal Dairy Issues Forum

Last April, the dairy industry in Minnesota and Wisconsin faced a huge challenge when 70 producers received letters from a proprietary plant that they would no longer be buying milk from them. Fortunately most of these producers found new buyers for their milk but the dairy industry has asked itself "Is this just a onetime event or a sign of things to come?" At Cooperative Network's Federal Dairy Issues Forum this fall, Mark Stephenson, Director of Dairy Policy Analysis at UW-Madison, will review the changing landscape of milk production across the U.S. with a focus on large trends, from altering genetics in herds, to milk production increases beyond local capacity to process the milk in some regions. For more information on Cooperative Network's Federal Dairy Issues Forum or to register click [here](#).

Minnesota

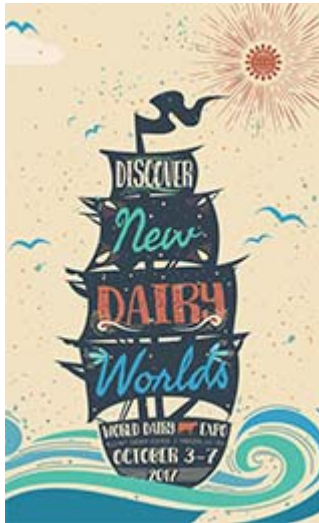
Gov. Dayton declares October "Co-op Month"

Gov. Mark Dayton recently proclaimed October "Co-op Month," recognizing the role cooperatives play in improving economic opportunity and the quality of life throughout the state. Cooperatives in Minnesota provide agriculture marketing and supply services, financing, electricity, transportation, health care, food, housing, insurance and more to millions of member-owners. Co-op Month has deep roots in Minnesota with the first official proclamation being signed into law by then Gov. Luther Youngdahl in 1948. The celebration became national in 1964 when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and former Minnesota Gov. Orville Freeman proclaimed October Co-op Month. Minnesota is one of the leading states in numbers of cooperatives, as well as the number of memberships in cooperatives. The state also became one of the first to enact a law

Jan. 11-12: Minnesota Director's Workshop,
Morton, Minn.
[Learn More...](#)

April 30 - May 1, 2018:
SCH Conference,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Link of the Week



[World Dairy Expo](#) is this week in Madison, Wis.! Is your organization attending? Do you have a favorite tradition or show feature? This year's theme: 'Discover New Dairy Worlds' promises to make an adventurous 51st World Dairy Expo!

authorizing cooperatives. This year's Co-op Month theme is "Cooperatives Commit" and promotional materials, facts, and figures can be found at www.coopmonth.coop.

Cooperative Network assists in educating elected officials on senior and manufactured housing cooperative models

The Association of Metropolitan Municipalities (AMM) recently invited Cooperative Network and housing co-op representatives to educate them on various housing cooperative models in Minnesota. Participating on behalf of Minnesota's senior housing cooperatives was Cooperative Housing Resources, while Minnesota's manufactured housing cooperatives were represented by Northcountry Cooperative Foundation (NCF). Members of AMM's Housing and Economic Development Policy Committee were interested in learning how both of these co-op models are organized and how they work with local units of government during the development phase. Cooperative Network kicked-off the presentation by providing background information on the unique nature of our association and the multi-sector cooperative presence we have in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. CHR provided a historical look at how senior housing cooperatives were started, how they benefit the communities they are located in, and why there are so many in Minnesota—including the incorporation of the very first one in the country. NCF explained how they assist in preserving existing manufactured home parks and assisting to create new manufactured housing developments.

Cooperative Network attends Governor's Task Force on Broadband

Last week, Cooperative Network attended the Governor's Task Force on Broadband meeting in St. Paul. The group is comprised of members who represent broadband interests, including consumers, business and residential users, educational and healthcare institutions, telephone and cable companies, wireless providers, as well as metro and rural local units of government. Their mission is to develop policies to promote the expansion of broadband access throughout Minnesota, and their responsibilities include developing an action plan to identify and correct disparities in access and adoption of broadband in throughout Minnesota. Among the items discussed during the meeting were updates from the Office of Broadband Development, 5G wireless technology, and a discussion of the Task Force's final report. Cooperative Network believes that the need for high speed and reliable internet service is critical for safety, education, jobs and commerce.

