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A Quarter Century of Co-operation

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25TH



YEAR

1952-1953 Annual Report

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATIVE

814 TENNEY BUILDING MADISON 3, WISCONSIN

A QUARTER CENTURY

"Backward, Turn Backward, Oh Time in Thy Flight"

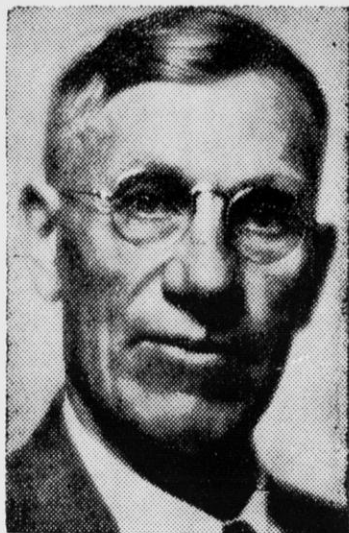
This is the Quarter Centennial of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture—third oldest among America's 28 Councils of Agricultural Co-operatives. The history of this organization is replete with vision, fearless endeavor and the will of men to work for the common good. In recognition of 25 years of service to Wisconsin farmers and their co-operatives, we present this brief summary of men in mutual motion who made progress in spite of adversities because they worked together.

1926-1927 — Conceived

Informally this Council began 27 years ago. In 1926 during Farm and Home Week a meeting not previously planned, proved to be the most significant. The heads of some farm groups, a handful of county agents, a few college and Department of Agriculture men, a farm paper editor and University President, Glenn Frank, met to consider problems that all should face together. For 2 years informal get-togethers were held. The idea of groups working together had been conceived.

1928 — Born

On February 24, 1928, this co-operative of co-operatives was legally incorporated. In the minutes of that meeting appear 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 first members were: Dodge County Milk Producers, Equity Livestock Sales, Madison Milk Producers, Milwaukee Milk Producers, Wisconsin Cheese Producers, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Society of Equity and the Wisconsin State Grange.



Geo. Nelson, Pres.
1928-1931

1929-1931 — Early Youth

Rapidly this young federation of farm groups became a clearing house of ideas and a source of convictions. This embryo Council had tackled better land utilization in 1926 and later, land zoning became a reality. Stronger marketing co-operatives became its next field of endeavor. In 1929 it spearheaded a drive for dairy price stabilization, development of quality programs and worked for systems of check-testing and weighing. Great emphasis was placed upon col-

lective bargaining in the sale of livestock, tobacco, milk and dairy products.

The Council of Agriculture worked for a school equalization law, for a better balanced highway system, and believe it or not, prior to 1932 was concerned with extension of electric service to rural people.

1932-1934 — Storms

By now the new organization had grown. The North American Farm Federation, the Cherry Growers, Farmers Union, Tobacco Pool, Pure Milk Products, Midland Wholesale and others had joined. But on the horizon came new problems. Board meetings were frequent and sometimes stormy. Co-operative loyalty was dropping to a low ebb. Farm prices were falling. Schemes and panaceas were popping up here and there. Holidays and strikes were threatened. Outside the Council, reason gave way to emotion. Within the Council, farm leaders held fast to ideals.



B. J. Gehrman, Pres.
1931-1933

On May 15, 1933, representatives of the Holiday Association and the Milk Pool came to the Council urging a state-wide strike. But the Council leaders reiterated their "faith in existing co-operative organizations and in government pledged to keep the peace and avoid destruction of property."

1935-1938 — Expansion

Having kept its sense of direction, although with loss of some members, the Council of Agriculture stood ready to help with constructive measures, such as refinancing of farmer indebtedness, re-building of sound co-operative credit, and strengthening the co-operative system. Later this brought new strength. Membership grew with the philosophy "That there is more for farm groups to agree upon than there is for them to disagree about."

The need for year round service became apparent, resulting in 1937 in establishment of a full-time office and staff. Regularly issued News Letters in mimeographed form came into being. Legislative activities were followed more closely. Service to member groups was expanded. Special studies were made concerning the abuses of patents, the influence of monopolies and the effects of labor-management policies.

OF CO-OPERATION

1939-1940 — More Clouds

The 1938 recession brought a new price-cost squeeze to farmers. Sit-down strikes in industry became epidemic.



