

COOPERATION IN NEBRASKA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL



Volume 50, No. 3

December 2011

2011/12 Education Programs

The 2011/12 director education programs will begin next week with the Director/Manager Workshops being hosted in Ogallala on December 13 and in York on December 14. We are anticipating an exciting lineup of programs due to the changes made this year.

Since our programs ended last year, the Council's Board of Directors and Excellence in Cooperative Education Committee have studied the education programs in depth. As a result of this study, the consensus of the group was that the programming needed to be elevated to meet the needs of today's more complex cooperative businesses.

To elevate the programs, we will utilize regionally and nationally recognized speakers as facilitators. By bringing in recognized experts in their fields, we can provide local directors with the most current research and information dealing with cooperative issues.

We are excited about the speakers we will be utilizing and hope that local directors will be able to attend these new upgraded offerings.

This year's programs include:

DIRECTOR/MANAGER WORKSHOPS

The Director/Manager Workshops will be held in Ogallala on December 13 and in York on December 14. This

year's program is titled "What Goes Up, Must Come Down."

Bill Helming, Economist from Overland Park, KS, will provide a macro economic view of where our economy is at and, more importantly, where it may be going in the future. Helming has studied economic and agricultural issues for many years and is author of the book *What Goes Up, Must Come Down*.

During the afternoon session, we will focus on how cooperatives need to plan for this very uncertain future. Don Wiseman will lead discussions that will center on how cooperatives can thrive in this new environment. Cooperatives in the past few years have invested significantly in "speed and space." Is that still an appropriate strategy? How will the flow of investor capital into the grain industry affect cooperatives and the flow of grain? These as well as many other topics regarding strategic position for cooperatives will be discussed.

DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

DCP will be conducted at the Kearney Holiday Inn on January 3-4. The four phases of this program cover all aspects of directors' responsibilities to help them deal with the challenges they face as decisionmakers. DCP is designed to accelerate the process by which directors become active, effective board

(continued on page 6)

Annual Meeting

The 66th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Cooperative Council was held at the Kearney Holiday Inn & Convention Center on November 18, 2011. A total of 201 people attended the meeting and Hall of Fame luncheon.

On Thursday evening, prior to the Annual Meeting, the Council hosted a reception for all members. The partners of the Crosby Guenzel LLP law firm once again provided the beverages for the reception.

The morning session of the Annual Meeting began with a presentation by Jay Rempe, a director of We Support Agriculture (WSA). Jay discussed the purpose of WSA which is to build a broad coalition to respond to the agenda of the Humane Society of the United States and other organizations that seek to negatively impact animal agriculture.

(continued on page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE...

2011/12 Education Programs	1
Annual Meeting	1
President's Message	2
We Support Agriculture	2
Hall of Fame	3
Annual Meeting Minutes	5
Scholarship Program	6
Community College Outreach	7
Legislative/Regulatory Update	8
Antitrust Reminder	8
Calendar of Upcoming Events	9

President's Message



Last month, the Council's 66th Annual Meeting was conducted in Kearney. We were very pleased with the attendance this year as 201 people attended our noon luncheon. The Legal, Tax & Accounting session, conducted by Crosby Guenzel LLP, addressed various important issues that cooperative management teams need to be aware of. This year's program included a presentation by We Support Agriculture concerning their mission/ objectives as it relates to the Human Society of the United States (see article below). I was very pleased with the positive feedback from the membership about the meeting and agenda.

I do want to call to your attention that the Council's Board of Directors has authorized a Congressional Fly In to Washington DC in the first quarter of 2012. The fly in objective focus will be upon three issues: MF Global Bankruptcy and the impact upon local cooperatives; OSHA inspections; and the importance of the Capper Volstead Act upon cooperatives. These issues have a significant impact upon cooperatives in Nebraska. We expect to have four managers, four producer directors, our legal counsel and myself participate in same.