Biodiesel mandate lowered to 5 percent on Oct. 1

The mandate that all #2 diesel fuel sold in Minnesota contain a 10 percent biodiesel blend was lowered to 5 percent on Oct. 1. The lowered requirement will remain in effect until it will be raised back up to a 10 percent level starting on April 1, 2018. However, that amount will then be raised to a 20 percent level on May 1, 2018 – for the first time. The 10 percent summer blend has been in place for the past several years and the implementation of the B20 mandate had been delayed due to inadequate blending infrastructure, as well as inadequate regulatory protocol for Minnesota Weights and Measures enforcement according to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). However, MDA Commissioner Dave Frederickson and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner John Linc Stine announced earlier this summer during Farmfest that several outstanding conditions have been met so that the state is ready to move to the next scheduled minimum content level. Among the conditions were the inclusion of sufficient and/or feedstock

supply, adequate blending infrastructure, and the existence of federal standards for mandated blends. For more information on Minnesota's Biodiesel Program, please see the following [link](#) on MDA's website.

DOR to offer courses on sales and use taxes for companies that do business in both Minnesota and Wisconsin

The Minnesota Department of Revenue will be providing an overview of Minnesota and Wisconsin sales and use tax laws for companies that do business in both states. These free courses are designed for business owners, bookkeepers, purchasing agents, and accountants to provide information of each state's laws and how to meet their obligations. The first class will be held in [Duluth](#) on Oct. 17, while one will also be held across the border in [Hudson](#) on Nov. 16.

The graphic features a collage of four images: a group of people in a grocery store, a man in a cowboy hat in a field, a man with a child in a field, and a woman by a car. The text 'CO-OPS COMMIT To Community' is overlaid on the images. To the right, under the heading 'CO-OP STATS', are four bullet points:

- ▶ Food co-ops do 2.5X more business with local farmers and producers than conventional grocery stores.
- ▶ There are 900 electric co-ops in 47 states serving 18 million homes, schools and businesses.
- ▶ Agriculture cooperatives provide 190,000 jobs in the U.S.
- ▶ There are more than 6,000 credit unions in the U.S. serving 100 million members.

CO-OP MONTH | OCTOBER 2017

Wisconsin

Nominations accepted for WI Corn Promotion Board

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is accepting nominations for three seats on the Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board. Producers who grow and sell corn in Districts 3, 5 and 6 are eligible to nominate producers or to be nominated to the board.

The Department will accept nominations through Nov. 1. Producers who grow and sell corn in the following counties are eligible to nominate a producer or to be nominated:

- District 3: Forest, Florence, Marinette, Langlade, Oconto, Shawano, Door, Outagamie, Brown, Kewaunee, Winnebago, Calumet, Manitowoc, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties.
- District 5: LaCrosse, Vernon, Crawford, Richland, Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette counties.
- District 6: Dane and Sauk counties.

A completed nomination form must include the signatures of five eligible corn growers other than the nominee. Completed forms must also be notarized. DATCP's Market Order Coordinator will mail nomination forms to any producer who requests one prior to Nov. 1. Contact Debbie Gegare, Market Order Coordinator at 608-224-5116 or at

DATCPMarketOrders@Wisconsin.gov

Cooperative Network meets with ProVison Partners Board

Cooperative Network staff met with the Board of Directors of Provision Partners Cooperative last week. In addition to an update on legislative issues and the recently passed Wisconsin State Budget, Cooperative Network focused on the state of the Wisconsin's dairy industry. Board members learned of production and consumption trends and how Wisconsin handled the "Grassland Situation" it faced earlier this year. If you would like Cooperative Network to visit with your board contact us at (608) 258-4400.

