



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Twenty years of working together, 1928-1948. 1948

Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative
Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Council of Agriculture
Co-operative, 1948

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/FSRPTYB53UJE68T>

This material may be protected by copyright law (e.g., Title 17, US Code).

For information on re-use, see

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

RBW7

C 83

1948

STATE DOCUMENT
WIS. LEG. REF. LIBRARY

1928

1948

Twenty Years of Working Together

RECEIVED

JUL 14 1952

LEGISLATIVE

THE WISCONSIN

COUNCIL of AGRICULTURE

CO-OPERATIVE



A Federation of Wisconsin Farmer Co-operatives

814 Tenney Building — Telephone 6-5312

MADISON 3, WISCONSIN

THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATIVE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1948



C. F. CLAFLIN
President
Milwaukee



CHARLES F. DINEEN
Vice-President
Cedarburg



HARVEY E. THEW
Treasurer
Madison



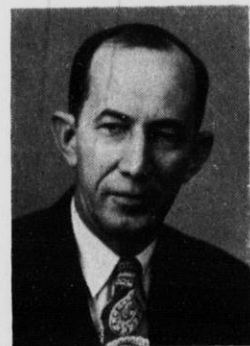
BRYCE S. LANDT
Wisconsin Dells



WILLIAM F. GROVES
Lodi



WILLIAM E. SEFFERN
Van Dyne



CURTIS HATCH
Dodgeville

HOW THE COUNCIL IS GOVERNED

The Council of Agriculture is a farmers self-help co-operative of co-operatives, controlled and governed by farmers to serve farmers in the fields of education, legislation, public relations and co-operative information.

Voting delegates at the annual meeting act on basic policies.

The Board of Directors, consisting of one from each member organization, acts on general issues during the year.

The Executive Committee, made up of three officers and four other members, administer the Council program during the year.

COUNCIL AFFILIATIONS

- > National Council of Farmer Co-operatives
- > American Institute of Cooperation
 - > National Co-operative Milk Producers Federation
 - > American Dairy Association
 - > American Country Life Association
 - > Wisconsin Joint Committee on Education

COUNCIL STAFF



MILO K. SWANTON
Executive Secretary

Milo K. Swanton is a Dane County farmer. He was educated in a rural school, the Wisconsin Academy and the University of Wisconsin. He helped organize the Madison Milk Producers Co-operative Association and the Wisconsin Co-operative Tobacco Pool.

In 1937 he became Executive Secretary of the Council of Agriculture. He is a director of the National Co-operative Milk Producers Federation, a Trustee of the American Institute of Co-operation and Vice-President of the American Country Life Association.

Claire L. Jackson was born and raised on a farm in Polk County, Wisconsin. He received his early education at a rural school and Amery High School.

He worked 3 years with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in Madison and served 3½ years in the army. Since his graduation from the Wisconsin College of Agriculture in 1947, he has served as Assistant Executive Secretary.

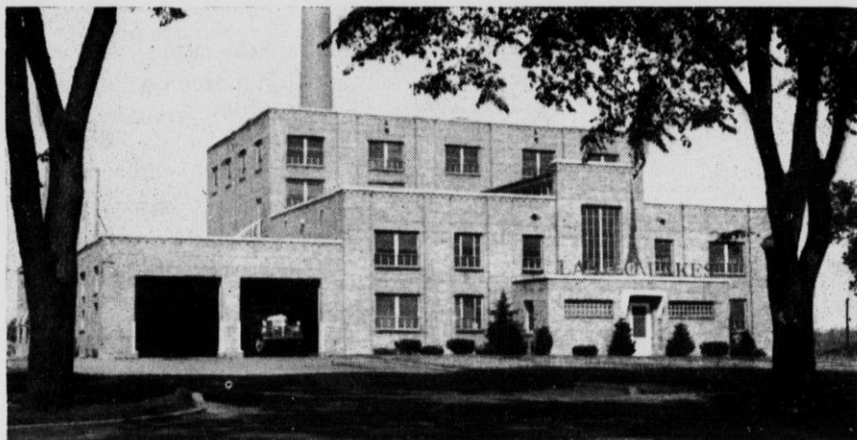


CLAIRE L. JACKSON
Ass't Executive Secretary

WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL?

