**Who should attend?**

- Young cooperators and next generation cooperative members and employee
- Persons wanting to know more about the unique cooperative business model

The Future Leaders Conference provides an excellent opportunity for people to learn about cooperatives as an extension of the farm business through the services they provide and through adding value to products produced on the farm. Those who attend gain an understanding of the unique qualities in leading a cooperative business and insights into how a cooperative is managed. They interact with cooperative leaders.

The Northeast Cooperative Council is an organization of agricultural cooperatives and Farm Credit Associations conducting business in New York, New England, and Pennsylvania. The Council serves as a catalyst for a network of cooperative leaders to join together to address common issues of governance and fiduciary responsibility.

---

**Sponsored by:**

- **NECC**
- **Cornell University Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management**
- **Our hosts:**
  - **AgChoice Farm Credit**
  - **LAND O’LAKES, INC.**

**Conference details:**

Reservations due February 19 to Northeast Cooperative Council

**Cost:**
- $690 per couple
- $450 per single
- $250 per commuter
  (Includes meals, lodging and conference activities.)

**For more information, contact:**

Northeast Cooperative Council

Bobbie Severson, Executive Secretary
Cornell University, Warren Hall
137 Reservoir Rd., Ithaca, NY 14853
Phone: 607/255-1987
Fax: 607/255-9984
E-mail: rmh27@cornell.edu

---

**36th FUTURE COOPERATIVE LEADERS CONFERENCE**

"Leading Your Membership"

March 25-27, 2015
Gettysburg, PA

At the Eisenhower Complex of the Aspire Gettysburg Hotel
**Wed. March 25, 2:00 PM**

♦ **WELCOME**

♦ **BALANCING CONFIDENTIALITY AND AN INFORMED MEMBERSHIP**

Cooperatives are complex businesses that operate in a highly competitive environment and may be the proprietary owners of industrial processes valued at millions of dollars. However, they are democratically controlled and owned by the members they serve who, when necessary need information to vote. The session will focus on confidentiality and the need to know.

♦ **THE BOARD IS IN SESSION**

Cooperative directors set policy, hire and oversee management and are the financial stewards of the organization. Directors have legal obligations when leading the cooperative and should exercise ethical integrity. These obligations are framed through the Duties of Care, Obedience, and Loyalty. Real life examples will be used to demonstrate how board members resolve some of the issues they face in leading the cooperative.

♦ **RECEPTION & DINNER**

One of the highlights of the event is to meet people, share experiences and learn from one another.

♦ **DINNER SPEAKER**

“Politics and the Art of Leadership”
By Abraham Lincoln

**Thursday, March 26**

♦ **MEMBERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Cooperative round table discussions will focus on recent key decisions made by the cooperatives’ leaders and the influence that members have when identifying a needed change and the resulting impacts.

♦ **WHY I SERVE**

Running a farm business is complex in the time involved to make and implement decisions while balancing the time for family and friends. Serving as a cooperative leader only adds to that complexity—and yet there are rewards. Learn about the roles and responsibilities when serving in a leadership position of a cooperative.

**Friday, March 27**

♦ **CHANGE MANAGEMENT**

Changes in farm production practices, government policies, consumer expectations, and world events occur at an accelerating rate. Insights will be shared on how cooperative leaders balance change in member businesses and change in the global marketplace.

♦ **KEY QUESTIONS MEMBERS SHOULD ASK COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP**

As the Rice Growers Association of California declined, the Farmers Rice Cooperative grew. This case study will be used as an example to identify questions members should ask leaders in good times and bad.

**Fri. March 27, 11:30 AM**

Safe trip home.