



## Kudos

Congratulations to [CHS Foundation](#) on awarding \$440,000 in cooperative education grants to projects that will help students learn about the cooperative business model and what makes cooperatives unique. Among the cooperative education projects that were supported included the Association of Cooperative Educators, Cooperative Development Foundation, Cooperative Network and the Ralph K. Morris Foundation.

## Calendar of Events

**Oct. 22, 2018:**  
**Cooperative Network Open House | WI Office**  
 Cooperative Network, Madison, Wis.

**Nov. 13-14, 2018:**  
**Cooperative Network Annual Meeting**  
 Radisson Hotel, La Crosse, Wis.

**Dec. 12, 2018:**  
**UWCC/Cooperative Network Co-op Directors Forum**  
 Organic Valley, Cashton, Wis.

Do you have Co-op Kudos you'd like to see included in *Cooperative Network*

## Cooperative Network News | October 16, 2018



### Don't miss the early bird registration deadline!

Register now to take advantage of the early bird discount which ends this Friday, October 19. New this year! Register and pay by credit card online. [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.

### We want you! Cooperative Network board nominations being accepted

Cooperative Network is accepting nominations for the board of directors. [Click here](#) for nomination information. Please contact [Dawn Bausch](#) or call 608-258-4390 with any questions.

### 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.

### Welcome Kris Ackley, Membership Development Director

Kris Ackley has joined Cooperative Network as the Membership Development Director. With more than 20 years in association and non-profit management, her main responsibility will be membership engagement, retention and

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



*Kris Ackley, Cooperative Network Membership Development Director*

new business development. For the past eight years she led the statewide development efforts at Easter Seals Wisconsin in the areas of fundraising and events, donor stewardship, and board development. [Click here](#) to read more.

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## Regional & Federal

### October is "National Farm to School" month

Both Minnesota and Wisconsin are actively celebrating October as "National Farm to School Month". The designation is geared to help thousands of farms, schools, communities, and organizations across the country celebrate food education.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced that its Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Milk Cooler Grants are now available. The MDA will award up to \$22,500 to eligible institutions to increase the use of Minnesota dairy by adding milk coolers to their nutrition programs. A maximum of three proposals will be accepted for each organization or school. Applications for milk cooler grants must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. CST on November 16, 2018. For more information and to apply, please visit the following [link](#) on MDA's website.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Wisconsin Farm to School Network are participating in two events aimed at expanding local food purchasing in cafeterias in settings such as schools, early care centers, and hospitals. The first event occurred on October 11th during the "Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch", which saw over one million people bite into a locally sourced apple at noon. The second event, the 1st annual Wisconsin Chili Lunch, is set for Thursday, Nov. 15. During the lunch, participating schools, colleges, early care sites and other institutional lunchrooms will serve chili utilizing as many local ingredients as possible. The chili lunch was tried out on a limited basis in the Coulee Region last year, where it was deemed a success. The effort is spreading this year, and to date about 50 sites across Wisconsin have agreed to participate. For more information about the Wisconsin Chili Lunch, including how to register, please visit the following [link](#).

### International Credit Union Day® Celebrates 70th anniversary

[International Credit Union \(ICU\) Day®](#) celebrates the spirit of the global credit union movement. The day is recognized to reflect upon the credit union movement's history, promote its achievements, recognize the hard work and share member experiences. International Credit Union (ICU) Day® has been celebrated on the third Thursday of October since 1948. The ultimate goal is to raise awareness about the tremendous work that credit unions and other financial cooperatives are doing around the world and give members the opportunity to get more engaged. On October 18, 2018, join the global credit union family as they celebrate the 70th anniversary of ICU Day®!!

### Cooperative Network submits comments on milk labeling to the Food and Drug Administration

Cooperative Network recently submitted comments to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide input as the agency looks to implement clear and transparent food labels. The FDA is trying to address any confusion consumers may have with plant-based drinks that are using the term "milk" on their label. Cooperative Network's comments included recognition of

Cooperative Network member-driven resolution AG 1.15 Biotechnology and Genetically Enhanced Products and Dairy Product Labeling, which states, “Cooperative Network wants the use of milk on labels only in products that meet the definition of milk.” Cooperative Network also informed the FDA that we are not opposed to plant-based products, but that labels on these products should reflect the actual ingredients from which they are made.

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## Minnesota

### **Cooperative Network participates in Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition meeting**

Last week, Cooperative Network participated in the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition meeting held at the Association of Minnesota Counties office in St. Paul. The meeting was attended by representatives from a host of entities including cooperatives, economic development commissions, and local units of government. In addition, representatives from agricultural, educational, and healthcare affiliated organizations were in attendance. In an effort to sophisticate their advocacy efforts as a coalition, several committees were formed, including an official Executive Committee. Access to broadband is important to Cooperative Network members and we believe that rural citizens and businesses should have equal access to broadband. We continue to support policies that encourage and facilitate new investment, as well as re-investment in broadband infrastructure and networks.

The next meeting of the coalition is scheduled for November 13 in St. Paul. For cooperatives who are interested in joining the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition or attending a future meeting, please contact [Patrick Murray](#) or call (651) 280-4901 for more information.

### **Minnesota Credit Union Network “Voter Guide” now available in advance of fall elections**

The Minnesota Credit Union Network (MnCUN) contacted individuals this past summer who are aspiring to represent Minnesotans and asked them to complete a survey about credit union issues. Included were candidates who are running for each respective legislative, statewide, and federal office. To find candidate responses and see where these individuals stand on credit union issues, please see the [attached link](#) to Voter Guide. Cooperative Network thanks our colleagues at MnCUN for allowing us to share this valuable resource as we approach Election Day on Tuesday, November 6.

### **Tax credits available through RFA for beginning farmers starting on Nov. 1**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Rural Finance Authority recently announced beginning farmers will be able to apply for the tax credit for the sale or lease of land, equipment, machinery, and livestock starting on November 1.

To qualify, the applicant must be a Minnesota resident with the desire to start farming or began farming within the past ten years, provide projected earnings statements, have a net worth less than \$816,800, and enroll in an approved financial management program. The tax credit for the sale or lease of assets can then be applied to the Minnesota income taxes of the owner of the farm land or agricultural assets.

The [Beginning Farmer Tax Credit](#) is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested farmers should note that they can also apply for a separate tax credit to offset the cost of a financial management program up to a maximum of \$1,500 per year – for up to three years.

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## Wisconsin

### **Union Cab to offer “Democracy in Motion” program on election day**

Cooperative Network member Union Cab is a cooperative based in

Madison that is owned and operated by its members. On Election Day, set for Tuesday, November 6, Union Cab will be practicing the 7th Cooperative Principle "Concern for Community" with its "Democracy in Motion" program. To help get out the vote, Union Cab will be offering free rides to polling places and back. For more information on the Democracy in Motion program, please visit [Union Cab's website](#) and [click here](#) to read a recent press release. Union Cab will offer this service for residents residing in Madison. Please call (608) 242-6000 to set up your ride.

#### **Dairy Task Force sub-committee meetings announced**

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the University of Wisconsin System recently announced the [meeting schedule](#) for the nine sub-committees of the Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0. The Task Force is charged with making recommendations on actions needed to maintain a viable and profitable dairy industry in Wisconsin. At the August Task Force meeting, members created nine sub-committees which they volunteered to serve on. Cooperative Network's Director of Government Relations and Dairy, David Ward, will be chairing the Regulatory Certainty sub-committee.

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