Next month, the Nebraska Legislature will convene it's 60-day legislative session. There are 391 legislative bills being carried over from last year's session. The big issues before the legislators this year include: the State's

Budget, Commission on Industrial Relations, federal health care compliance; and the Child Welfare System. An item of importance to cooperatives which may be addressed is the One-Call Notification System (see page 8). I believe we're well positioned for the upcoming legislative session. Our goal is to provide the members with weekly updates throughout the session.

This past year, the Council's Board and Excellence in Cooperative Education Committee have spent a significant amount of time studying our educational programs. The results of this study have been major changes in our educational programming, particularly in the area of presenters. These changes have been implemented to help provide the highest level programming possible for local cooperative directors. The education article on page 1 and the education booklet that was forwarded to all managers and directors provide you with the background on all our programs and presenters.

This will mark the first year we have done our programming without utilizing the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. We continue to support the University mission, but we felt that we needed to elevate the speakers to utilize more nationally and regionally recognized facilitators.

Suffice it to say, we are anxious to unveil these new offerings and, more importantly, to gather your input at the conclusion of the programs.

I strongly encourage your cooperative's management team to take advantage of this year's programming.

In closing, I want to extend best wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year to each of the respective cooperative management teams and their families.

In the cooperative spirit, I remain....
Robert C. Andersen

We Support Agriculture

On September 13, We Support Agriculture was formed to educate Nebraskans about modern agricultural methods and to also defend agriculture against attacks and misinformation about modern technology used to raise livestock.

In the past few years, animal rights groups, such as the Humane Society of the United States, have actively led ballot initiatives and legislative efforts in other states for the purpose of restricting animal agriculture. This extreme agenda by animal rights activists would severely impact agriculture and the entire economy of the state if it were to be enacted.

The groups that have come together to form We Support Agriculture are the Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Pork Producers, Nebraska Poultry Industries, and the Nebraska State

Dairy Association.

The primary goal of the group is to have the resources in place to respond to a ballot initiative if/when it is proposed by animal rights activists. These activist groups are traditionally very well funded so it will be important that Nebraskans work together to stop any intrusion on our agricultural industry.

Jay Rempe, one of the directors of We Support Agriculture, provided a presentation at our Annual Meeting. He provided the background on the threats that activist groups such as this present and the infrastructure that is being put in place to rapidly respond to any challenge from the activist groups.

You can find more information about We Support Agriculture at www.wesupportag.org.

Elliott and Taylor Inducted into Cooperative Hall of Fame

On November 18, 2011, the Council inducted two new individuals into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Cooperative Hall of Fame. They are Larry Taylor of Columbus, and Robert Elliott, inducted posthumously, of Alliance.

The induction ceremony was held in conjunction with the Council's Annual Meeting luncheon at Kearney.

Both Larry's and Robert's family received a framed certificate commemorating their induction into the Hall of Fame from Council Board Chair Jim Chism. Larry and Robert will be permanently recognized with a plaque outlining their outstanding achievements which will be on display at the Council's office.

Larry and Robert provided significant leadership to the cooperative system over the years, and that leadership is still apparent today. Their accomplishments are as follows:

Larry Taylor...Larry began his 45-year career in 1958 as a night-time grain dryer operator at Farmers Cooperative in St. Edward.



He was named general manager of Farmers Cooperative in Fullerton in 1980, and in 1986 he returned to St. Edward as general manager.

By the time Larry retired in 2004, the cooperative had merged with Fullerton, Genoa, Columbus, and Platte Center to form Tri Valley. In 2003, Tri Valley merged with cooperatives in O'Neill and Oakland to form Central Valley Ag. When Larry began managing in 1980, he had 11 employees and sales of \$8 million. By the time Tri Valley merged to form CVA, Tri Valley had 75 employees and sales of \$80 million. In 1994 Larry was able to acquire facilities at Monroe. Those facilities have trans-

formed and serve as a major hub for CVA today.

