

COOPERATION IN NEBRASKA

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2013 Legislature Adjourns

The 2013 legislative session adjourned on June 5. A total of 214 bills were signed into law with an additional 153 interim studies proposed. The Council had an official position (support, oppose, or neutral) or monitored 36 bills this session.

The weekly Legislative Updates that we provided during the session gave you the latest information on bills of importance to the Council.

Specific bills that were important to cooperatives that we opposed were:

- LB 358 which would have required cooperatives who charge for taking soil samples to call the One-Call Hotline before sampling.
- LB 636 which would have severely restricted the use of 2,4-D products during the growing season.

• LBs 405 and 406 which were the Governor's tax proposals that would have shifted the tax burden to rural taxpayers.

Bills that we worked closely with committees/senators on:

- LB 34 which made changes to the Nebraska Advantage Act. Our efforts were to assure that cooperatives would still be eligible for benefits.
 - LB 140 which would change zoning near airports, which could have impacted repair or rebuilding of existing grain elevators within 3 miles of an airport.
 - LB 210 which would amend the Uniform Commercial Code regarding unauthorized financial statement filings.
- A full background will be provided in the Council's Annual Report.

Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations are currently being accepted for the NCC Cooperative Hall of Fame. The nomination form is on the home page of our website at www.nebr.coop or call the Council office at 402/475-6555 and we can mail one to you.

All nominations and supporting letters must be received in the Council office by July 19, 2013.

The 2013 induction ceremony will take place at the noon luncheon of our Annual Meeting on Friday, November 22 at the Kearney Holiday Inn.

A New Look

As you have probably noticed, our newsletter has a new look. Our April issue was shorter than what you are used to receiving, and this issue incorporates the full changes that we will be making.

Because of the numerous updates that we are emailing to members regarding legislative, regulatory, and educational programs, a shorter, more concise newsletter is more appropriate. Our intent is to provide you with information on the issues we are addressing in small bites. Hopefully this makes our newsletter more reader friendly while still providing our members with the information they need.

Our Annual Report, which will be forwarded to you in September, will provide a comprehensive background on the Council's programs.

We welcome any feedback on the new style of our newsletter. Feel free to contact Ed Woeppel at edw@nebr.coop with any comments you have.

UNL Ag Economics Classes

The Council, in partnership with our Participating & Supporting Members, is working with UNL to infuse cooperative topics into the ag economics curriculum. Tom Houser, Lead Relationship Manager with CoBank-Omaha, and Bob Campbell, Senior Vice President of Farm Credit Services of America-Lincoln, both provided presentations for an Ag Finance course at UNL this spring. We hope to continue to work with the Ag Economics Department staff to include more cooperative topics in the curriculum.



Tom Houser with CoBank (top right) spoke to students in a UNL Ag Finance Class on April 12th.

PSC Schedule "A" and "E" Rates

The Nebraska Public Service Commission voted in May to extend the current A&E rates for one more year. The Council, along with the Nebraska Grain & Feed Association and Nebraska Farm Bureau, supported this action.

NCC Education Foundation Scholarships

NCCEF scholarships have been awarded to 4 students—3 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln each receiving a \$1,100 scholarship and 1 at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis receiving a \$600 scholarship—for the 2013/14 academic year. This year's recipients are:

Logan Went, son of Todd & June Went of Creston, will be a freshman at UNL majoring in agribusiness. The Went's are members of Central Valley Ag Co-op N/S in O'Neill and Cooperative Supply Inc in Dodge.

Ross Porter, son of Randy & Jacki Porter of Superior, will be a junior at UNL majoring in agribusiness. The Porter's are members of the Aurora Co-op Elevator Company.

Lee Sabata, son of Greg & Lori Sabata of David City, will be a senior at UNL majoring in ag economics - farm and ranch management. The Sabata's are members of Frontier Co-op Company in Brainard where Greg serves on its board of directors.

Daniel Field, son of Dan & Debbie Field of Almena, KS, is a 2nd year student at NCTA majoring in ag production systems and agribusiness management systems. The Field's are members of Ag Valley Co-op in Edison.

Youth Education

Activities continue at the community college and high school level. During the spring semester, Council staff provided Co-ops 101 presentations at NCTA (2 classes), CCC-Hastings, CCC-Columbus, and SCC-Beatrice. The Council also sponsored a break and a short information session at the State Ag Teachers Conference held on June 5. The Council has been able to provide both of these programs through a grant from the CHS Foundation.

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 EVENTS...

June 2013

- 27 NCC Board of Directors Meeting - North Platte, Holiday Inn Express

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

December 2013

- 11 Director/Manager Workshop - Ogallala, Quality Inn & Conf Center
- 12 Director/Manager Workshop - York, Holiday Inn

January 2014

- 7-8 Director Certification Program - Kearney, Holiday Inn

February 2014

- 5 Cooperative Issues Symposium - Lincoln, Embassy Suites
- 6 Cooperatives For Tomorrow Seminar - Lincoln, Embassy Suites
- 26 Board Officer Seminar - LaVista, Embassy Suites

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