



2021-22 EDUCATION PROGRAMS



This year we are able to return to a more traditional method to deliver our educational programs. Last year was a significant change for everyone, and we heard from the majority of you that face-to-face programs were your preference.

While we will return the majority of our programs to face to face this year, we also learned some things from conducting virtual programs. The major thing we learned is that through virtual programming, we were able to reach some members that were not attending face-to-face programs.

While we firmly believe that face-to-face programming is the best way to delivery programs, we also believe that we can utilize virtual programming for certain speakers and topics that will allow us to enhance our normal offering and again reach all of our members.

As always, we welcome your thoughts upon the conclusion of this year's programs.

2021-22 SCHEDULE

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HOW TO REGISTER

Registration forms will be forwarded to cooperative CEOs, key staff, and Participating & Supporting Members in early October via email. The forms as well as this education booklet will be also be posted on the Education page of the Council's website at www.nebr.coop or contact Deb at the Council office for additional copies (402/475-6555, debm@nebr.coop). For cooperatives, the headquarters will coordinate registration for their staff/board members. Participating & Supporting Members can complete the registration form individually.

Payment by check (payable to Nebrasksa Cooperative Council) is due at the time of registration. If an invoice is needed for payment, contact Deb at 402/475-6555 or debm@nebr.coop.

CANCELLATIONS

Please notify the Council office at 402/475-6555 as soon as possible if you are unable to attend. Refund policies are listed on the registration forms.

DIRECTOR/MANAGER WORKSHOP

“THE GREAT RESET”

November 18, 2021 @ Holiday Inn, Kearney

Registration check-in opens at 7:30am (CT); Workshop from 8am-2:30pm



The past two years have presented numerous challenges, including the Pandemic, the social and cultural unrest in the summer of 2020, and the advent of “ESG” (Environmental Social and Governance). In many ways this timeframe may be very similar to the unrest of the 1960s in that significant cultural and political change will occur.

The Director/Manager Workshop will begin to address this “Reset” and how these factors will affect cooperatives moving forward. The Workshop will focus on the E and S of ESG.

Charlie Arnot, Nebraska native and CEO of The Center for Food Integrity, will kickoff the session with a look at the multitude of social, cultural, financial, and investment issues that have quickly risen to the top. He will discuss how these factors are impacting business and particularly agriculture.

Following Charlie will be Steve Cubbage, Vice President of Farmobile. Steve will address the Wild, Wild West that currently exists within the carbon markets and how data impacts carbon markets.

Closing out the morning session will be Kelsey Billings, Director of Government Affairs & Sustainability with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. Kelsey will update us on the current status of federal legislation regarding carbon markets.

The afternoon session will dive into the discussion of how the cooperative will fit into this reset, including the carbon markets. Ken Zuckerberg, Lead Analyst for CoBank’s Knowledge Exchange, will lead a discussion on how cooperatives can adapt to these new forces driving the market place.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Directors, CEOs and senior cooperative staff members

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

Special thanks
to
**Farm Credit Services
of America**
for sponsoring the
noon lunch and breaks

FACILITATORS



Charlie Arnot is recognized as a thought leader in food and agriculture. He is highly regarded as both a writer and sought-after speaker who engages audiences across the globe. Charlie has more than 25 years of experience working in communications, public relations and issues management within the food system. He is the founder and president of Look East, an employee-owned consulting firm. He also serves as CEO of the Center for Food Integrity, an international non-profit organization dedicated to building consumer trust and confidence in today's food system. Charlie is frequently sought out by media for his insight on food and agriculture issues and has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Fortune, Time, NPR, CNBC, The National Journal, Entrepreneur, Yahoo health, Huffington Post, Grist, and dozens of trade publications globally.

Steve Cabbage is vice president of professional services for Leawood, Kansas based Farmobile, a member of the Ag Growth International family. Farmobile, agriculture's independent data company, is a leader in enabling farmers, ag retailers and ag channel partners to automatically collect, organize, and share a standardized data set of agronomic and machine data from a mixed fleet of ag retail and farm equipment. With 30+ years in boots-on-the-ground farming, agronomy and precision ag leadership, Steve joined Farmobile in 2018 overseeing services to help customers stream top-quality, groundtruthed Farmobile-collected data into their systems and software. He serves as a guest columnist for Farm Journal Media and founder of Record Harvest — a progressive agronomy services company he started in 1999. Fourth generation on the family's Nevada, MO farm, Steve graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in ag economics and journalism.