In addition to his local cooperative, Larry also served on the board of Farmers Commodity Corporation, the forerunner to FC Stone, for 12 years when the company experienced substantial growth. Larry served on the Farmers Commodity Transportation Board from 2000-2006 and also served as chair of the Northeast Nebraska Coop Managers Association.

One of his nominators summed up Larry's leadership by saying, "As a director, you always knew where you were with Larry in charge. You could leave a meeting, knowing it was all out on the table."

Robert Elliott...Bob was raised on a farm on the California coast and moved to Nebraska to operate his family's farm after receiving a Master's Degree in agriculture.



Throughout his farming career, Bob was a dedicated advocate for farmers and cooperatives. He served on the board of directors of Westco in Alliance for nine years with five of those years as board chair. As board chair, Bob was instrumental in setting the direction for Westco to become a successful cooperative. While serving as chair of the Westco board, he also served on the board of the New Alliance Bean & Grain Company.

In 1996 Bob was elected to the board of directors of Cenex Inc. He was the first director elected to represent a region consisting of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico. Bob continued his service on the board as Cenex Inc. merged with Harvest States to create

The Council welcomes

**Monsanto -
Lincoln, NE**

**as a new Supporting
Member for 2011/12.**

CHS Inc. In 2004, Bob was elected as first vice chairman of the CHS Inc. board, a position he held until his untimely death in 2006.

In addition to his cooperative service, Bob also served as president of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association and the Hemingford Scholarship Foundation. One of his nominators summed up Bob's contribution to a board by saying "His natural intellect combined with his education and passion for cooperatives allowed him to ask the thoughtful, probing questions essential to good decision making."

NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

Address 1345 13th St., Ste 503, Lincoln NE 68508-1901
Office Hours 7:45 am to 4:30 pm CT
Phone/Fax (402) 475-6555 / (402) 475-4538
E-mail/Website ncoopc@nebr.coop/www.nebr.coop

BOARD OFFICERS

Jim Chism, Imperial Board Chairperson
David Briggs, Alliance Vice Chairperson
Bruce Favinger, Hastings Secretary

BOARD DIRECTORS

Jerrell Dolesh Battle Creek
Ron Heerten Ainsworth
John Oehlerking Elmwood
Randy Robeson Brainard
Dave Schneider Waverly
Mike Hechtner, CoBank - Omaha Participating Member

STAFF

Robert C. Andersen, President boba@nebr.coop
Ed Woeppel, Educ/Program Dir. edw@nebr.coop
Glenda Gaston, Office Mgr/AA glendag@nebr.coop
Deb Mazour, Program Coord/AA debm@nebr.coop

Annual Meeting *(continued from page 1)*

Following Jay's presentation, the business session convened with the Financial Report, Chairman's Report, Excellence in Cooperative Education Committee Report, Political Action Committee Report, and the President's Report.

Following the business session, Eric Brown, General Manager of the Nebraska Rural Radio Association, provided an update on the Network and introduced Craig Larson and Dwight Lane who will be providing leadership for the Network upon Eric's retirement in August 2012.

The Voting Delegate Caucus was then held. During the caucus, both David Briggs, manager of Westco in Alliance, and John Oehlerking, Bd Chair of Midwest Farmers Co-op in Elmwood, were re-elected to Board positions.

The last session of the morning was the Legal, Tax & Accounting Workshop. Rocky Weber, Bill Kutilek, and Tom Jeffers of the Crosby Guenzel LLP law firm, discussed anti-trust liability, contract administration, Section 199-Per Unit Retains, and the duty of litigants regarding business records.

The Hall of Fame luncheon featured photographer Joel Sartore as speaker. Mr. Sartore provided a stunning

presentation of nature from his view behind the camera lens.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony followed with Larry Taylor of Columbus and Robert Elliott of Alliance (posthumously) being inducted into the Hall. A complete article on Larry's and Robert's accomplishments is on page 3.



Jay Rempe (at podium) informs Annual Meeting participants about the formation and mission of We Support Agriculture.



Bob Andersen introduces luncheon speaker Joel Sartore (right), photographer for National Geographic and other magazines and author of several books.