Herman Ihde, Pres.
1933-1940

Labor conflicts came to farmer owned and controlled co-operative plants. The Council of Agriculture's special study resulted in the famous 10 point labor resolution which, translated into legislation, became the most controversial issue before the 1939 legislature, — perhaps the most controversial in all Council history. However, the Wisconsin Employment Peace Act became a reality to balance the rights and responsibilities of both parties in labor agreements.

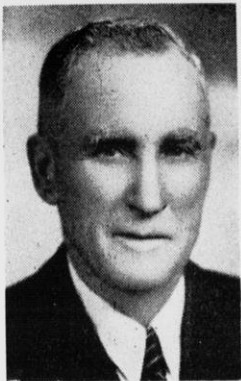
1941-1945 — War

With the coming of World War II the Council pledged all-out support, strived for greater food production, and co-operated with federal and state war agencies for greater efficiency. With other groups the Council exerted influence to get adequate farm equipment and repair parts. Price ceilings, price freezes, roll backs and rationing were headaches of the day. The Council assisted with various agencies to help meet a critical farm labor shortage.

During this era came the drive by John L. Lewis to take over the dairy farmers. But he met a stone wall. Within the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture a co-ordinated opposition successfully resisted the United Mine Workers.

1946-1949 — Re-adjustment

With peace came new adjustments. "The Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative desires to promote better understanding at home and abroad toward the building of a permanent peace." Immediately taken up were the problems of balancing production and consumption, more interest in soil conservation, more emphasis upon co-operative loyalty and co-operative education.



Wm. Hutter, Pres.
1940-1944

But during the war the NTEA, a new enemy against co-operatives had developed. In 1944 the first underhanded scheme of its so-called research expert to gather co-operative information was smoked out by the Council staff. Immediately warnings were sent by the Council to more

than 1,000 co-operatives in Wisconsin alerting them to the danger of this new enemy.

Constantly since that time a two-bladed campaign has been carried on against the NTEA. First, we have countered their claims with facts. Second, we have conducted an active campaign to strengthen co-operatives through improved membership programs, better financing and improved public understanding.

1950-1953 — New Growth

From 1950 to the present came rapid developments. Prior to Korea, farmers were suffering the pains of re-

adjustment between war-time expansion and a peace-time contraction. Then came the new threat of aggression, the need for rearming, more inflation and the problems of taxation.

The NTEA seized upon new war conditions to propagandize for federal taxation of co-operative refunds. Their design now was to cripple as much as possible co-operative structure so important to the preservation of the American farm family system of agriculture. To meet this situation the Council of Agriculture put renewed emphasis upon strengthening co-operatives by means of co-operative conferences, clinics and co-operative short courses for directors, managers and staff people. New emphasis was also placed upon the development of better understanding within co-operatives and about them.



C. F. Claffin, Pres.
1944-Present

Full co-operation to meet the threat of aggression was pledged. Selective Service and industrial expansion again became a farm manpower threat to which the Council staff gave time and effort.

Past Legislation

A few highlights of the Council's over-all legislative record during the past 15 years are significant. Helpful amendments to Wisconsin's co-operative law were sponsored. "America's Dairyland" went on license plates. Truck and transportation measures called for frequent action. Protection of payments to dairy farmers was provided. Wisconsin passed a Farm Safety education law. Lime standards were set up. Laws against the invasion of dairy substitutes were strengthened. On state and national levels the tax status of co-operatives was defended. Rural boys and girls in Wisconsin were guaranteed educational opportunity comparable with their city cousins. In the interest of farm people greater support to the College, the Department of Agriculture and to vocational agriculture was given.

Present Challenges

Post-war adjustments now bring new economic strictures to Wisconsin farmers, new pressures on farmer co-operatives, new challenges to leadership. Just as Wisconsin's farsighted farm leaders more than 25 years ago saw the need for inter-co-operation, so today the ebb and the flow of a new tide of problems makes inter-group action necessary as we approach the road ahead.

Future Course

During the last quarter century many of the old agricultural co-operative pioneers have gone, but the pattern they built is still with us. Their frank and honest courage forms a guide by which present leaders and those to come can direct the course ahead. As we observe this Quarter Centennial of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative we take off our hats to a significant past. Likewise let us take off our coats to a challenging future.

