The Northeast Cooperative Council

MEMBERS

Agri-Mark Inc
CoBank, ACB
Cooperative Feed Dealers
Dairy Farmers of America
Dairylea Cooperative Inc
Dairy One
Farm Credit of Maine, ACA
Farm Credit East
Genesee Cooperative, Inc.
New York State Rural Electric Association
Pro-Fac Cooperative
St. Albans Cooperative
Stamford Farmers Cooperative
Upstate Niagara Cooperative
Yankee Farm Credit, ACA
Lowville Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc.
New York State Rural Electric Association
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
O-A-T-KA Milk Products Cooperative Inc.
Pro-Fac Cooperative
St. Albans Cooperative
Stamford Farmers Cooperative
Upstate Niagara Cooperative
Yankee Farm Credit, ACA
Lowville Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc.
New York State Rural Electric Association
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
O-A-T-KA Milk Products Cooperative Inc.
Pro-Fac Cooperative
St. Albans Cooperative
Stamford Farmers Cooperative
Upstate Niagara Cooperative
Yankee Farm Credit, ACA

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jeffrey Fetter
Noemi Giszpenc
David Hayes
Gary Heckman
Bob Ludwig
Jay McWatters
Charles Sullivan
Bill Wilson
Lowville Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc.
New York State Rural Electric Association
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
O-A-T-KA Milk Products Cooperative Inc.
Pro-Fac Cooperative
St. Albans Cooperative
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YOUNG FARMERS ATTEND COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Forty-nine participants sponsored by their cooperatives attended “Cooperatives—They’re Your Business,” the Thirty-Fourth Cooperative Future Leaders Conference held July 13-15 at The Doubletree Hotel in Burlington, Vermont. Agri-Mark was this year’s host cooperative for the conference.

The Cooperative Future Leaders Conference is co-sponsored by the Northeast Cooperative Council, the Cooperative Enterprise Program in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for members and staff who are likely to be in leadership positions in their cooperatives to learn more about the unique operating features of cooperatives and current issues affecting their organizations.

Featured speakers included: Paul Johnston, CEO of Agri-Mark; Neal Rea, Chairman of Agri-Mark; Dr. Rich Stammer, President of Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Dr. Todd Schmit, Assistant Professor, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management; Bob Egerton, Regional President, Commercial Agribusiness Division, CoBank; and Brian Henehan, Senior Extension Associate, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. Henehan moderated a panel discussion on “Building Cooperative Leadership” that included: Neal Rea, Bill Banker and Jim Jacquier who all serve on the Agri-Mark board of directors.

The participants enjoyed a Thursday afternoon tour of the Cabot cheese plant in Cabot, VT as well as a farm tour and barbeque at the Conant Farm in Richmond, VT. Friday morning sessions involved group discussions with cooperative management and directors from: Agri-Mark, CoBank, Dairy Farmers of America, Farm Credit East, Dairylea Cooperative, Vermont DHIA, Yankee Farm Credit, Ocean Spray, National Grape Cooperative/Welch Foods, St. Albans Creamery Cooperative, Washington Electric Cooperative, and the Cooperative Development Institute (CDI).

The Cooperative Leadership Conference has, over the years, provided past participants with a solid foundation for becoming today’s cooperative leaders. This conference provides a productive investment towards insuring informed, future leaders.

To learn more about NECC or read past issues of Cooperative Notes, visit the NECC web pages at: www.cooperatives.dyson.cornell.edu/
The Council sponsors a forum to discuss agricultural cooperatives: economics, opportunities and structure in a new era of energy, fiber, and fuel. C-FARE is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the national presence of the agricultural economics profession. C-FARE’s governing board includes prominent agricultural economists representing a wide range of public and private sector interests. Its mission is to be a widely-recognized organization which helps agricultural economists contribute to private and public sector decision making on issues important to agricultural, rural, environmental and food safety. More information available at http://www.cfare.org/

One product of the session is a series of articles about cooperatives in the current issue of Choices Magazine. Current issue available at http://www.choicesmagazine.org/

Leaders Forum Scheduled for March

The NECC Annual Meeting and Cooperative Leaders Forum Will Be Held in Syracuse in 2012

The 2012 NECC Annual Meeting and Leaders Forum will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Syracuse, N.Y. on March 27-28. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the CoBank customer meeting. The overall schedule will remain the same as recent years. Registration will open at 8:00am. The NECC Annual Meeting will be held at 9:00am. Two NECC speaker presentations will be held from 10am to noon. CoBank will sponsor a joint luncheon and present reports and speakers for the rest of Tuesday afternoon. CoBank directors will host a joint reception. The program for the Annual Banquet will include tributes to two individuals who are retiring – Brian Henehan, NECC Secretary and Senior Extension Associate in the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University; and Dr. Max Pfeffer, Professor of Development Sociology and Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Science, Cornell University and Mark Piper, Vice-president of Sourcing, Fonterra (USA), Inc.