The Council's family of co-operative associations includes nearly every phase of co-operative interest in Wisconsin. Pictured here are only three of the scores of typical co-operatives that are members of the Council of Agriculture.

Membership includes local, federated, and state-wide co-operatives. They include marketing, collective bargaining, farm supply purchasing, service and educational organizations co-operatively processing and handling fluid milk, evaporated milk, dried milk, cheese, butter, livestock, poultry, wool, tobacco, canning crops, fur, fruits, feed, petroleum, hardware, machinery and other farm production supplies. Other Council members serve farmers in the fields of artificial breeding, insurance, milk-testing, breed improvement and provide educational services.



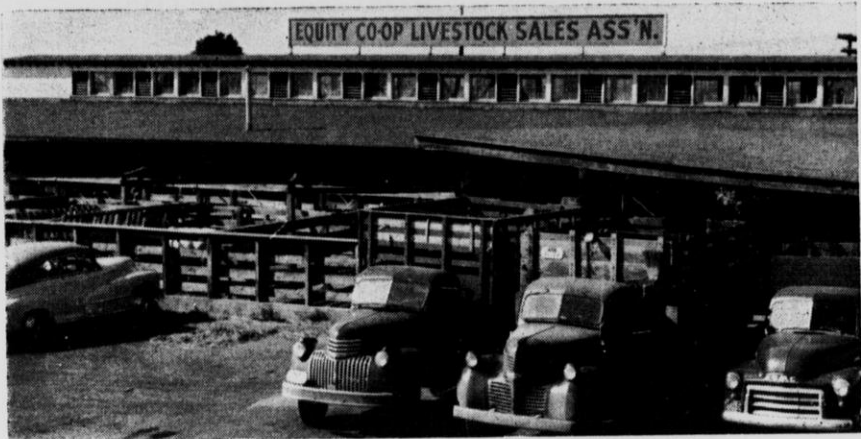
A COUNCIL CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY PLANT MEMBER

WHO MAY BECOME MEMBERS?

Any co-operative organized under the co-operative laws of Wisconsin, that is owned and controlled by farmers, is eligible to membership in the Council of Agriculture.

HOW IS THE COUNCIL FINANCED?

The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative receives no state or federal support. The Council is financed entirely by its member farm co-operative and farm organizations.



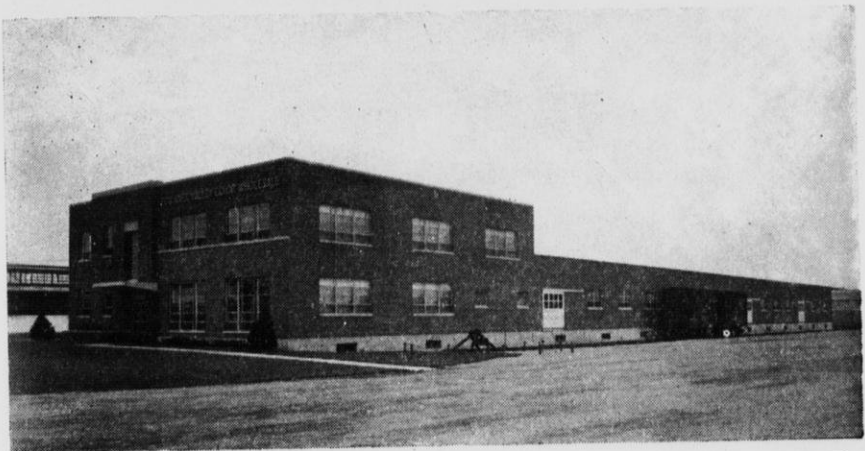
A CO-OPERATIVE LIVESTOCK MARKETING MEMBER

SERVICE TO MEMBERS

Some of the Council services to member associations are:

- > Provides members with a legislative service.
- > Sends Newsletter to leaders of member organizations.
- > Gives members representation before state and federal regulatory bodies.
- > Assists members in their membership and public relations.
- > Investigates special co-operative and agricultural problems for members.
- > Gives members voice in a united co-operative program.
- > Gives assistance at annual and special meetings of members.
- > Serves as a contact for state and national co-operative news and information.

