



## Kudos

Congratulations and thank you to Gregory Line and Scott Reimer! They completed the Cooperative Network member survey and were chosen at random to receive a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Kudos to [North Star Electric Cooperative](#) for including an article on Co-op Month in their latest newsletter. They were kind enough to feature artwork designed for Cooperative Network explaining how co-ops of all kinds are indeed everywhere!

## Calendar of Events

**Nov. 13-14, 2018:**

### **Cooperative Network Annual Meeting**

Radisson Hotel, La Crosse, Wis.

**Dec. 12, 2018:**

### **[Cooperative Network/UWCC Co-op Directors Forum](#)**

Organic Valley, Cashton, Wis.

**Jan. 9-10, 2019:**

### **[Cooperative Network/UMN Minnesota Cooperative Leadership Program](#)**

Jackpot Junction Casino, Morton, Minn.

## Cooperative Network News | October 23, 2018



### **Early-bird registration discount and hotel group rate deadlines extended!**

The early-bird registration discount and hotel group rate deadlines have been extended to Friday, October 26. [Click here](#) to register online or download the agenda, board nomination and registration materials. You still have the ability to register via email/mail/fax. Please contact [Dawn Bausch](#) or call (608) 258-4390 with any questions.

### **Join us in honoring the Cooperative Builder Award winners**

The following individuals have been selected to receive the 2018 Cooperative Builder Award:

- Tim Diemert, nominated on behalf of Allied Cooperative
- Wade Hensel, nominated on behalf of BENCO Electric Cooperative
- Joan Wade, nominated on behalf of CESA Statewide Network (Wisconsin Cooperative Educational Service Agencies)

Join us in honoring these recipients at the Cooperative Builder Award banquet on November 13 in conjunction with the Cooperative Network Annual Meeting.

### **Donated items needed for PAC auctions at Cooperative Network annual meeting**

Cooperative Network's annual meeting will once again feature activities to raise funds for the organization's political action committees. Live and silent auctions will be held at the Cooperative Network annual meeting November 13-14 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. For Co-op PAC (MN) donations, please contact [Patrick Murray](#) or call (651) 280-4901 and for COOP (WI) donations please contact [David Ward](#) or call (608) 258-4414.



*Kristin Olson, Cooperative Network Member Support*

### **Welcome Kristin Olson, Member Support and Education Coordinator**

Kristin Olson has joined Cooperative Network as the Membership Support and Education Coordinator. Bringing more than eight years of experience in agricultural communications, marketing and media relations, she will serve the organization as Membership Support and Education Coordinator – in charge of membership services, communication and educational programming.

Do you have Co-op Kudos you'd like to see included in *Cooperative Network News*? Or does someone you know want to subscribe? [Click here](#) to let us know!

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[Click here](#) to learn more about exclusive discounts on products and services, just for Cooperative Network members.

and Education Coordinator [Click here](#) to read more.

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## Regional & Federal

### **Smith extols virtues of cooperatives during interview on Wisconsin Public Radio**

Cooperative Network President and CEO Dan Smith was recently interviewed by Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR) on the importance of cooperatives throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota. With October being National Cooperative Month, WPR took a look at the range and impact of co-ops in both states, and what they can bring to a local economy. [Click here](#) to listen to the interview.

### **NCFC remains engaged on 199A regulations and impact on farmer cooperatives**

Representatives from the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) recently met with Treasury and IRS officials to discuss upcoming Section 199A regulations and the impact on farmer cooperatives. Discussion topics included how to define agricultural and horticultural cooperatives and products; the calculation of the cooperative-level deduction; how federated cooperatives work and how they implement the deduction; transition rules for moving from Section 199 to 199A; and the deduction adjustment taken at the farmer level.

