

# COOPERATION IN NEBRASKA

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## FFA Cooperative Speaking Results



For the 62nd consecutive year, the Nebraska Cooperative Council has provided support for statewide FFA activities. With support from the CHS Foundation, the Council once again sponsored the state FFA Cooperative Speaking Event, held in conjunction with the State FFA Convention on April 3-5 in Lincoln.

The Cooperative Speaking Event provides students with the opportunity to research and develop a speech that focuses on any topic relating to cooperatives. Through participation in this event, students learn how cooperatives function and the principles that cooperatives are founded on.

Seventy-five (75) students from across the state participated in the District contests. Of these, 24 students qualified

for the State contest with 23 students actually participating.

The winner of the 2013 contest was Samantha Sattler (below) from the Stuart FFA Chapter. She received a trophy, first



place medal, and a check for \$100 from the Nebraska Cooperative Council. Second place went to Samantha Vaverka from the Milford FFA Chapter along with a medal and check for \$50.

Third place went to Rachel Sorensen of the Plainview FFA Chapter who received a medal and check for \$25.

Other medal winners in alphabetical order were:

**Gold** - Emily Brichacek, Howells-Dodge-Clarkson; Megan Hamling, Seward; McKenzie Nielsen, Southern Valley; Jill Rocheford, Howells-Dodge-Clarkson; and Taylor Walter, Perkins County

**Silver** - Emmet Caldwell, Sandy Creek; Caitlin Collins, Aurora; Cody Gugel, Amherst; Nicolette Larsen, Waverly; Erica Lewis, Wisner-Pilger; Emily Ludwig, Wisner-Pilger; Miranda Pierce, Sumner-Eddyville-Miller; and Kora Schott, Ravenna

**Bronze** - Tylii Muncie, Scottsbluff; Zack Nelson, Boone Central; Courtney Ostermiller, Perkins County; Brant Pavel, Chambers; Dalton Swiercek, Syracuse; Rachel Towne, Medicine Valley, and Cody Trump, Cody-Kilgore

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## 2013 Legislative Session Continues

The Council continues to monitor many different legislative issues that may impact cooperatives. Throughout this legislative session the Council has provided cooperative managers and board officers with 19 Legislative Updates via email. These updates provide specific details on the issues we are monitoring. We will continue sending out Updates through the end of the session which is scheduled for adjournment on June 5.

A full recap of the 2013 legislative session will be provided in the Council's 2012/13 Annual Report which will be completed in September 2013.

# Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program

On March 26, the Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Soybean Association, and the Nebraska Corn Growers Association hosted a SPCC Compliance Webinar featuring EPA staff. To view the webinar, go to the Farm Bureau's website at [www.nefb.org](http://www.nefb.org) and then click their You Tube link.

## What?

In 2009, EPA finalized regulations that will require any farm with above-ground oil storage capacity of greater than 1,320 gallons to have a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan in place. This regulation is over 30 years old and was originally intended for the petroleum industry, although EPA contends that agriculture has never been exempt. In 2011, the EPA provided a two-year compliance delay for farmers and ranchers of May 10, 2013. Congress has recently extended this deadline to September 30, 2013.

## Who?

You need an SPCC plan if:

- An oil spill from your farm could reach water
- You have oil (such as diesel, gasoline, hydraulic oil, lube oil, crop oil, or vegetable oil, etc) storage capacity of 1,320 gallons or more

## When?

The compliance date for farms was May 10, 2013. Congress recently extended this deadline to September 30, 2013

## How?

Prepare and implement an SPCC plan that outlines equipment and procedures to prevent and respond to an oil spill. Determine if you are a Tier I or Tier II facility:

### Tier I

- Fuel storage capacity (down to 55 gallon containers) of 1,320 gallons to 10,000 gallons with a reasonable expectation of a spill going into waters of the U.S.
- Farmers and ranchers can self certify
- Farmers and ranchers can use the EPA Tier I template available online via [www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/tier1-temp.htm](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/tier1-temp.htm) unless part of fuel storage has a tank of 5,000 gallons or more
- Secondary containment will likely be part of SPCC plan

### Tier II

- Fuel storage capacity (down to 55 gallon containers) of above 10,000 gallons with a reasonable expectation of a spill going into waters of the U.S.
- Farmers and ranchers must certify plan with licensed engineer
- Secondary containment will likely be part of SPCC plan

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHES

Applications for the NCC Education Foundation

Scholarships for the 2013/14



academic year are currently being accepted.

The application form and selection criteria are available on the home page of the Council's website at [www.nebr.coop](http://www.nebr.coop).

Completed applications must be returned to the appropriate colleges by April 15, 2013.

## Co-ops 101 College Presentations

For the past 1½ years, the Council has increased efforts to reach out to community college students with a Co-ops 101 program. This effort is supported by a grant from the CHS Foundation.

The presentation provides college students with background on the cooperative business model and how cooperatives function in adding value to

their members business. In addition, a local cooperative manager from the area provides information on careers within cooperatives.

Since January 1, we have provided 3 additional presentations--one at CCC-Hastings for 26 students and two at NCTA-Curtis for 21 students. We have one additional presentation scheduled at CCC-Columbus.



*Doug Ohlson, manager of Frenchman Valley Farmers Co-op at Imperial, spoke to students at NCTA-Curtis about the variety of employment options available at cooperatives.*

## 2012-13 Education Offerings

The Council's 2012/13 education programs proved to be very successful and well attended this year. The evaluations from participants showed that our members have embraced the changes that the Council has made in programming over the past two years.

A full summary of the 2012/13 education programs will be provided in the Council's Annual Report which will be forwarded in September 2013. Between now and the release of the Annual Report, Council staff will be making every effort to develop and deliver equally high quality education programs in 2013/14.



*Following lunch, Board Officer Seminar participants toured the Claas Production Plant and watched Lexion combines being built.*



*Participants at the Director/Manager Workshop in York work on a case problem.*

### **NCC MISSION STATEMENT**

*To defend, protect and enhance the agricultural cooperative movement through pro-active programs in education, legislation, government affairs, communication, and regulatory issues.*

### **THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES:**

*Voluntary and Open Membership  
Democratic Member Control  
Member Economic Participation  
Autonomy and Independence  
Education, Training and Information  
Cooperation among Cooperatives  
Concern for Community*

*[Principals adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance in 1995]*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS...

April 2013

- 15 NCC Education Foundation Scholarship Application Deadline

May 2013

- 17 NCC Board of Directors Conference Call Meeting

June 2013

- 5 2013 Legislature adjourns
- 27 NCC Board of Directors Meeting - North Platte

July 2013

- 19 NCC Cooperative Hall of Fame Nomination Deadline

November 2013

- 21 NCC Board/Committee Meetings and Evening Reception for Membership - Kearney Holiday Inn
- 22 NCC Annual Meeting and Cooperative Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony - Kearney Holiday Inn

### **NCC RADIO SPOTS**

Every other Friday, the Nebraska Rural Radio Network provides the Council with complimentary network airtime to present a 3-4 minute update on current cooperative issues. This allows the Council another method of communicating with our members.

The radio spots air at approximately 1:15pm MT on KNEB and at 2:17 pm CT on KRVN and KTIC. Our scheduled air times over the next few months are:

April 12 & 26  
May 10 & 24  
June 7 & 21