A FARM SUPPLY PURCHASING MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL



TWENTY YEARS OF WORKING TOGETHER

In 1926 a few far-sighted farm leaders got together. They said there was more for Wisconsin farmers to agree upon than to disagree about. So the Council of Agriculture was born.

In 1928 it was incorporated with these words, "The purpose of this association shall be to bring together the various farm organizations in order to promote the interests of the farmers of the state."

The Council today is a federation of Wisconsin's agricultural co-operatives, made up of farmers, financed by farmers and controlled by farmers. It is the third oldest in the nation. Since 1928, 23 states have organized similar councils of agriculture.

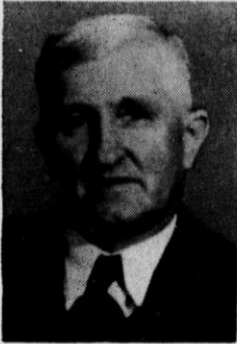
For more than 20 years your Council has brought farm groups together to foster better understanding. It has served as a clearing-house for co-operative information. The Council has developed co-operative leadership. Through legislative activities, direct services to members, promotion of co-operative education, and building of better public understanding, the Council of Agriculture, has made a great contribution in improving the economic and social position of rural Wisconsin.

C. F. Claffin,

President, Wisconsin Council
of Agriculture Co-operative

1945 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN ACTION





HERMAN IHDE
(Deceased)
A Council Leader, '28-'42

COUNCIL HISTORY — 1926-1936

It was at Farm and Home Week in 1926 when the "Council of Agriculture" idea began. Occasional meetings followed, which brought various farm groups together to discuss current issues. In 1928 the Council was incorporated. This marked the beginning of united farm thought and action in Wisconsin. The annual Farmers' Get-Together Conference and some joint legislative activities developed.

Recognition of the Council idea and demand for year-round service caused the establishment of a full-time office and staff in 1937.

Here are a few of the highlights of the early years of the Council of Agriculture taken from the files of the *Wisconsin Agriculturist and Farmer*:

1926 — February 26

"Wisconsin Farm Organizations Will Work Together"

"United action in matters of common interest by the various agricultural organizations of Wisconsin is contemplated by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture formed at Madison last week . . ."

". . . in the long run, agriculture must look out for itself . . ." The new Wisconsin union of farm organizations will be of great service . . ."

1928 — February 16

"Wisconsin Farm Council Becomes a Reality"

"The Wisconsin Agricultural Council has become a reality. To all who have the interests of organized agriculture at heart, and who desire to see farmers tackle common problems of taxation, economics and public policy on a united basis, this announcement has happy possibilities . . ."

1930 — March 8

"Agricultural Council Work"

"Wisconsin has a Council of Agriculture . . ."

"It led to the holding of the Marshfield Co-operative meeting and has fostered more co-operative education in schools . . ."

1936 — November 21

"Council at Eau Claire"

"With a thoroughly representative group of co-operative farm organizations participating, the most enthusiastic audience in many years attended the three-day conference of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture last week . . ."

