

The Northeast Cooperative Council

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East Syracuse, N.Y.

Dairy One
Ithaca, N.Y.

Farm Credit of Maine, ACA
Auburn, Maine

Farm Credit of Western New York,
ACA, Batavia, N.Y.

First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA
Enfield, Conn.

Genex Cooperative, Inc.
Ithaca, N.Y.

Lowville Farmers Cooperative Inc.
Ithaca, N.Y.

Maine Potato Growers
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Westfield, N.Y.

New York State Rural Electric Association
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Rochester, N.Y.

St. Albans Cooperative Creamery
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Stamford Farmers Cooperative
Stamford, N.Y.

Upstate Farms Cooperative, Inc.
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cooperative notes

Young Farmers Cultivate Leadership

Over 20 participants were sponsored by their cooperatives to attend the thirty-second Annual Cooperative Future Leaders Conference held July 25-27 in Syracuse, N.Y. at the Genesee Grande Hotel. Dairylea Cooperative was this year's host cooperative for the conference. Cooperatives that sponsored participants included: Agri-Mark, Dairy Farmers of America, Dairylea Cooperative, Farm Credit of Western New York, First Pioneer Farm Credit, Yankee Farm Credit and Upstate Niagara Cooperative.

The Cooperative Future Leaders Conference is co-sponsored by the Northeast Cooperative Council and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for members and staff who are likely to be in

leadership positions in their cooperatives to learn more about the unique operating features of cooperatives and current issues affecting their organizations.

Featured speakers included: Greg Wickham, CEO of Dairylea Cooperative, Sandy Stauffer, director of Dairylea and Dairy Farmers of America and Joyce Bupp, DFA director who participated in a panel discussion on "Cultivating Leadership Skills".

Dave Chamberlain, a director of Dairylea Cooperative discussed the "Roles and Responsibilities of Cooperative Directors". Tom Cosgrove, formerly a loan officer with CoBANK discussed "Cooperative Finance." Brad Keating,



To learn more about NECC or read past issues of Cooperative Notes, visit the NECC Web pages at: www.cooperatives.aem.cornell.edu/

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Events

NECC - Cornell Advisory Committee Meeting
– at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.
(Date to be announced)

NECC Board of Directors – Tuesday December 18 dinner at the Colgate Inn in Hamilton, N.Y. and board meeting at 8:00 am on Wednesday December 19 at the First Pioneer Farm Credit office in Sangerfield, N.Y.

2008 Economic Outlook Conference – Tuesday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. Kennedy Auditorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Sponsored by the Department of Applied Economics and Management. For more information, contact Linda Putnam at 607-255-8429 or mail to: ldp2@cornell.edu on the web at: www.aem.cornell.edu/outreach/conferences/economic_outlook.htm

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Annual Meeting - January 23-25, 2008 in Orlando, Fl. For more information contact NCFC at 202-626-8700 or at their Web site: <http://www.ncfc.org/events/index.shtml>

NECC Cooperative Leaders Forum and Annual Meeting - March 11-12, 2008 co-sponsored by the Northeast Cooperative Council and CoBANK at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, NY. For more information, contact Brian Henehan at 607-255-8800 or at <http://cooperatives.aem.cornell.edu>

Annual Meeting Moves to Albany in 2008

The 2008 NECC Annual Meeting and Leaders Forum will be moving to Albany, N.Y. The two day event will be held on March 11 and 12 at the Marriott Hotel. CoBANK as a co-sponsor of the meeting has recruited several nationally recognized speakers to address the group on Wednesday afternoon. We will also be honoring Roy Orton at the annual banquet on Wednesday evening who is stepping down as Chair of CoBANK at the end of 2007. More information will be available soon on the program. Mark your calendars for this stimulating event.

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COO of Dairy Marketing Services addressed "Milk Marketing Collaboration." "The Economics of Cooperative Businesses" was presented by Brian Henehan, senior extension associate in the Department of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University.

