



Kudos

Congratulations to Insight FS on the launch of their [new website](#). According to Dave Mottet, Insight FS General Manager and Cooperative Network board member, "The new website is already making it easier for our customers to do business with us. We made sure it was optimized for smartphones, desktops, and tablets, because our customers are often looking for solutions in the palm of their hands."

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.

Do you have Co-op Kudos you'd like to see included in Cooperative Network News? Or does someone

Cooperative Network News | October 30, 2018



Did you forget to register? There's still time!

Don't miss the upcoming Cooperative Network annual meeting. Register today! [Click here](#) to register online or download the agenda, board nomination and registration materials. You still have the ability to register via email, mail, or 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.



Dan Smith, Cooperative Network President & CEO

Smith discusses importance of cooperatives during interview on Midwest Farm Weekly/WFRV

Cooperative Network President and CEO Dan Smith was recently interviewed by Midwest Farm Weekly/WFRV on the important role cooperatives play in building communities. With October being National Cooperative Month, Smith explained the history of cooperatives throughout the country and the impact they have on local economies. [Click here](#) to see the

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interview that was taped live in WFRV's Green Bay studio.

Regional & Federal

NRECA monthly podcast focuses on important issues to rural America and the energy industry

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) recently introduced a monthly podcast series titled, "[Along Those Lines](#)." This monthly series is focused on the important stories from across co-op country and the issues that matter most to rural America and the energy industry. This first episode features an interview with NRECA CEO Jim Matheson as he discusses how the vote of every electric cooperative consumer-member counts and why the electric cooperative community should have a voice in the political arena every election year. You can listen to "Along Those Lines" episodes on the NRECA podcast page, as well as subscribe to future episodes using standard podcast apps such as Apple iTunes and Google Podcasts. You can also find the podcast page on [Stitcher](#) and [Spotify](#).

Dairy Co-ops important to U.S. dairy industry

According to Hoard's Dairyman, dairy cooperatives handle the vast majority of milk produced by U.S. dairy farmers. In a recent issue, the top [50 Dairy Cooperatives](#) were listed and Hoard's Dairyman stated that these 50 dairy cooperatives procured 81 percent of the total milk flow. Of these top 50 dairy cooperatives in the country, 15 alone are located in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Reminder: 21st Annual Farmer Cooperatives Conference to be held in St. Paul next week

Retaining talent, leveraging sustainability for competitive advantage, and CEO succession planning are just a few of the topics that will be addressed at this year's [Farmer Cooperatives Conference](#). The Farmer Cooperatives Conference provides a forum to gain insight into these issues and give your cooperative the edge it needs to compete. The conference will be held from November 7-9 at the Intercontinental Riverfront in St. Paul, MN. Cooperative Network is part of the national planning committee for this conference, together with representatives from diverse cooperative, agribusiness and academic sectors. Kristin Olson, Cooperative Network Member Support & Education Coordinator will be in attendance. If you would like to register or have any questions about the event, please contact the [UW Center for Cooperatives](#) or call (608) 262-3251.

Minnesota

Cooperative Network participates in MDA's Grain Advisory Council

Last week, Cooperative Network participated in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Grain Advisory Council meeting. This group was created as a result of several elevator failures over the past few years that have impacted producers. Due to these failures, legislation was introduced in 2016 to create a Grain Indemnity Fund, as well as an increase in surety bond limits. While the legislation did not advance out of either body of the legislature, MDA created the Grain Advisory Council earlier this year consisting of representatives from Cooperative Network, the grain elevator industry, farm groups, commodity groups, and MDA staff to discuss ways to mitigate negative impacts on producers when a grain buying entity goes out of business. This was the second meeting held by the group, with the intention to gather once again in January. If you are interested in participating with this group in the future or would like more information, please contact [Patrick Murray](#) or call (651) 280-4901.

Broadband Development office launches tool to report internet speeds across the state

The Minnesota Office of Broadband Development recently announced the launch of a new benchmarking tool known as [CheckSpeedMinnesota](#). This tool will allow Minnesotans to test, map and report various broadband

internet speeds across the state. The maps generated by the tool will be displayed for the public, as well as incorporated into information that is provided annually to the governor and legislature. All internet speed test results vary due to factors including time of day, number of devices connected and bandwidth consumed during a test. These factors will be taken into consideration when analyzing results.

40 Square Cooperative Solutions meetings continue over the course of the next month

Community informational meetings for 40 Square Cooperative Solutions will continue throughout the state over the course of the next month. These thirty minute meetings 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. [Click here](#) for a list of upcoming meetings.

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](#).

Wisconsin

PECFA Advisory Group to meet on November 7

Cooperative Network is an active participant in Wisconsin's Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Award (PECFA) Advisory Group. Cooperative Network represents petroleum retailers on the Advisory Group, which also includes PECFA agents, consultants and industry representatives. The group was formed to gain insight into the cleanup challenges of the retail and wholesale petroleum industry and to cooperatively develop strategies to keep all parties informed of the PECFA program. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday November 7. Among the issues to be discussed will be the sunset of the PECFA program, which is scheduled to end on June 30, 2020.

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