COUNCIL HISTORY — 1937-1947

Following is a review of the Council's record of action from 1937 to 1947:

- > Secured helpful amendments to the co-operative law including: Clarifying authority of directors to borrow money, improved procedure for amending articles and by-laws, gave right to departmentalize co-operative records and accounts, gave employees the right to purchase co-operative stock.
- > Put "America's Dairyland" on automobile license plates.
- > Worked for a better land utilization and zoning program in Wisconsin.
- > Passed laws to protect payments due dairy farmers.
- > Disclosed detrimental effects of monopoly practices on agriculture.
- > Equalized rights and responsibilities of employees and employers through passage of the Wisconsin Employment Peace Act.
- > Secured passage of Wisconsin farm safety education law.
- > Secured passage of agricultural lime standards law.
- > Prevented weakening of regulation of oleo and other dairy substitutes.
- > Worked in war activities: State Council of Defense, U. S. Savings Bond Division, Farm and Dairy Plant Labor Emergency, Vocational Defense Training and Post-War Planning Committee.
- > Fought activities of NTEA and defended the tax status of co-ops.
- > Worked for improved educational opportunities for Wisconsin farm boys and girls.
- > Worked for reduced property tax burden for farmers.
- > Sponsored "Co-operative Clinics" to improve co-operative public and member relations.
- > Opposed freight rate increases for farm commodities.
- > Worked for the improvement in teaching of co-operation in schools.

CO-OP MANAGERS GET-TOGETHER AT COUNCIL MEETING





PUTTING "AMERICA'S DAIRYLAND" ON AUTO LICENSE PLATES

DISPLAY OF PRODUCTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

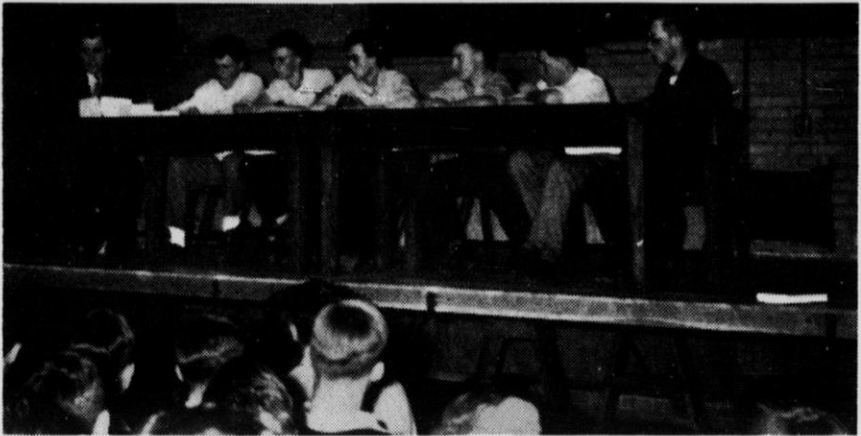


THE COUNCIL IN 1948

Co-operative Education

During February 1948 representatives of 120 farmer co-operatives affiliated with the Council of Agriculture met with Future Farmer boys from 110 high schools in Wisconsin at a series of nine co-operative conferences. There were short talks, panel discussions and student quizzes about the history, objectives and importance of farmer co-operatives. It provided a splendid opportunity for farm boys, agricultural instructors and farm leaders to get better acquainted and discuss co-operatives.

The Council held conferences during the year with educators and farm leaders to discuss writing and distribution of co-operative text material to be used in teaching co-operation in schools. The Council met with vocational agriculture instructors and veteran trainers emphasizing the importance of teaching co-operation. They worked with 4-H Clubs and other youth groups to carry the co-operative story to all farm youth.



STUDENT QUIZ AT COUNCIL F. F. A. — CO-OP CONFERENCE

Rural Education

The Council of Agriculture has long recognized the need for improving the educational opportunity of farm boys and girls. The Council's Executive Secretary this past year has served as a member of the State Commission for the Improvement of Education. Reasons for the low attendance at high school by farm children, transportation problems, broadening the teaching of vocational agriculture and homemaking, as well as giving to rural youth a fuller appreciation of rural life values, have been given much study and attention by Council leadership.

Taxation

The Council has advocated a thorough analysis of state tax inequalities, and relief from the heavy property tax burden which in Wisconsin is about twice as high as the national average.