Kelsey Billings serves as the Director of Government Affairs & Sustainability, as well as the Treasurer of NCFC CO-OP PAC at the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC). In this role, Kelsey is responsible for the biotechnology labeling, sustainability, labor and livestock issue areas of NCFC's public affairs agenda. As PAC Treasurer, she manages the PAC's finances and coordinates events with members of Congress who support NCFC's mission. In 2012 Kelsey served as a Public Policy Fellow at The Fund for American Studies and is an alumnus of the International Institute on Business and Governmental Affairs with the same program. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri in 2010 and in 2014 she received a master's degree in Business Administration from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University and a master's with a concentration in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University.

Ken Zuckerberg is a lead analyst and senior economist in CoBank's Knowledge Exchange division where he focuses on grains, oilseeds, farm supply, and biofuel. He brings more than 30 years of diverse experience spanning securities analysis, investment management, and banking. Most recently, he was a sector manager and senior strategist for Wells Fargo's Food and Agribusiness Industry Advisors Group and previously held a similar role at Rabobank U.A. Earlier in his career, Ken was founder and managing partner for Carlan Advisors LLC, an independent research and consulting firm. Prior to that, he was a senior equity research analyst at Lazard Asset Management, Keefe, Bruyette, and Woods Inc., and Smith Barney, Inc.



LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON SERIES



December 8, 15 and 22, 2021

from 11am -12noon (CT) via Zoom

This year the Council will be offering a Leadership Luncheon Series which will be **three 1-hour virtual programs** offered during December. We will take what we learned from last year's virtual programming and provide director education that will supplement our face-to-face programming. The registration fee for this program covers all three sessions. The program is designed to have the sessions build upon one another so participating in all three is highly recommended.

This year's Leadership Luncheon Series will focus on ESG (Governance) from the Board perspective. Dr. Richard Leblanc, International Recognized Professor of Governance, Law and Ethics at York University in Toronto, Canada, will lead these three sessions.

The session dates and topics will be:

December 8, 2021 - An introduction to ESG: The "E" in ESG

- Defining Environmental governance and issues
- Weather related disasters in 2020
- The science of climate change
- What is impeding and advancing climate change progress?
- Regulatory changes to environmental sustainability
- Natural resources, water use, pollution and environmental responsibility
- Net zero, clean tech and renewable energy: challenges and opportunities
- Using GRI, SASB and TCFD to disclose
- Banks and insurance companies use of disclosure as conditions for loans and insurance
- What directors of farmer owned cooperatives need to know

December 15, 2021 - An introduction to the "S" (Social) in ESG

- Employee and customer health and safety
- Supply chain resiliency and labor standards
- Diversity, equity and inclusion
- Product safety
- Responsible investing
- Data security and privacy
- Political activities and donations
- Reputation risk



December 22, 2021 - The "G" (Governance) in ESG (including governance application below)

- Linking executive pay to ESG
- Key Performance Indicators for ESG
- Board structure and composition
- Anti-corruption, bribery
- Anti-competitive practices (including in chicken industry)
- Tax transparency
- Compliance and business ethics



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Directors, CEOs and senior cooperative leadership team staff members

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 24, 2021

REGISTRATION INCLUDES ALL THREE LEADERSHIP LUNCHEONS

THE ZOOM LINK WILL BE EMAILED TO ALL REGISTRANTS TWO DAYS PRIOR TO EACH LUNCHEON

FACILITATOR



Dr. Richard Leblanc is the International Recognized Professor of Governance, Law and Ethics at York University in Toronto, Canada. Richard brings to business and professional clients a depth of information from his extensive research and work with boards of directors and training and development of leaders and managers. He is engaging, dynamic, personable and an award-winning educator, lawyer, consultant and author. Because of his work with leading companies and current research, Richard is always on the cutting edge of emerging global developments. His insight has guided leaders of organizations through his teaching, writing, and direct consultation to government regulators and corporations.