The participants enjoyed a Thursday afternoon tour of the HP Hood dairy processing plant in Oneida, N.Y. as well as Plainville Farms turkey farm and processing plant. The tour wrapped up with dinner at the Plainville Farms restaurant in Cicero, N.Y.

The Friday morning sessions involved group discussions with cooperative management and

directors including: John Makjut with Agri-Mark, Ed Schoen with Dairy Farmers of America, Sandy Stauffer with Dairy Lea, Jack Van Almelo with Dairy One Cooperative, Theron Kibbe with Farm Credit of Western New York, Craig Pollack with First Pioneer Farm Credit, Jim Vitale with Genex Cooperative, Jay Hardenburg with National Grape Cooperative, Kevin Murphy with Pro-Fac Cooperative, Lynda Brushett with the Cooperative Development Institute, and Tom Gates with St. Albans Cooperative.

The Cooperative Leadership Conference has, over the years, provided past participants with a solid foundation for becoming today's cooperative leaders. This conference provides a productive investment towards developing talented leaders into the future.

President's Column

Sandy Stauffer



As I think back over my lifetime I can remember a time when I had great confidence that my generation would not repeat the mistakes of previous generations and that we would solve the world's problems. The decade of the sixties, with the assassination of President Kennedy and the Vietnam War quickly removed the hubris of my youth and brought me in touch with the messy world in which we live. The pride, selfishness and deceit of my generation at least equals if not exceeds any generation that came before us. Yet there have been areas of success. With technology we have learned to feed a world population much larger than previously thought possible. Advances in medicine and an increasing awareness of harmful substances in our environment have led to longer more productive lives.

So it is encouraging when the opportunity presents itself to meet with the next generation who will carry on the business of feeding their neighbors and the world. The Council's 32nd Annual Cooperative Future Leaders Conference gave us the opportunity to interact with an inspiring group of young people. The conference was entitled "Cooperatives-They're Your Business." Held in Syracuse and sponsored by Dairy Lea Cooperative with Gina and Lance Blakemore, Dairy Lea members from Horseheads New York as the host couple, we spent three days getting to know the nuts and bolts of the cooperative model. Presentations by cooperative board members and management, as well as by Cornell University faculty along with tours to the H.P. Hood dairy plant in Vernon, New York and the Plainville Turkey Farm gave the participants a chance to interact with each other and see some other areas of the agricultural and cooperative world. Special thanks to Dairy Farmers of America director Joyce Bupp and Dairy Lea director Dave Chamberlain who took the time to speak of their cooperative board experiences to the group. Also Brian Henehan from Cornell and Greg Wickham, Katie Rossini, and Brad Keating from Dairy Lea/Dairy Marketing Services along with Theron Kibbe from Farm Credit and Tom Cosgrove from CoBank participated in the program. The cooperatives that sponsored the participants are to be commended for their foresight in preparing young members to possibly assume leadership roles in the future. Carefully structured educational programs will pay huge dividends in the future.

Strong leadership with vision and passion are essential for a successful Cooperative. The ability to survey a changing landscape and chart a course through the distractions and pitfalls and remain true to your mission will enable your cooperative to survive. The NECC board is planning to take some time at our December board meeting to do some strategic planning. As the cooperative model evolves we need to evaluate our role as an educational resource for our members. We are going to be looking closely at a survey we did early this year and discuss any changes which may be appropriate. If you have further suggestions talk with your NECC board member, give me a call, or feed them into Brian Henehan our executive secretary.

I wish you and your cooperative well through this holiday season.
Sandy

Co-op Month Focuses on Commitment to Community

During October 2007, cooperatives celebrate their commitment to community—a core cooperative principle—as part of their annual Co-op Month observances. Using the theme "Cooperatives: Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities," the National Cooperative Month Planning Committee encourages co-ops to stress their community involvement, economic development activities, employment and other community contributions in their celebrations for the month, marked annually since 1930. October is the time to tell others just how much co-ops are doing throughout America's cities and towns. On this site, you'll find tons of information and materials will help you do that. www.co-opmonth.coop