The noon luncheon was a time for fellowship among cooperative friends.



Members of the Elliott family who were present for Bob's posthumous introduction into the Hall of Fame (from left) NCC President Bob Andersen, NCC Board Chair Jim Chism, Matt Elliott, Jayne Elliott, Thomas Elliott, Kim McMillan, and NCC Vice Chair David Briggs.



NCC President Bob Andersen (far left) and NCC Board Chair Jim Chism (far right) are pictured with Bonnie and Larry Taylor of Columbus following Larry's induction into the Hall of Fame.

The minutes of the Council's 66th Annual Meeting are provided below. Council Management Policy provides that minutes must be mailed to all meeting participants. If no written objections are received within 10 days of mailing, they are deemed to be accepted and shall be the official record of the meeting. If a written objection is timely received, action will be taken at the next meeting. Please notify the Council (134 South 13th Street, Suite 503, Lincoln, NE 68508-1901) by December 18 if there are any objections/errors in the minutes as reproduced below. If not, they shall be deemed accepted as distributed.

NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL 66th ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The 66th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Cooperative Council convened at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, November 18, 2011, in Ballroom I of the Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Kearney. Jim Chism, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, presided.

SPECIAL THANKS

Chism thanked the Participating & Supporting Members and other sponsors for providing today's refreshment breaks.

WE SUPPORT AGRICULTURE

Jay Rempe

Chism introduced the first speaker, Jay Rempe, Director of "We Support Agriculture." A question and answer period then followed.

2010/11 FINANCIAL REPORT

Robert Andersen, NCC President, presented the 2010/11 Financial Report. He reported that the Council's Board had reviewed and accepted the 2010/11 Financial Report and that a full-scope audit in accordance with the appropriate auditing standards had been conducted. Andersen reported that the auditors have expressed an unqualified opinion.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Jim Chism, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, presented the Chairperson's Report. He introduced the Council's directors and recognized the committee members and membership for their support of Council programs.

EXCELLENCE IN COOPERATIVE EDUCATION (ECEC) REPORT

Bruce Favinger, Chair of the ECEC committee, presented the background of the ECEC, the importance of education, and future programming. Included within same was the addressment of the discontinuance of the Nebraska Cooperative Council Distinguished

Professorship in Agricultural Economics at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the decision to seek to elevate the Council educational programming by using regionally or nationally recognized speakers based upon topics or issues.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) REPORT

David Briggs, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the PAC committee, presented the background of the PAC, voluntary contributions received to date, and the 2012 Nebraska Legislator elections. He addressed the upcoming 2012 candidate interviews.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Robert Andersen provided the President's Report for the prior year which included the addressment of legislative and regulatory issues and educational programs as well as the challenges before the association.

ERIC BROWN

Chism introduced Eric Brown, Manager of the Nebraska Rural Radio Association (NRRRA). Brown provided an update of the NRRRA and introduced Craig Larson and Dwight Lane who will be providing leadership for the network upon Brown's retirement.

BREAK

A short break was observed.

VOTING DELEGATE CAUCUS ELECTION RESULTS

Upon reconvening the morning session, Chairman Chism reported the results of the Active Member Voting Delegate Caucus:

Producer Director: John Oehlerking, Director from Elmwood, was reelected for a four-year term.

Manager: David Briggs, President at Alliance, was reelected for a four-year term.

LEGAL, TAX & ACCOUNTING WORKSHOP

Chism introduced Attorneys Rocky Weber, Tom Jeffers, & Bill Kutilek with the Crosby Guenzel LLP law firm. The attorneys addressed the following issues:

- Cooperative Anti-trust Liability
- Enforceable Contract Administration
- Section 199 - Evidence of Intent Regarding Per Unit Retains
- Business Records / Electronic Records / Duties of Litigants

The attorneys then answered questions from meeting participants.

The Legal, Tax & Accounting Workshop concluded at 11:51 a.m.