Author or contributing author of dozens of scholarly and practitioner articles, books and programs, Richard's work has been described by various faculty at Harvard, Yale, London Business School and elsewhere as "great & much needed," "wonderful and pragmatic," "thorough" and "nothing short of remarkable," as well as by Fortune 500, NYSE, FTSE and other company leaders as "leading edge," "ground-breaking," "valuable guidance," "indispensable," "compelling," and "exceptional."

DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

January 5-6, 2022 @ Holiday Inn, Kearney

This year we will offer Phases 1 and 2 and in 2023, we plan to offer Phases 3 and 4. We are making this change to ensure we can maintain a high quality presentation for all attendees.



Wed, January 5, 2022

Phase 1 - 11am-5:30pm CT (*registration opens at 10:30am*)

Thu, January 6, 2022

Phase 2 - 8am-2pm CT (*registration opens at 7:30am*)

DCP is conducted annually to help new directors deal with the challenges they face as decision makers. It is designed to accelerate the process by which directors become active, effective board members. For the new director, training is very important to establish an understanding of the responsibilities of the position.

Through DCP, directors will gain the skills necessary to become a contributing member of the board and fulfill their duty to access the information needed to make sound business decisions.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide a clear understanding of the board's roles/responsibilities and how these differ from those of the manager
- Develop a framework of successful cooperative planning/monitoring of results
- Provide an understanding of financial statements including their use in decision making
- Provide "hands on" experience in cooperative problem solving
- Allow directors to gain insights into other cooperatives through interaction with other participants

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 22, 2021

Phase 1 must be completed first. The remaining phases can be taken in any order.

Upon completion of all four phases, achievement will be recorded by the Council and acknowledged with a certificate from CoBank and the Council.

TOPICS COVERED

PHASE 1

Introduction
Co-op Principles & Practices
The Management Team
Roles & Responsibilities of Directors
Legal Foundations
Director's Legal Obligations

PHASE 2

Planning
Control
Board Policies

PHASE 3

Capitalizing a Cooperative
Understanding Financial Statements
Using Financial Statements

PHASE 4

Board/Management Communication
Board/Management Relationships
Manager Appraisal

FACILITATORS



Dr. Keri Jacobs is Associate Professor of Ag & Applied Economics in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri and holds the MFA Chair & GICL Distinguished Fellow. She provides teaching, research and extension on cooperatives and focuses her research and extension efforts on financial and equity conditions of ag cooperatives and agribusiness consolidation.

Brook Stromer is a Vice President with CoBank's Regional Agribusiness Banking Group in the Omaha office. She has more than 20 years of lending experience, primarily serving farm supply and grain marketing cooperatives in the Midwest.



Rocky Weber is an attorney and the President and General Counsel of the Nebraska Cooperative Council. He was formerly a partner with the Crosby Guenzel LLP law firm. Prior to joining the Council in March 2016, he represented most Nebraska cooperatives as legal counsel in the course of which he worked closely with many boards and board members in a wide variety of situations. Rocky has also served as a facilitator for DCP programs for over two decades.

Ed Woeppel is the Education & Program Director for the Nebraska Cooperative Council. He has directed Council education programming for the past 21 years after spending 9 years as a high school ag teacher and 11 years in the Nebraska Department of Education.



GRADUATE DIRECTOR SEMINAR

February 2-3, 2022 @ Embassy Suites, Lincoln

The program begins on Feb 2 with registration check-in at 12:30pm (CT) and the seminar from 1pm-8pm and continues on Feb 3 from 8am-11:30am

The Graduate Director Seminar is designed for directors that have completed DCP and have served on their local cooperative board for several years.



Probably the single most important task of the board is to determine the future plans/vision for the cooperative. Planning for the future requires a full understanding of the financial picture of your cooperative so the first session will focus on balance sheets, sources and uses of funds, and a balance sheet predictor.

Since the last time we offered this program, much has changed with grain prices and input pricing. The example used will reflect those changes.

The session will also incorporate situational analysis using financial acumen to analyze situations that boards of directors may encounter as well as assessment of ongoing profitability of the cooperative.

Dr. Keri Jacobs of the University of Missouri and Brook Stromer of CoBank will lead this session which will adjourn at 5:00pm.

The evening reception will begin at 5:30pm with dinner and remarks by Matt Davison to follow.

The morning session on February 3rd will focus on two topics:

- What Makes a Good Board Member
- Board Succession

Dr. Brian Briggeman from Kansas State University will begin the discussion with his recently completed research focusing on "What Makes a Good Board Member."

