

CO-OP MONTH | OCTOBER 2018

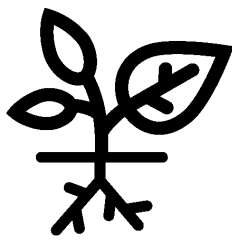


COOPERATIVES
SEE
THE FUTURE

CO-OP STATS

- ▶ 1 out of 3 Americans is a member of a cooperative.
- ▶ There are 2,106 agriculture co-ops in the U.S., with more than 2 million member-owners.
- ▶ Consumer cooperatives have a membership base of over 343 million.
- ▶ More than 1.2 million families live in cooperative housing.

TOP COOPERATIVE SECTORS IN EDDY COUNTY



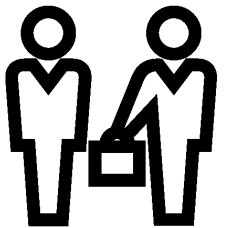
AGRICULTURE



UTILITY



FINANCE



WORKER

Cooperatives are looking to the future

The theme of this year's National Co-op Month, "Co-ops See the Future," embodies what co-ops envision and work to achieve every day—a more sustainable and inclusive tomorrow.

Celebrated by cooperatives nationwide during the month of October, Co-op Month is an opportunity to celebrate the many ways cooperatives are using innovation to create shared prosperity for their members and communities.

With more than 40,000 cooperatives creating stable jobs and a more sustainable economy across the U.S., co-ops represent a proven way to do business and build communities.

"With clear signs of increasing interest in the cooperative model, NCBA CLUSA sees a future where cooperatives leverage their influence and impact through the shared resources of our movement to engage, partner with and empower people from all walks of life," said Doug O'Brien, president and CEO of the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International.

"As drivers of an economy that reflects those values, we see a future in which people have more equitable access to sustainable jobs and can more broadly participate in the economy and create better world for their families, communities and future generations."

COOPERATIVE CASE STUDY

Childcare opens in the cooperative spirit

by Clarice L. Kesler, Communications Manager
North Dakota Assoc. of Rural Electric Cooperatives

Principles guide cooperatives. Concern for community is one of those principles. Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care in Hazen, N.D., is a prime example of this principle in action, spotlighting how a co-op is helping to build a stronger community. This child care co-op, which opened its doors in May, can provide quality daycare for up to 77 children. It is the first employer-assisted cooperative child care center in the state.

The idea for the child care co-op began when local businesses saw a desperate need for daycare options. Community leaders stepped up to find a solution, soon focusing on the idea of a child care cooperative to meet the deficit. If a co-op could provide quality child care, they knew it could help keep valuable employees in the workforce.

When the locals needed help establishing a co-op, they looked to the Rural Electric and Telecommunications Development Center (development center), which guided the group toward its goal. The center is a service offered by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC). It is supported by both electric and telecommunications co-ops.

"NDAREC's rural development center has leveraged more than \$1 billion in projects since it began in 1994," says Josh Kramer, executive vice president and general manager of NDAREC. "We are proud of its success."

The development center had spent several years researching co-op daycare services and facilitating discussions across the state, so it proved to be critical to the project. Along with research, the development center offered facilitation and financial support.

"With grant funding, we were able to bring in an expert in child care cooperatives to meet with parents in Hazen. The experience provided a level of confidence to encourage enrollments in the center," says

Lori Capouch, rural development director at NDAREC. Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a major employer in the area, led a group of seven local businesses to build support for the co-op. Employers quickly volunteered money, staff time, equipment and expertise to get the project moving.

In October 2016, soon after discussions began, the group incorporated as a nonprofit. Good fortune soon followed when New Bethel Congregational Church sold its building to the group for "a charitable price." Both the church and the co-op wanted to honor New Bethel's legacy of ministering to the community, so the building was named "New Bethel" to reflect this goodwill.

The business operates on the cooperative business model, in which parents are the members. The initial board members are the founding partners. But as Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care transitions through the start-up phase, parents will eventually become the board members.

Dana Santini, the child care co-op director, is supervised by the board. Together, they will work to set the strategic direction and educational offerings for the center. The child care cooperative, as all co-ops should be, is guided by the seven cooperative principles.

If this co-op model proves successful, partners are already looking to form another cooperative in the nearby town of Beulah, N.D.

Editor's Note: Transcript staff sent an email to Amanda Hegland, Executive Director of the New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation (NRABC) on Wednesday about Hazen's center. She replied, "We have looked into this model and have also researched what other rural communities in the state are doing. We ultimately want to find what will work best for our community. If our primary solution doesn't culminate, this could possibly be an option for New Rockford." It certainly is an interesting and innovative concept!

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Food Drive

October is National Co-op Month. In honor of Co-op Month, Fessenden Co-op Association will be collecting & distributing pantry items to local area food pantries.

Drop off at the following locations' main office:

- Fessenden
- Hamberg
- Esmond
- Precision Ag
- Maddock Elevator
- Harlow
- Carrington (CCG & CCMP)
- New Rockford

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Co-op Month

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