For over a decade, the agricultural cooperative community has looked to the Farmer Cooperatives Conference as a source of innovative thinking about current cooperative issues and trends. The annual program is organized by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, with assistance from a national planning committee. The conference provides a stimulating forum to learn and exchange ideas with CEOs, cooperative directors, and others doing business with agricultural cooperatives.

The Farmer Cooperatives Conference is made possible by the generous support of its sponsors.

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Thank you to the Ralph K. Morris Foundation for its support through scholarship funding.

The University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives is an interdisciplinary center that combines the resources of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the University of Wisconsin Extension to foster understanding about cooperatives.
Cooperatives: Looking Forward

December 6-7, 2010 | Denver – Broomfield, CO

Change brings opportunity. What current trends will significantly affect agricultural cooperatives in the future? What are the opportunities, and how are cooperatives responding?

The 13th Annual Farmer Cooperatives conference will explore issues such as:

► Opportunities in global and domestic markets
  From changes in farm bill policy to shifts in the global economy, the outlook for the coming year presents opportunities for cooperative innovation. Find out how cooperatives can effectively respond to evolving economic and policy developments.

► Strategies for growth
  Learn how flexibility and specialized expertise can be used to respond to changes in global and domestic markets and strategically position your cooperative for growth.

► Sustainability and resource management
  Discover how links between sustainability and resource management issues present unique opportunities for cooperatives to meet changing consumer expectations.

► Strong leadership teams for the future
  Find out how good succession planning and building board capacity can address the coming generational change in cooperative leadership.

Don’t miss your opportunity to be part of this important event!

For more information, visit the Center for Cooperatives website: www.uwcc.wisc.edu
Monday, December 6, 2010

7–8 a.m.  Registration and Continental Breakfast

8–9:30 a.m.  Kickoff: Economic, Legal and Policy Update
An update on the global and domestic economy. Topics will include
global markets, the Farm Bill, energy issues, and other policies affecting
cooperatives.
Terry Barr, Senior Director of Industry Research, Knowledge Exchange
Division, CoBank
William Oemichen, President and CEO, Cooperative Network

10–10:45 a.m.  Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Workshops
Speakers will discuss the issues raised in these workshops, and the
potential policy changes and initiatives. What are the next steps in this
process?
Marlis Carson, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, National
Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Brent Hueth, Associate Professor and Director, University of Wisconsin
Center for Cooperatives

10:45–Noon  Cooperatives, Agriculture, and Water Resource Policies
How can cooperatives help their members manage scarce resources,
such as water? A Colorado perspective on cooperative initiatives.
Christopher Goemans, Assistant Professor, Colorado State University
James Pritchett, Associate Professor, Colorado State University
Sue Hine, Colorado Cooperative Council and Professor, Colorado State
University

Noon–1 p.m.  Lunch

1–2 p.m.  Uncertainty and Volatility in Global and Domestic Markets
Robert Engel, President and CEO, CoBank

2:30–4 p.m.  Strategies for Growth
Success strategies for cooperatives as they seek to access capital,
develop markets, and monitor investments.
Bradley A. Miller, Vice President, Practice Leader of Auctions and
Competitive Bidding, CRA International
Stefan Shaffer, Managing Partner, SPP Capital Partners and SPP
Mezzanine Partners
Mike Jackson, President and CEO, Adayana
4–5:15 p.m.  What’s Going On in Governance?
Cooperative boards face serious decisions as a generation of leadership nears retirement. They need to build capacity within the board while monitoring succession plans for staff. This session will focus on the board’s role in leadership development and strategic planning.

Jim Hoyt, Vice President, Strategic Planning and Corporate Services, Growmark, Inc.
Brent Hueth, Associate Professor and Director, UW Center for Cooperatives
Other Panelists TBA

5:30–6:30 p.m.  Reception

6:30–8:30 p.m.  Dinner and Presentation: Harnessing the Perfect Storm
The power of the Internet, social media and information sources of the future.

David Warlick, Director, The Landmark Project
Sponsored by the Ralph K. Morris Foundation

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

8–9 a.m.  Co-op Roundtable: Agriculture in the Global Economy
Success in a global environment requires flexibility and specialized expertise. How are farmers and cooperatives meeting these challenges?

Rick Browne, Senior Vice President, Grain Marketing, CHS
Other Panelists TBA

9–9:30 p.m.  eXtension: A Cooperative Community of Practice
Gregory McKee, Assistant Professor and Director, Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives, North Dakota State University

10–Noon  Customers of the Future: Sustainability and Food
Sustainability is increasingly viewed as the key to future profitability. For food companies, access to agricultural inputs is an increasing concern. Do cooperatives have a competitive advantage in this environment?

Chris Peterson, Professor, Michigan State University
Sarah Stokes Alexander, Director, Sustainability and Leadership Programs, The Keystone Center
Russell Williams, Director, Regulatory Relations, American Farm Bureau
Conference Accommodations

- Conference attendees are responsible for their own hotel reservations. A special conference room rate of $124 per night for single or double occupancy, plus a 9.85% tax, is available for a limited number of reservations made on or before November 12, 2010. Refer to “Farmer Cooperatives Conference” when making the reservation to get the special rate.

- To make reservations, contact the Omni Interlocken at (888) 444-OMNI, or (303) 438-6600. For additional hotel information, visit: www.omnihotels.com. Online hotel reservations at the Omni can be made through a link on the Center’s website: www.uwcc.wisc.edu.

- Complimentary self- and valet parking is available at the hotel.

- The hotel is located about 28 miles from Denver International Airport, about a 30-minute drive. SuperShuttle service is available for approximately $25 one way, or $46 roundtrip from the airport (www.supershuttle.com). Taxi fares are approximately $70 from the airport to the hotel. Visit www.uwcc.wisc.edu for links to maps, directions, and additional information, or call CALS Conference Services at (608) 263-1672.

Consider participating in the NCERA-210 workshop, which immediately follows the Farmer Cooperatives Conference.

NCERA-210 Workshop
December 7-8, 2010
Denver – Broomfield, CO
Omni Interlocken Resort

NCERA-210 is a regional research project that promotes and coordinates research and educational activities that focus on agricultural cooperatives. It also provides a forum for decision-makers and analysts from industry, government, and universities to distribute and discuss research results and their implications.

For more information, or to register for the NCERA-210 workshop, visit www.agecon.ksu.edu/accc/ncera210
For registration questions and to request a mail-in registration form: CALS Conference Services (608) 263-1672

REGISTRATION FEES  Fees are at last year's level to keep your costs down

Register by November 8 for the full conference to take advantage of the Early Rate savings.

|                                         | EARLY RATE     | REGULAR RATE    |
|                                         |                |                 |
| Full Conference/December 6-7           | $340/person    | $385/person     |
|                                         | $310/person    | $340/person     |
| (2 or more)                             | (2 or more)    |                 |

Includes continental breakfast, lunch, reception and banquet on the 6th, continental breakfast on the 7th, breaks and materials.

December 6                                 $250/person
Includes continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and materials

December 6 Reception & Dinner             $25/person

December 7 Half Day                       $135/person
Includes continental breakfast, breaks and materials

Please note that registration refunds cannot be made for cancellations received after November 22, 2010. Substitute registrations are accepted.

Scholarship Information

Through the generous support of the Ralph K. Morris Foundation, a limited number of scholarships are available to:

- those needing financial assistance to attend the Farmer Cooperatives Conference; or
- graduate students and assistant professors who wish to attend both the Farmer Cooperatives Conference and the NCERA-210 workshop.

Contact the Ralph K. Morris Foundation (ralphkmorrisfoundation.org) for more information.