THE COUNCIL IN 1948

Co-operative Membership and Public Relations

It is important to make the position of co-operatives better understood by the general public and build more understanding and loyalty within co-operative membership. To accomplish this the Council of Agriculture worked through the press, radio, and personal contacts at co-operative meetings, civic club meetings, and other public gatherings.



"Co-ops face double barreled threat"—Swanton

During 1948, the Council sent 1,962 press releases to dailies, weeklies and farm papers. Special co-op news articles were prepared for the Co-operative Digest, News for Farmer Co-operatives and other publications. The staff made 21 radio broadcasts on co-operative and agricultural issues. The Council assisted in ar-

rangements for Wisconsin's 11th Co-operative Week, February 16-21 which helped focus favorable public attention on co-operatives.

The Council appeared at 76 annual and special meetings of co-operatives. On 25 occasions they took the stand for co-operatives before business, professional and other non-farm groups to promote better understanding and to foster good-will for agricultural co-operatives.

STATION WLS BROADCASTS "DINNER BELL" AT COUNCIL MEETING



THE COUNCIL IN 1948

State Legislation and Farm Policy

An important function of the Council of Agriculture is its legislative services for farmers and their co-operatives.

Although there was no legislative session in 1948, committees of the State Legislative Council held conferences and hearings to get facts and develop policies in preparation for the 1949 session. The Council met with the Sub-committee on Agriculture last January recommending revision and modernization of state dairy and food laws, asked for increased state aid to vocational agriculture and an improved weed control program. High quality ice cream standards were defended before this committee in May. Allowance of emulsifiers, which would tend to lower fat standards and reduce the use of eggs, was opposed.



Before the Committee on Taxation, raising truck license fees on all trucks according to weight regardless of use, was opposed as this would put a heavy burden on transportation of milk from farm to market.

Increased freight rates in Wisconsin were opposed before the State Public Service Commission on the grounds of the growing disparity between rising farm costs and farm prices.

Federal Legislation and Policies

Directors of the Council of Agriculture questioned the acute shortage of petroleum facing America and demanded an explanation by the U. S. Departments of Commerce and Interior, at the same time urging agricultural priorities on gas and oil.

The Council worked with the Steel Sub-committee of the U. S. Senate and the War Assets Administration for release of steel piping to ease the critical shortage on farms. Before the House Agriculture Committee the Council asked for a friendly helpful policy toward agricultural co-operatives, emphasizing that farmer co-operatives are an instrumentality, rendering service to producers and to consumers and helping to equalize the bargaining power of millions of farmers.

Before a Congressional Committee in October 1947, as well as in conference with the members of the U. S. Senate Finance Committee in May 1948, the Council urged changes in the Farm Credit Act to put the Banks for Co-operatives on an operating basis comparable with other co-operatives. In May 1948 the Council's secretary appeared in Washington before the U. S. Senate Finance Committee presenting the closing arguments for the entire dairy industry in opposition to claims made by the oleomargarine corporations.

THE COUNCIL IN 1948

Co-operative Information

"A man's judgment is no better than his information." An important service of the Council is the distribution of up-to-date important co-operative information to member groups. During 1948, 35,549 News Letters were sent to co-operative officers and directors, agricultural officers and directors, agricultural educators. Over 6,000 other form letters relating to the Council's co-operative program were distributed.

A bulletin, "Future Farmers and Farmer Co-operatives," summarizing the Council's 1948 FFA-Co-operative Youth Conferences, was published.

More than 7,000 copies were distributed to the agricultural teachers, co-operative and farm leaders throughout the country.



Comparing Notes At Council Meeting

The Council's Executive Secretary wrote an article, "Oleomargarine and the Consumer" giving consumers as well as producers a clearer picture of the issues involved in the age-old battle between butter and oleo. More than 40,000 copies of this article were distributed throughout

the United States by the National Co-operative Milk Producers Federation.