"The best of life is always ahead,
Always further on."—Sir. William Mulloch

Activities of the Council

Our Educational Program

WITH YOUTH—Youth interest in co-operatives must be encouraged. Greater knowledge among youth must be developed in the co-operative field. Hence, again during the past year, great emphasis has been placed on co-operative education projects of various types.

Your Council of Agriculture offered the Co-operative Leadership Contest program to all high school vocational agriculture departments. The Plymouth FFA Chapter again won first. Therefore, its splendid educational record in farmer co-operatives was entered by us in the national contest of the American Institute of Co-operation. Waukesha's FFA group won the Council's \$100 award, which took their young representatives to the national youth conference on co-operation at the University of Missouri. Also, two officers of the State FFA were sponsored by the Council on the American Institute's co-operative program.



Jim Billings, Pres., Waukesha FFA, Receives State Co-op Leadership Award From Council Pres., C. F. Claffin



VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE CONFERENCES—

With the full assistance of the State Vocational Agriculture and Veteran Training offices, Peter May arranged and conducted a series of 9 educational conferences for agricultural instructors and veteran trainers. More than 260 vo-ag instructors and vet trainers attended. Dr. Marvin Schaars, with a few selected co-operative leaders, worked



R. H. Schuster, Oregon, and Geo. Nettum, Edgerton, Vet. Trainers at Co-op Marketing Conference

with Mr. Sasman and his staff in presenting these programs that included basic agricultural economics, co-operative marketing and purchasing objectives, as well as problems and suggestions for adjusting teaching techniques to the practical job of co-operative education.



STATE COUNCIL'S WORKSHOP—In recognition of the Council's experience and activities along the lines of co-operative education, our staff was invited by the American Institute of Cooperation to present a workshop session on this subject to the 1953 State Council representatives. Our work with teacher training institutions, our conferences with vocational teachers and trainers and our emphasis on youth education were of particular interest to the State Council secretaries, the staff of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives and representatives of the Farm Credit Administration.

Services to Co-operatives

CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS CONFERENCES were sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative in 4 areas of the state. These conferences were made possible through the co-operation of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, the State Department of Agriculture and our member co-operatives. Essentially they were short courses for directors and managers. The programs concentrated on problems of financing, federal income taxation, business volume and membership relations. General Business outlook for farmers and their co-operatives was also an interesting part of the programs.



Co-op Leaders at Appleton Conference



CO-OPERATIVE MEETINGS — Repeatedly throughout the year the Council staff responded to calls to speak at annual and special membership meetings, as well as to attend various types of association conferences. Consistent with the objectives of this organization, the emphasis has been to rededicate co-operative membership to greater loyalty and better understanding of local co-operatives, their objectives and their problems. Contacts and appearances by the Council staff were directed so as to help in every way possible with the programs, policies and problems of member organizations.



Council of Agriculture Meeting
Left to right: Lynn Stalbaum, Otto Wirth, Bill Knox, Ray Penn



FREIGHT RATE INCREASES—A typical example of the present cost-price squeeze for farmers was a request for increased freight rates. A Council representative appeared before the State Public Service Commission in opposition to that request.

of Agriculture in 1952-53

Building a Better Co-operative Climate

Outside co-operatives as well as on the inside, much work must be done. Correcting misunderstandings about co-operatives has long been a major plank in the Council platform.



FARM-NON-FARM MEETINGS—Again during the past year the Council, with member groups, presented several Community Builder programs. The purpose was to tell non-farm people about the farmer's cost-price squeeze and to prove that the farmer is not the cause of the present so-called high cost of living. Clearer pictures about the role of co-operatives were given and it was shown that the constructive contributions made by co-operatives are shared by all.



NON-FARM INVITATIONS—It is one thing to take the initiative in setting up inter-group conferences. It is equally encouraging to be invited by non-farm groups. Such invitations offer an opportunity to tell the story about the position of farmers and the contributions of their co-operatives. Your Council of Agriculture staff appeared frequently at the invitation of Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions and Optimist clubs. We responded also to similar requests from church men's clubs, as well as occasional calls from chambers of commerce.



Information Services

NEWS LETTERS—From September 1, 1952 to August 31, 1953 our office compiled and published in printed form the monthly Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative News Letter. In that time a total of 37,000 News Letter copies were sent to the leaders of our member organizations and to educators in Wisconsin. In addition, there have been several thousand special letters and releases to directors and managers of member organizations. Releases to weekly and daily newspapers during this period totalled 720.