CoBank has recruited several nationally recognized speakers to address the group on Tuesday afternoon. Marci Rossell, who received high marks last March, will be returning to discuss the “Economic Outlook.” John Hofmeister, Founder and CEO of Citizens for Affordable Energy and Former CEO of Shell Oil Company will be discussing “Developing Affordable Energy.” Further information on the program and registration will be updated and available on the following website: http://cooperatives.dyson.cornell.edu/. Mark your 2012 calendars for this stimulating event.

FARMER COOPERATIVES CONFERENCE

This year’s program for the 14th Annual Farmer Cooperatives Conference presents a unique opportunity to hear cooperative leaders assess their business environment. The theme is “Meeting Competitive Challenges: Structure and Finance for the Future.” For more information contact the Univ. of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives visit the website at: www.uwcc.wisc.edu.

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

Each year the month of October is celebrated as Co-op Month in the U.S. Here are some facts from www.coopmonth.coop:

- ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE AMERICANS BELONGS TO A CO-OP
- COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD
- learn how at go.coop

2012 DECLARED THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES

The UN has declared 2012 to be the International Year of Cooperatives.

EVENTS

Meeting the Competitive Challenge: Cooperative Structure and Finance for the Future 2012 Annual Farmer Cooperatives Conference – November 3-4 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel Minneapolis, Minn. For more information contact the Univ. of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives at 608-262-3981 or on the website at www.uwcc.wisc.edu.

Capitalizing on Group Action and Business Alliances to Improve Marketing Returns 2012 Cornell Strategic Marketing Conference – November 7, 2011 in Hyde Park, N.Y. For more information and registration Go to marketingpt.dyson.cornell.edu and follow the conference links.

NECC – Cornell Advisory Committee meeting December at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. at 10 a.m. in Room 24, Warren Hall.

NECC Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, December 12 at 2 p.m. in Room 32, Warren Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

2012 Economic Outlook Conference Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. at the Statler Hotel, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Sponsoring the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. For more information contact: Carl T. Thomson at 607-255-5464 or gmt2/cornell.edu or on the web at: http://dyson.cornell.edu/outreach/epa_outlook_conference.php


For more information contact: National Council for Farmer Cooperatives at 202-626-8700 or on their website: www.ncfc.com

NECC Cooperative Leaders Forum and Annual Meeting March 27-28, 2012 held in conjunction with CoBank’s regional customer meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in Syracuse, N.Y. For more information, contact Brian Henehan at 607-255-8800 or at http://cooperatives.dyson.cornell.edu/

Sincerely, Eric Zuber

President's Column

2011 isn't over yet but it looks like it is turning out to be a pretty challenging year. I remember while growing up the old timers always used to talk about those tough years. I think when the grandkids sit on my lap I'll remember Agnes in '73, the drought in '83 when we had to buy our first four wheel drive tractor to do the fall harvest. '92 was a bad year, my Dad passed away in late spring and we never had much of a summer, the corn never matured all the way and the juice runoff out of the pit silos. Then there will be 2011, the year the spring was too wet to plant the crops, it got too dry in the summer and then Irene washed us away in late August. For those of you recovering from Irene, our thoughts are with you and times will get better as long as you still have your family and your health.

As for the Northeast Council, we had a great leadership conference sponsored by our friends from Agri-Mark. The weather was great and the green hills of Vermont we found very captivating. We went through the cut and wrap facility at Calot and we are still eating the 3-year old cheddar we bought at the store. We share it with only our special friends! I thought Bob Egerton’s presentation on how to assess the financial status of your cooperative was a great presentation. I had Bob email me the high points and I think it is one of those things every director of a cooperative should see or have access to. The other presentations were good and on the whole I think the young folks had a good time.

We have already started lining up speakers for the spring meeting. We have a conference call and have a couple of speakers locked in and CoBank is still on board with their program. We will be doing some special things for Brian as he winds down at Cornell. He knows mostly what we are up to, but we will still have a couple of surprises for him - so I'm warning him to be prepared!

We continue to work on the Memorandum of Understanding with Cornell to continue a good working relationship with the Council. The Dean has been very receptive to continuing our relationship and I would hope to have something together during the winter months. With that the board will be meeting in December, just ahead of the Outlook conference. We plan to meet at the Statler in Ithaca because Warren Hall is being renovated and we will call it a new fall in '12! If we have never attended the Outlook conference it will be on December 13th on campus. I found it real interesting to get the insight of what the future holds from the Dyson School faculty. Keep your calendars open March 27-28, 2012 for our annual meeting. Have a safe fall harvest and let’s hope for more cooperation from the weather!