During the past year the Council studied types of Wisconsin co-operatives, classifying them into marketing, farm supply purchasing, farm service, and other type co-operatives.

WORKING WITH NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Carrying out a program for Wisconsin co-operatives requires teamwork with agencies beyond the state.

The National Council of Farmer Co-operatives in Washington is the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative's counterpart at the national level. It follows national legislation, combats anti-operative attacks and keeps state councils informed on national issues.

The American Institute of Cooperation is America's mainspring of co-operative education. The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative is a member of the Institute and has provided headquarters for the Institute's activities in Wisconsin.

The National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation, the largest farm commodity association in America, is the dairy farmers' national policy forming organization. The Council works closely with the Federation and Mr. Swanton serves as a director.

The American Country Life Association, a national body dedicated to promoting the values of rural life, is supported by the Council.



B89058765645A

THE COUNCIL IN 1948

Annual Farmers' Get-Together Conference

The annual Farmers' Get-Together Conference sponsored annually by the Council brings to Wisconsin farm people an educational, inspiring and entertaining co-operative program. On October 30 and 31, 1947, over 500 co-operators attended the Council's 19th annual Get Together Conference. "Co-operative at Home - Co-operation Abroad" was the program theme. Karl Loos, noted co-operative attorney and Jim Wells, Bank for Co-operatives Commissioner, highlighted the morning session on co-operatives. World affairs and their effect upon domestic farm prices were discussed by Charles Bunn of the Wisconsin law school and by a panel of farm leaders led by Asher Hobson of the College of Agriculture. Dr. C. Oscar Johnson's speech on "Areas of Tension" highlighted the evening banquet. At the annual business meeting, October 31, officers were elected, resolutions acted upon, and Council of Agriculture policies for the year laid down.

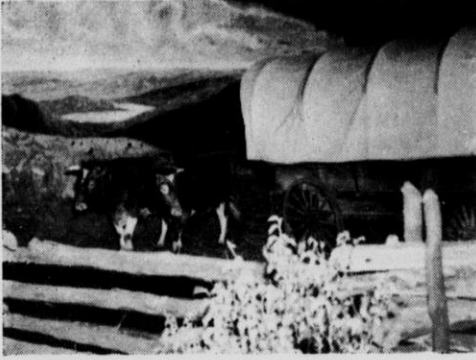


"FARM PRICE" PANEL AT 1947 FARMERS' GET-TOGETHER CONFERENCE

Working With State Agencies

The College of Agriculture, River Falls State Teachers College, Department of Agriculture, Department of Vocational Agriculture and the Wisconsin Extension Workers Association are represented in an advisory capacity on the Council's Board of Directors. A member of the Council staff serves on the Advisory Committee to the State Labor Relations Board and with the Industrial Commission.

THE COUNCIL IN 1948



Pioneer Wisconsin at Centennial Exposition

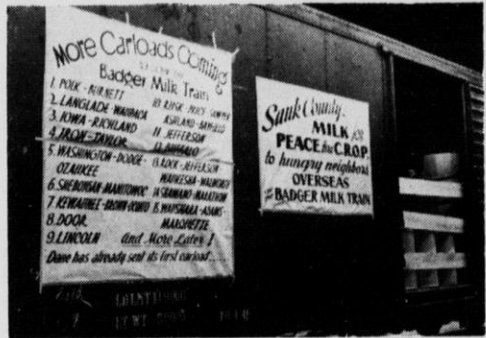
Wisconsin State Centennial

Wisconsin celebrated 100 years of statehood in 1948. Our system of government, our ideal of education for all, our principle of freedom and pattern of life, were established primarily by rural people. In paying tribute to the pioneers of the past all parts of Wisconsin participated. The Council's Executive Secretary acted as Chairman of the State Centennial Executive Committee, headed up the Sub-committee on Agriculture and co-operated in promoting Wisconsin's Centennial Observance.

ennial Executive Committee, headed up the Sub-committee on Agriculture and co-operated in promoting Wisconsin's Centennial Observance.