RADIO, too, has been used to broadcast the work of the Council of Agriculture, explaining co-operative objectives and discussing marketing and general economic problems of farmers. The State Department of Agriculture has provided time on its morning network programs. WHA and other local stations, as well as special programs over 6 radio stations outside of Wisconsin were used.



LEGISLATIVE BULLETINS—Throughout the regular session of the 1953 Legislature, 20 weekly legislative bulletins in mimeographed form were sent to directors, managers, educators and others interested in farm measures. These weekly bulletins reported on the introduction of bills, listed future hearings of bills and told what disposition has been made of those bills that were of major concern to our people.

With State and National Agencies

STATE—Your staff has worked with state and national agencies and organizations. In some cases this work has resulted from appointments to state or national committees or agencies constituted by law. Peter May, by appointment of the Governor, served on the State Educational Advisory Committee. He was chairman of the State Committee on Migratory Farm Labor and served on the State Seed and Weed Committee. He worked with the Board of Health Committee on Farm Water Supply and as a member of the Department of Agriculture Dairy Advisory group.

Milo Swanton, by appointment of the Governor, is a member of the State Radio and Television Council and of the Wisconsin Industrial Development Committee. He is a member of the State Committee on Rehabilitation and Hiring of the Physically Handicapped; is chairman of the State Farm Museum Committee and is the Council's representative on the State Labor Relations Board Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin Advisory Board.

At the state level the Council staff has worked with the State Selective Service Farm Manpower Committee, the Department of Agriculture Livestock Committee and the Savings Bond Advisory group.



NATIONAL—Mr. Swanton is a trustee of the American Institute of Cooperation and a director of the National Milk Producers Federation. He is also a member of the executive committee of the American Country Life Association. In December 1952 Milo Swanton was appointed by President Eisenhower to the bi-partisan National Agricultural Advisory Commission.



National Agricultural Advisory Commission
Seated: Dean Meyers of Cornell University, Chairman of the Commission; President Eisenhower and Secretary Benson. Standing: Members of the Commission, Swanton second from right.



In Summary

Your Council staff participated in approximately 150 conferences and committee meetings. They took part on more than 75 annual and special programs of member and non-member co-operatives.

Legislative Action 1953



At the legislature, Council policies and resolutions are reflected in legislative action,—sometimes **for** bills, sometimes **against**. On recommendation by our delegates or by board or executive committee action, your Council of Agriculture sponsors the introduction of some bills. Many other bills we support or oppose according to whether or not they are in the public interest or conducive to agricultural welfare.

A member of the Council staff appears on bills before committees of the legislature. Also by personal interviews and correspondence the Council's position is expressed. However, most effective is the follow-up influence back home by Council directors and delegates calling on their senators and assemblymen.

This is but a summary of our 1953 legislative work. It is divided into three groups,—bills sponsored, supported or opposed. Space does not permit including the full volume of bills, amendments and resolutions on which a stand was taken.

BILLS SPONSORED BY YOUR COUNCIL

- 524,S — **Cooperative Law** to remain unchanged, pending further study of corporate code effects.
- 682,A — **To Protect Contractual Rights of Co-operatives** against the deadly effects of bailment contracts.
- 196,S — **Milk and Cream Testers** license and qualifications required.
- 197,S — **Milk Solids in Sausage**—legalized up to 3½%.
- 478,A — **Standardized Milk** legalized within established minimum fat and solids standards.

Legislative Action

Became Law

Killed in Senate

Became Law

Became Law

Became Law

BILLS SUPPORTED BY YOUR COUNCIL

- 632,S — **Reapportionment on Area** as well as population basis for state Senate districts.
- 87,A — **Well Code** with more reasonable standards for under ground pits.
- 254,A — **County Agent** state aid increase.
- 334,A — **Livestock Remedies** can be sold by co-operatives and others.
- 341,A — **Weed Law Revisions**.
- Jt. Res. 59,A — **R.E.A.** Resolution asking Congressional support.
- 608,A — **Co-op Stock** providing more than one class of common stock, etc.
- 350,A — **Butter Grading**, state-wide, comparable with federal standards.
- 10,S — **Traffic Stop for School Buses** when loading or unloading children.
- 381,S — **Vocational Agriculture**, state aid increase.
- 656,S — **Educational T.V.** research and development at the University.
- 227,A — **Uncooked Garbage Prohibited** as livestock feed.
- 21,A — **Pollution Abatement** equipment allowed 5-year amortization cost as tax exemption.
- 598,S — **Ton-Mile Tax** substitute to provide for \$15 milk truck license fee reduction; 40% reduction for milk tankers, etc.
- 115,A — **Farm Trailers** up to 8,000 pounds exempt from license.
- 351,A — **Farm Truck License** fee of \$10 with greater use authorization.
- 129,A — **Snow Plows on Milk Trucks** permitted up to 10½ feet wide.

