The Northeast Cooperative Council

### Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agri-Mark Inc.</td>
<td>Methuen, Mass.</td>
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<td>CoBANK, ACB</td>
<td>Enfield, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy Farmers of America</td>
<td>East Syracuse, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Dairy Cooperative Inc.</td>
<td>East Syracuse, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Dairy One</td>
<td>Ithaca, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Farm Credit of Maine, ACA</td>
<td>Auburn, Maine</td>
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<td>Farm Credit East</td>
<td>Enfield, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genex Cooperative, Inc.</td>
<td>Ithaca, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Lowville Farmers Cooperative, Inc.</td>
<td>Lowville, N.Y.</td>
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### Associate Members

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jenifer Gutshall</td>
<td>Cooperative Development Institute Greenfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Ludwig</td>
<td>Hale Group, Danvers, Mass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Sullivan</td>
<td>Bond, Schoeneck and King, PLLC Syracuse, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Heckman</td>
<td>AgChoice Farm Credit Mechanicsburg, Penn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Wilson</td>
<td>FCC Services</td>
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To learn more about NECC or read past issues of Cooperative Notes, visit the NECC Web pages at: [www.cooperatives.aem.cornell.edu](http://www.cooperatives.aem.cornell.edu/)

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**NECC NORTHEAST COOPERATIVE COUNCIL**

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Ithaca, NY 14853

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**NECC NORTHEAST COOPERATIVE COUNCIL**

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**cooperative notes**

**FORUM FOCUSES ON “CONTEMPORARY ISSUES”**

The Northeast Cooperative Council held its Cooperative Leaders Forum and 61ST Annual Meeting on March 18-19 at the Doubletree Hotel in Syracuse, NY. The Forum was held in conjunction with CoBANK’s customer meeting.

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**Dr. Brent Hueth** kicked off the Forum on Thursday with an address on “The Economic Impact of Cooperatives in the U.S.” Hueth is the Director of the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives and Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. His research and teaching focuses on cooperative organizations and agricultural markets. He is a co-editor of the recently published book titled Cooperative Conversions, Failures and Restructurings: Case Studies and Lessons from U.S. and Canadian Agriculture which is available online at [www.kis.usask.ca/CoopBook.html](http://www.kis.usask.ca/CoopBook.html).

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**Charles Conner** offered “An Update from Washington.” Conner became president and CEO of NCFC in February 2009. Before joining NCFC, he served as Deputy Secretary for the USDA and Chief Operating Officer overseeing day-to-day operations.

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**Dr. Marci Rossell** presented an “Economic Outlook.” Rossell is a Former CNBC Chief Economist and Co-Host of SQUAWK BOX. She stimulated the audience speaking on the nexus of economics, politics, culture and the media. Her animated style was honed when she served as the popular, lively Chief Economist and Co-Host of SQUAWK BOX. She stimulated the audience speaking on the nexus of economics, politics, culture and the media. Her animated style was honed when she served as the popular, lively Chief Economist and Co-Host of SQUAWK BOX.

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Doug Flutie and Brian Henehan (BC Alum)

The Thursday afternoon program was followed by a reception hosted by CoBank directors. The CoBank dinner speaker at the annual banquet was Doug Flutie. For over 20 years, Doug Flutie’s name has been synonymous with excellence in college and professional football. He will always be remembered for throwing the Hail Mary Touchdown Pass in the last seconds of Boston College’s 47-45 upset over Miami, the same season he won the Heisman Trophy. Doug went on to play for the USFL, the NFL, and will always be remembered for throwing the Hail Mary Touchdown Pass in the last seconds of Boston College's 47-45 upset over Miami, the same season he won the Heisman Trophy.

President’s Column

As incoming president of NECC I first would like to thank Will Baldin for his leadership the last two years as well as Sandy Staufer who held the president’s term before Will. Both Will and Sandy still serve on the board which is a great asset going forward.

As your new president my primary focus is to continue programs as we have had in the past continuing on with our youth leadership program and our annual meeting which has been held in conjunction with CoBank’s regional meeting. The relationship with CoBank has enabled us to bring in some great speakers and we look forward to growing our relationship to an even higher level.

The surveys we got back from the March meeting revealed that the conference was well accepted. Marci Rossell’s economic talk came out a pretty big hit. It would be great if her thoughts could get some momentum with some of our representatives in government. Ed McLaughlin captivated me with that viral video. I think it had an effect on other directors too because when we got to the director round table the talk was on the tweetering and how to do damage control if viral communication should attack your coop and how to intercept such activities or be pro active against such an event. It amazed me how much difference a year makes, last year the discussion at the round table focused on the importance of liquidity in the business. In all I would like to thank Brian Henehan, Carol Thomson, and CoBank for putting together a great conference.

Going forward the board has elected to hold the young leadership conference every other year so right now we are planning a July 2011 conference. Tentatively Agri-Mark, Inc. will be the host. So start to line up your young cooperatives for 2011, it takes numbers to make a good conference.

We continue to work with the Mid-Atlantic Alliance of Cooperatives (MAAC) to the south of us to help bolster both programs. Their program is more youth oriented but as the world gets smaller there is room for interaction for both organizations.

As far as national issues we will keep close watch on the Capper-Volstead act and other antitrust legislation litigation. It seems nowadays you are only one news story away from being a target on this important subject to agriculture.

In closing we will be doing the planning for the March annual meeting. We urge you to stay in touch and/or if you have ideas or concerns for improving the council then please contact me at zurber@rochester.rr.com. Sincerely Eric Zuber

 EVENTS

Mid-Atlantic Alliance of Cooperatives, MAAC – Summer Youth Institute on June 27-30 at the Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, PA. For more information see http://www.maacooperatives.org/id40.html

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, NCFC Washington Conference on June 15-17 at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC for more information see www.ncfc.org

National Society for Accountants of Cooperatives, NSAC will hold its Annual Meeting and conference on August 2-4 in Orlando, FL for more information see www.nsatc.coop

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