This session will be followed up by a discussion led by Dr. Briggeman and Rocky Weber discussing board succession.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
JANUARY 19, 2021**

**Special thanks
to
CoBank
for sponsoring the
evening reception
and dinner**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Directors who have completed all four phases of the Director Certification Program and have served on their local cooperative board for several years.

FACILITATORS



Dr. Keri Jacobs is Associate Professor of Ag & Applied Economics in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri and holds the MFA Chair & GICL Distinguished Fellow. She provides teaching, research and extension on cooperatives and focuses her research and extension efforts on financial and equity conditions of ag cooperatives and agribusiness consolidation.

Brook Stromer is a Vice President with CoBank's Regional Agribusiness Banking Group in the Omaha office. She has more than 20 years of lending experience, primarily serving farm supply and grain marketing cooperatives in the Midwest.



Matt Davison is in his fourth season serving as the Associate Athletic Director for Football. He also serves as an analyst for the Huskers Radio Network game-day football broadcasts. In addition to his day-to-day role with the football program, Davison is heavily involved in the planning and design of Nebraska's new Football Performance Center, part of the athletic department's \$155 million 350,000-square foot expansion project. Davison was a four-year wide receiver from 1997-2000, finishing his career ranked second in school history with 93 receptions and 1,456 receiving yards. He was a three-time honorable-mention All-Big 12 selection and was a part of two Big 12 championship teams and the 1997 national championship team. Davison also excelled in the classroom at Nebraska, as he was a three-time first-team academic All-Big 12 honoree and twice was named to the academic all-district team.

Dr. Brian Briggeman is the Director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center at Kansas State University where he directs the research, educational and service efforts of the Center. Prior to Kansas State, he was an economist for the Omaha branch office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.



Rocky Weber is an attorney and the President and General Counsel of the Nebraska Cooperative Council. He was formerly a partner with the Crosby Guenzel LLP law firm. Prior to joining the Council in March 2016, he represented most Nebraska cooperatives as legal counsel in the course of which he worked closely with many boards and board members in a wide variety of situations. Rocky has also served as a facilitator for DCP programs for over two decades.

BOARD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

February 16, 2022 @ Hilton Omaha

9:30am (CT) - Registration opens; 10am-3pm Seminar



The farmer owned cooperative of the 21st century presents a myriad of issues for farmer boards of directors to address in a rapidly changing environment. Board members are recognized as leaders by cooperative patrons and the public at large. The Board Leadership Seminar provides an opportunity for Board members to broaden their context and perspective on their roles as cooperative leaders.

This year's program will continue the open forum discussion that has always been highly rated by participants facilitated by NCC President & General Counsel Rocky Weber and Attorney Bill Kutilek with the Crosby Guenzel LLP law firm.

OBJECTIVES

- Gain an understanding of the leadership requirements of board members in the decision making process
- Gain an understanding of the current issues with which board members must deal to help the cooperative effectively serve its member patrons

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Current board officers or those who aspire to be an officer in the future. To maintain a high level of interaction among registrants, participation is limited to four board members from each cooperative.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 2, 2022

COMMENTS FROM PAST PARTICIPANTS

“Great discussion and topics as usual. I really enjoy the format, presenters and topics.”

“This was my first time attending and really enjoyed the discussion on every topic.”

“Best program NCC puts on each year. Rocky and Bill do a good job.”

“My favorite program. Lots of good discussion and topics.”

“Very good - our time was well spent.”

FACILITATORS



Rocky Weber is an attorney and the President and General Counsel of the Nebraska Cooperative Council. He was formerly a partner with the Crosby Guenzel LLP law firm. Prior to joining the Council in March 2016, he represented most Nebraska cooperatives as legal counsel in the course of which he worked closely with many boards and board members in a wide variety of situations. Rocky has also served as a facilitator for DCP programs for over two decades.



Bill Kutilek has practiced law at Crosby Guenzel LLP since 1998. Bill actively assists boards of directors and clients in the following areas of practice: commercial law, corporate governance, agricultural law, litigation, creditors' rights, corporate formations, and corporate mergers and asset acquisitions. He regularly represents clients in negotiating and closing a wide range of commercial loan, real estate, merger and acquisition, and other commercial transactions.

Nebraska Cooperative Council

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