Became Law
(Declared unconstitutional)

Became Law

Became Law

Became Law

Became Law

Approved

Became Law

Killed in Senate

Became Law

Died in Senate

Became Law

Became Law

Became Law

Became Law

Became Law

Became Law

Became Law

BILLS OPPOSED BY YOUR COUNCIL

- 531,A — **To Color Farm Gas** on which refund is intended.
- Jt. Res. 66,A — **Milk House Resolution** to relax requirements for small farms.
- 234,A — **Back Wage Claims**—would have repealed 2-year limitation.
- 466,A — **All-Union Shop** could be forced on employer by majority vote of employees.
- 719,A — **Minimum Wage Scale** increase.
- 181,A — **Poultry Tax**, would have applied discriminatory tax on young poultry.

Killed in Assembly

Approved

Died in Assembly

Killed in Assembly

Killed in Senate

Killed in Assembly

Farmer Directed-Controlled

The House of Delegates



Council Executive Committee and Staff

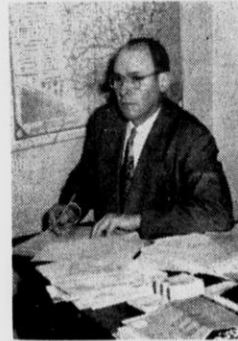
The basic governing body is the House of Voting Delegates. Every member group, no matter how small, has at least one voting delegate. No member, no matter how large, can have more than 10. It is this large representative group that assembles annually to

make final determination on policies and to act on resolutions. It is the voting delegates that establish the broad basic principles that guide the Council of Agriculture's program of service throughout the year. The voting delegates convene each autumn at the time of the Farmers' Get-Together Conference.

Resolutions of the Year

1. *International Understanding* should be improved so that a program leading to true peace may be achieved.
2. *Economy in Government* must result from reduction of federal expenditures, prevention of waste and more careful military and non-military spending.
3. *National Welfare* and agricultural efficiency require full and careful use of resources, manpower and equipment without hampering by government restrictions.
4. *Taxation of Farmer Co-operatives*—Co-operatives must carefully review their own situation with respect to excludability of patronage refunds, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue should eliminate certain inequities.
5. *State Selective Service* should recognize the essentiality of skilled farm manpower; the farm production credit guide should be followed.
6. *Co-op Law Changes* should be made for co-op law improvement after study by the Council as to probable effect of corporate law changes.
7. *Educational TV channels* should be reserved and developed non-commercially in the public interest.
8. *Co-ops serve the public interest* as well as farmer interests; greater efforts must be made to acquaint non-farm groups of this fact.
9. *Dairy Substitutes* threaten consumer interest. Our laws must be strengthened to protect the public against fraud and deception.
10. *Seed and Weed Control* must be strengthened in Wisconsin.
11. *Agricultural Extension and vocational agriculture* should be given more financial aid at the state level.
12. *Dairy Plant Security law* should be more fully explained and more field service provided.
13. *Dairy Quality* is important to dairy sales. The Department quality program is essential.
14. *Battle against Brucellosis* must be continued with greater use of the ring test, blood test and vaccination.
15. *Vesicular Exanthema* must be met by effective control programs.
16. *Livestock Disease Losses* should be met with an emergency indemnity fund.
17. *Legislative Redistricting* on area as well as population basis for one house should be provided.
18. *Dairy Import Restrictions* should be continued as a protection to the dairy industry and to guard taxpayers against the cost of supporting world markets.

Staff



Milo K. Swanton

Executive Secretary, Milo K. Swanton, is responsible for carrying out the Council program. He reports directly to the executive committee. Mr. Swanton is a farmer. He has been active in agricultural co-operatives since 1919. He was selected as executive secretary in January 1937 and has served continuously since that time.