LUNCHEON

The membership luncheon commenced at 12:07 p.m. with President Andersen presiding.

JOEL SARTORE

Andersen introduced the keynote speaker, Joel Sartore, Photographer for *National Geographic*, *Audubon Magazine*, *Time*, *Life*, *Newsweek* and *Sports Illustrated*. Sartore showed some very interesting pictures he has taken over the years. A question and answer period then followed.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

Andersen introduced the two (2) candidates selected for induction into the Nebraska Cooperative Council Hall of Fame: Bob Elliott of Alliance (posthumously) and Larry Taylor of Columbus.

ADJOURNMENT

Andersen declared the meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Favinger, Recording Secretary

2011/12 Education Programs

(continued from page 1)

members. Program objectives are:

- to provide a clear understanding of the board's roles and responsibilities and how these differ from those of the manager
- to provide working knowledge of successful cooperative planning and monitoring of results
- to help participants understand cooperative financial statements and their use in making decisions
- to provide hands-on experience in cooperative problem solving
- to enable directors to gain insight into the operations of other co-ops through interaction with other participants

Facilitating the four phases will be Ed Woepfel, Council staff (Phases 1 and 4); Roger Ginder, retired, Iowa State University (Phases 2 and 3); Tom Houser, CoBank (Phases 2 and 3); Rocky Weber, Crosby Guenzel LLP law firm in Lincoln (Phase 1); and Don Wiseman, retired manager (Phase 4).

BOARD OFFICER SEMINAR AND SPECIAL DIRECTOR SEMINAR

On January 30 and 31, the Council will host back-to-back programs to allow directors to attend two programs in one trip, cutting down travel time for some of our members.

The Board Officer Seminar (BOS) will be held at Embassy Suites in Lincoln on January 30. The morning program will feature a session addressing board evaluations. Many local cooperative boards are considering the use of a board evaluation to boost the efficiency of the board. During the session, Don Wiseman will discuss the concept of a collective board evaluation and of doing individual board member evaluations.

Over the noon hour, we will have a unique opportunity to tour the Nebraska

State Penitentiary. While on tour, we will learn more about the penal system and see the prison from the "inside, out."

The afternoon session will feature the ever-popular open forum discussion with Attorney Rocky Weber. The discussion in this session is far ranging and covers numerous topics that board leaders need to be aware of.

The day will conclude with a casual dinner for all participants.

On January 31, the Special Director Seminar—*Collaborative Leadership for Change*—will also be hosted at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. This seminar will combine an understanding of personality types with the concept of collaborative leadership and its impact on the ability of the management team to function effectively. The entire board/manager team is encouraged to participate so that specific relationship concerns can be addressed.

Special emphasis will be placed on helping individuals diagnose specific situations and adopt an effective leadership response. Practical skills

which can be used immediately to strengthen the functioning of the board/management team will be developed.

The seminar will also include discussion on conflict management, problem solving, and other areas involving relationships within the board/management team, the cooperative, and the community.

Dr. Vern Barrett, retired from UNL, will facilitate the day-long program.

COOPERATIVE ISSUES SYMPOSIUM

The Cooperative Issues Symposium (CIS) will be held at Embassy Suites in Lincoln on February 9. CIS is a completely new program that the Council will be offering this year. The symposium is designed to address a specific cooperative issue each year. The delivery of the program is designed to provide attendees with balanced in-depth information as well as current developments relating to the topic.

This year, the focus of the Symposium will be on cooperative finance. Over the past few years, financing of local cooperatives has become much more complex due to the amount of funds that cooperatives need to operate. High commodity and input prices have

Scholarship Program

For the 2012/13 academic year, the NCC Education Foundation will award up to four \$950 scholarships at UNL-IANR, one \$650 scholarship at NCTA, and one \$650 scholarship at Chadron State College.