NCFC provided legislative background on Section 199A and its application to cooperatives, and asserted that new regulations are not necessary because Congress instructed IRS and Treasury to rely on "old" Section 199 when implementing the new provision. While it appears that Treasury will likely issue regulations relating to Section 199A and its applicability to cooperatives, the legislative language provides clear instruction that any new regulations should apply in the same manner as "old" Section 199.

NCFC continues to communicate with Treasury and IRS and will provide comments once proposed regulations are published. Treasury officials previously have said that their goal is to issue proposed regulations by the end of the year, but that timeline may slip due to the demands of implementing the new tax laws.

In collaboration with NCFC and several co-op members, Cooperative Network had advocated for the preservation of the original Section 199 and Section 199A with members from both the Minnesota and Wisconsin congressional delegations dating back to last year.

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## Minnesota



### **Cooperative Network participates in Cooperative Manager's group meeting**

Last week, Cooperative Network participated in the Cooperative Manager's group meeting in Glenwood, Minnesota. The group is comprised of general managers from farm supply, grain and fuel cooperatives located throughout the state and is chaired by Cooperative Network board member Kelly Christianson of Northern Resources

Cooperative. Topics discussed by the group included a CHS update by Cooperative Network board member Dave Johnsrud and an in-depth presentation on propane best practices. In addition, updates were given by representatives from CHS, CoBank and Milliman. Patrick Murray provided a legislative and political update, a reminder of the upcoming Cooperative Network annual meeting and that open enrollment for 40 Square Cooperative Solutions starts on November 1.

### **40 Square Cooperative Solutions community meetings continue this week**

Community informational meetings for 40 Square Cooperative Solutions will

continue throughout the state this week. These events provide information regarding the co-op and their health plan offerings for Minnesota's agricultural community. Open enrollment begins on Nov. 1 and will run through Dec. 19. Help spread the word by informing your members about this option and the opportunity to learn more by attending one of these gatherings:

- Oct. 23, 7 p.m. – Shooting Star Casino, 777 Casino Road, Mahanomen
- Oct. 25, 4 p.m. – American Legion, 600 S. County Road 20, Lake Crystal (hosted by Crystal Valley Cooperative)

If you have any questions about co-op membership, healthcare options, open enrollment, additional ways you can inform your members, or the upcoming community meetings, please contact (844) 205-9579 or visit the [40 Square website](#).

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## Wisconsin

### Dairy Situation and Outlook

On October 20, Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin Madison released his monthly Dairy Situation and Outlook. Cropp reports that the Class III price was \$14.95 in August and increased in September to a high for the year at \$16.09. But, it looks like October may be closer to \$15.60, due to the weakening of cheese prices.

Cropp says that the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas season cheese and butter buyers normally build stocks to meet the strong seasonal demand. As a result, butter and cheese prices usually increase this time of year, but it does not appear to be happening this year.

Cow numbers are down, but have decreased by 41,000 since the beginning of the year. However, increased production per cow has overall milk production up over last year.

Cropp's forecast for 2019 faces a lot of uncertainty. Butter and cheese sales should show continued growth, but the level of milk production will be a major factor. USDA is forecasting a 1.5% increase in milk production. The level of dairy exports will be a major factor.

[Click here](#) to listen to the Dairy Situation and Outlook podcast created by Bob Cropp and Mark Stephenson, Director of Dairy Policy Analysis, University of Wisconsin Madison.

### Grain quality concerns

Cooperative Network has heard the concerns of several farm cooperatives regarding grain quality issues as a result of the wet growing season. We have been advised by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) that producers should have grain tested if there are concerns over aflatoxin or mycotoxin. Grain should be tested before it is harvested, stored or fed to livestock.

Cooperative grain elevators have procedures in place for testing and may reject the grain if it is beyond tolerance. Farmers should stay in communication with elevator managers and crop insurance representatives when considering options for impacted grain.

Click the following links for more information:

- [RMA frequently asked questions](#)
- [Loss Adjustment Manual \(LAM\)](#)
- [DATCP Press Release](#)

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