Hearing held on cooperative modernization bill

Numerous individuals testified on the cooperative modernization legislation (AB 353) during a nearly four hour hearing held by the Assembly Financial Institutions committee on Sept. 27. Rep. Gary Tauchen (R – Bonduel), who authored the bill, began the testimony. Other speakers included two individuals who served on the Chapter 185 review committee that Cooperative Network created in 2015 to identify potential changes to chapter 185, the general cooperative statute. Mike Lensmire of Clifton Larson Allen LLP and Scott Herrick, Herrick & Kasdorf Law Offices LLP, described the review committee and indicated broad support for AB 353. Focusing in support of the appointed outside director provision in the legislation were Lori Meinholz of Middleton, who serves on the Compeer Financial board, and Bob Topel of Waterloo, who serves on the Cooperative Network board and previously served on the Foremost Farms USA board. Speaking in support of the electric cooperative provisions in the legislation were Larry Dokkestul, general manager of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services and Beata Wierzba and Tim Clay of Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA). Dan Diederich, chair of the AgSource Cooperative board, spoke in support of the provision that would allow a cooperative holding company, of which Cooperative Resources International (CRI) is the only one in Wisconsin, to consider whether to adopt some form of a patronage or equity based voting system. Cooperative Network's testimony focused on responding to questions that had been posed by committee members and from opposing speakers. The Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) and several of their members spoke in opposition to the legislation. Manske informed the committee that in 2005 when Cooperative Network was advocating for creating a second cooperative statute, which became law as Chapter 193, the WFU employed similar arguments against that proposal that they are using this time in opposition to AB 353 and its companion, SB 281. Several others registered in support of the legislation, including Senator Patrick Testin (R – Stevens Point), the Senate co-sponsor of the legislation, and Rep. Ed Brooks (R – Reedsburg), an Assembly co-sponsor. Organizations who were registered in support at the hearing were Growmark, Inc., Dairyland Power Cooperative, and the Wisconsin Propane Gas Association.

Cooperative Network visits with Wisconsin National Farmers Organization board

On Sept. 28, Cooperative Network visited with the Wisconsin National Farmers board members at their Fond du Lac office. Issues discussed included the cooperative modernization legislation, biennial budget provisions and budget veto of supplemental funding for livestock premises identification, anticipated legislation allowing deferred payment contracts between milk contractors and dairy farmers, and NR 151 proposed regulations relating to runoff management and non-point source

performance standards. It was announced that the NFO state convention will be Dec. 2 in Fond du Lac.

Farm Supply Committee meets in Madison

On Sept. 27, the Wisconsin Farm Supply Committee met at Cooperative Network's Madison office for their regular quarterly meeting. Attendees from several cooperatives heard from several state agency representatives as well as State Representative Keith Ripp.

Jeremy McPherson, Director of the Bureau of Business Trade Practices at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, gave an update on the final Agricultural Producer Security (APS) administrative rule and proposed legislative changes to APS. Jen Heaton-Amrhein and Robby Personette from the Agrochemical Management Bureau provided an update on the RevEx package that was approved in the state budget to lower fees and simplify the process for registrants of agricultural chemicals. Jim Chilling, Deputy Administrator & Labor Standards Bureau Director of the Equal Rights Division at Department of Workforce Development gave an update on federal and state overtime rules. State Representative Keith Ripp visited with the committee on the biennial budget that was recently passed and provisions specifically related to transportation funding. Spring road weight enforcement was further discussed with Representative Ripp and committee members expressed the need for exemptions of trucks carrying home heating fuel.

All farm supply cooperative members are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in the regular Farm Supply Committee meetings.

PECFA stakeholders hear program updates

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff updated stakeholders including Cooperative Network at a meeting Sept. 25 on various matters pertaining to the Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award (PECFA) program. The amount paid to date in fiscal year 2018 to site owners is \$1.5 million. The 2017-19 biennial budget contains \$15 million for the PECFA program reimbursement. Claims for reimbursement have been responded generally within two weeks to 30 days with payment. Consultants were advised to have claims submitted within 180 days. The agency has brought on board eight PECFA limited term employees. They are in process of hiring six full-time employees. A task force is working on the "stalled sites" process. Staff stated that for anyone not yet started on remediation of a site, there will be less money spent as the remediation will likely not be complete prior to the program ending June 30, 2020. There is a new PECFA post office box number, PO Box 7921. The PO box 8044 will be discontinued as of June 30, 2018, so the PO Box 7921 should now be utilized. There was discussion on the limited number of insurance companies that will ensure the newer tank systems, only 2-3 companies. DNR staff suggested that "we need to demonstrate to policymakers why insurance is not getting the job done."

Featured Events

Cooperative Network Annual Meeting - Nov. 14-15

The Cooperative Network annual meeting features co-op and industry speakers, networking opportunities, the Cooperative Builder Award banquet, silent and live



auctions to support the association's political action committees, action on resolutions, as well as sector and at-large board elections for open seats. It is held in November each year for member cooperative managers, employees, and directors. Partner organizations are also invited to attend portions of the event.

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

[Register today!](#)



WI Co-op Day at the Capitol - Oct. 18

Join cooperative leaders from across Wisconsin as we come together for this grassroots lobbying event. You will hear from regulators and legislative leaders on issues that directly affect your cooperative, and in small cross-sector teams, you'll have the opportunity to deliver the cooperative business perspective face-to-face with policymakers.

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

[Register today!](#)

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