Posters and brochures/application forms were forwarded to cooperative managers on December 1. Additional application forms can be found on the home page of the Council's website at www.nebr.coop or by contacting Deb at the Council office at 402/475-6555. Completed applications must be returned to the appropriate college by **April 15, 2012**.



forced cooperatives to borrow 2.5 to 3 times as much just to meet cash flow needs.

At the same time, new federal regulations as a result of the Dodd-Frank legislation may impact financing and risk management for cooperatives.

To address these issues, we have designed the following program:

- Dr. Chris Peterson, in his Finance 101 to 901 presentation, will provide in-depth information regarding financing of businesses, all the way from very basic financing to the more complicated financing that is becoming more commonplace today.

- Brian Klatt from CoBank will provide a candid look at the syndication of loans that are becoming more common for Nebraska cooperatives.

- Representatives of Kanza Cooperative in Iuka, KS will provide an overview of the financial strategies they have implemented. Included in their plan is a revised income distribution strategy that includes using and capturing the tax benefits of Section 199 at the co-op level through distributing patronage income to retained earnings and revising their unallocated equity redemption program to phase out age of patron and phase in a revolving fund method.

- Attorney Rocky Weber will discuss the "rights of lenders" in sophisticated financing arrangements that cooperatives are entering into.

COOPERATIVES FOR TOMORROW

Cooperatives For Tomorrow (CFT) is designed for cooperatives that are seeking additional input to help determine the proper strategic position for the cooperative. Whether through rapid growth or evolving business practices, cooperatives are being forced to change at a more rapid pace to be able to meet the needs of their members.

CFT features a variety of speakers and presenters that normally would not be available to local directors in Ne-

Community College Outreach

The Council implemented a new initiative this fall to reach a new audience made up of the ag students at Nebraska's community colleges. The focus is to raise awareness of the cooperative business model for both the students and instructors at the community colleges. By creating a positive image and better understanding of the cooperative system, these students (who are potential future employees or patrons) will be better prepared to choose the role cooperatives play in the future.

The Council has been in contact with all the two-year colleges that offer ag programs. These include SCC-Beatrice, NCC-Norfolk, NCTA-Curtis, CCC-Hastings, and CCC-Columbus.

To date we have provided a presentation at CCC-Hastings and two at NCC-Norfolk. A date is scheduled for CCC-Columbus and we are working with

SCC-Beatrice and NCTA-Curtis to schedule presentations.

The presentations are a "Co-ops 101" that staff has developed. Included in the presentation topics are what differentiates the cooperative business model from other business models, structure and governance of a cooperative, patronage and equity revolvment, careers, and facts on Nebraska cooperatives. In addition to the presentation by Council staff, we have also recruited a local cooperative manager to join the presentation to discuss career opportunities in cooperatives. To date, 75 students and instructors have attended these presentations.

While the focus on this presentation has been on the community college level, we have also had contact with the UNL Department of Ag Economics to discuss a similar presentation for ag economics students.



NCC Education & Program Director Ed Woepfel (standing at left) and Bob Fifield (seated, lower right), CEO of Cooperative Producers Inc in Hastings, talked to college students at CCC-Hastings about cooperatives and career opportunities.

braska. We utilize nationally known speakers from both the academic and cooperative systems to provide local directors with the opportunity to obtain a different viewpoint on issues facing their cooperative.

The program is intended to be thought provoking and to challenge local directors to think in a broad sense when determining the correct strategic position for the cooperative.

CFT will be held on February 10 at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. This is the day following the Cooperative Issues

Symposium which will allow directors to attend two programs in one trip.

Speakers for the day are:

- **Mark Pearson**...Mr. Pearson is one of the funniest and most insightful ag speakers in the country today. His ag background spans 5 generations in farming. He hosts the nationally syndicated public television program "Market to Market" and the highly successful daily farm program "The Big Show" on several Midwest radio stations.

(continued on page 9)

Legislative / Regulatory Updates

National Labor Relations Board

On August 25, 2011 the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued a final rule requiring most private sector employers to notify employees of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act by posting a "notice." Compliance with this rule became mandatory on November 14, 2011.