Rural Overseas Program

Farm groups and Christian leaders united in the Christian Rural Overseas Program collecting Wisconsin food products for shipment overseas to war-torn countries. Wisconsin's farmers contributed over 20 carloads of farm products for overseas shipment. The Council's Assistant Executive Secretary served as Secretary of the State Committee which administered the program in the state.



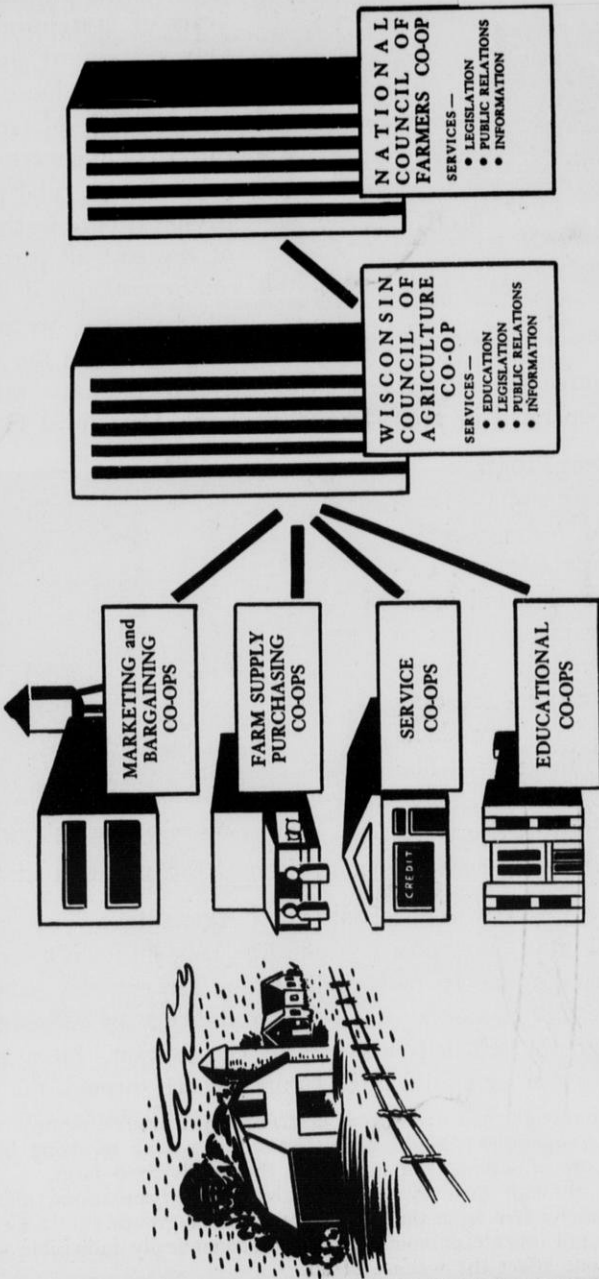
A Car of Wisconsin's "Badger Milk Train"

Creed of the Council of Agriculture

The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative is a farmers' co-operative organization. Its policies are set by farmers. Its main purpose is to improve the economic and social well-being of Wisconsin farm people through the self-help activities of cooperation. Here are a few basic principles that have guided the Council down through the years:

1. Unity of thought and action will determine agriculture's destiny.
2. Farmer co-operatives should be recognized as a way of doing business for the purpose of serving and preserving the family-sized farm.
3. Farmers, through their own co-operatives and organizations, must develop sound policies free from the dominance of other groups.
4. Farmers and other economic groups are economically indivisible — the policies of one affect the welfare of all.
5. Farmer associations must be free of religion and of partisan politics.
6. The stability and wholesomeness inherent in rural life must be maintained as basic to the American way of life.

HOW FARMERS WORK TOGETHER



FARM, COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION THRU THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE

89058765645



b89058765645a