This notice generally notifies employees of their rights to organize and bargain collectively with their employers and to engage in other protected concerted activity or to refrain from engaging in such activity. The National Labor Relations Act likewise protects employees from certain types of employer and union misconduct.

In addition to physically posting this notice, employers will be required to post the notice electronically if the employer uses such means of communicating with employees concerning employment issues.

In conferring with legal counsel, we have determined those cooperative employees, while engaged in activities related to agriculture, are not employees of agricultural employers and therefore the cooperatives are not exempt from this new rule.

On September 27 the Council provided information regarding this requirement to members, and on November 9 we provided our members with the website to order the posters which is www.laborlawposters.com.

One Call Notification System

During the 2011 legislative session, the One Call Notification - Diggers Hotline became an issue in regards to soil sampling. LB 484 was introduced to address the issue of whether or not those doing soil sampling needed to contact the Diggers Hotline.

LB 484 did not advance during the 2011 legislative session. It remains in committee and could be revisited in 2012.

To address issues raised by utility companies, legislative resolution LR 233 was introduced by Senator Hadley calling for an interim study to review the scope of the agricultural exemption from the One-Call Notification System Act. An interim hearing was scheduled for November 7; however when the Special Legislative Session was announced, Senator Fischer, Chair of the Transportation & Telecommunications Committee, canceled the hearing.

We will continue to monitor this issue during the 2012 legislative session.

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]

Antitrust Signature Reminder

The Nebraska Cooperative Council's Board of Directors have adopted an antitrust policy regarding conduct at Council meetings. Information regarding this policy was forwarded to supply/marketing members on September 13. As of December 8, we have received signature confirmation from 36 of the 41 supply/marketing cooperatives.

If your cooperative has not returned a signed form to the Council, please do so at your earliest convenience.



Visit our website at
www.nebr.coop

2011/12 Education Programs

(continued from page 7)

• **Brian Briggeman**...As an economist for the Omaha Branch Office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Brian's research interests were agricultural finance, food demand and preferences, and agribusiness management. Brian has recently been named the Director for the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center at Kansas State University.

• **Barry Flinchbaugh**...Dr. Flinchbaugh is an award-winning Professor of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University and a long-time advisor on ag policy to politicians of both parties. He served as Chairman of the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture authorized in the

1996 Farm Bill. Dr. Flinchbaugh applies his vast knowledge and experience in agriculture, economics, and politics to create a straightforward and entertaining blend of these three topics.

• **Ernie Goss**...Dr. Goss is the Jack A. MacAllister Chair in Regional Economics at Creighton University in Omaha. He has published over 80 research studies focusing primarily on economic forecasting and on the statistical analysis of business and economic data. Dr. Goss produces a monthly business conditions index for the nine state Mid-American region and the three state Mountain region. He initiated a survey of bank CEOs in rural portions of eight states.



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.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS...

December 2011

- 13 D/M Workshop - Ogallala Valentino's Conference Room
- 14 D/M Workshop - York Holiday Inn

January 2012

- 3 Director Certification Program, Phases 1 & 3 - Kearney Holiday Inn
- 4 Director Certification Program, Phases 2 & 4 - Kearney Holiday Inn
- 4 Nebraska Legislature Convenes
- 23 NCC Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting - Lincoln Embassy Suites
- 30 Board Officer Seminar - Lincoln Embassy Suites
- 31 Special Director Seminar - Lincoln Embassy Suites

February 2012

- 9 Cooperative Issues Symposium - Lincoln Embassy Suites
- 10 Cooperatives For Tomorrow Seminar - Lincoln Embassy Suites
- 16 NCC Board Meeting - Lincoln Cornhusker Marriott

March 2012

- 6-8 Congressional Fly In to Washington DC

April 2012

- 15 NCC Scholarship Program Application Deadline

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 to have one more method of communicating with our members.

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

- December 9 & 23
- January 6 & 20
- February 3 & 17
- March 2 & 16