Assistant Executive Secretary, Peter E. May, a former teacher of vocational agriculture, came to the Council in 1950. Mr. May resigned his position August 8, 1953, to take over an administrative position with the National Dairy Council in Chicago. Mr. C. M. Blakely, former vocational agriculture teacher and veteran trainer, has recently assumed the position of Assistant Executive Secretary.



Peter E. May

Office Staff



Mrs. Agnes McGeever



Miss Ruth Baehler

Office Staff. Mrs. Agnes C. McGeever, Secretary to Mr. Swanton, has served the Council more than 11 years and at the 1952 annual banquet was recognized for more than 10 years of service.

Miss Ruth Baehler is secretary to Mr. Blakely and has charge of records.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The future of farmer needs, problems and policies will be shaped and changed from time to time in line with the evolution of local, state and world conditions. In the over-all we look forward to continued service on behalf of Wisconsin farmers through their various co-operatives and associations.

To strengthen co-operatives from within we will continue in the field of farmer co-operative business short courses. To strengthen the future of our agriculture and its people we will continue to emphasize upon youth education including vocational training and co-operative principles. Legislation in the interests of rural people and for the public welfare generally will be followed. Activities in co-operation with state and national agencies will also continue to be an important part of the future services of this federation of agricultural co-operatives in Wisconsin.

This Is Your Council of Agriculture

As a federation of farm groups, the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative is democratically controlled by farmers through representatives of their own organizations in membership with the Council of Agriculture. Following is an outline showing how Council policies are established and how the organization is governed.

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Typical of the cross section that makes up the Council, officers and executive committee members hail from different parts of the state and are identified with different groups and varying objectives. *President*, C. F. Claffin, Wauwatosa, is also general manager of the state's largest co-operative, Equity Co-operative Livestock Sales Association.

Vice-President, William F. Groves, is President of Pure Milk Products Co-operative, the state's largest collective bargaining dairy co-operative.

Treasurer, H. E. Thew, is General Manager of the Madison Milk Producers' Co-operative.

Executive Committee Members

A. F. Stapel, Appleton, is General Manager of Fox Co-operative, Inc.

Homer Melvin, Glenbeulah, is President of the Wisconsin Cheese Producers' Co-operative.

Fred Harriman, Shawano, is a director of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

Osmer Wilkins is General Manager of River Falls Co-operative Creamery.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each member organization, regardless of size, selects one member to serve on the board. In addition to these, 4 directors-at-large are selected at the time of the delegates' annual meeting. The Council's board of directors meets periodically during the year and it takes action on farm and co-operative issues giving guidance to the executive committee. From time to time subcommittees of the board are selected to work on special assignments to develop specific information.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: What is the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative?

Answer: It is a federation of farmer owned and controlled associations.

Question: Does it have membership outside the State of Wisconsin?

Answer: Its member groups, in the main, are farmer co-operatives and organizations located in Wisconsin or, in the case of some out-of-state organizations, who have substantial membership among farmers in Wisconsin.

Question: Is the Council of Agriculture an agency of state or federal government?

Answer: This organization is completely independent of government at the county, state or national levels. The Council works with all branches of government that serve the farmers of this state. The following state agencies have ex-officio, non-voting representatives that meet with the Council board of directors: College of Agriculture; Department of Agriculture; River Falls State College; Platteville State College; Rural Division of the State Board of Vocational Education; Wisconsin Extension Workers Association.

Question: Does the Council of Agriculture receive any state or federal aids or contributions from any source outside its member organizations?

Answer: No. Its budget is entirely financed by dues contributed by farmer owned and farmer controlled associations that are in membership with the state Council.

Question: How is the Council governed?

Answer: Basic policies are determined by the House of Delegates selected by member organizations. The board of directors, consisting of 1 from each member group, plus 4 directors-at-large, follows through on issues and policies arising throughout the year. An executive committee of 7, working with the Council Staff, administers and executes the activities prescribed by delegates and directors.

Question: Are there similar Councils in other states?

Answer: Yes. Besides Wisconsin there are 26 states that have similar federations of Councils of Farmer Co-operatives.

Question: Does the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture have a parent organization or affiliate at the national level?

Answer: Yes. We are a member of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives whose headquarters are in Washington and we are represented in that parent organization

through the State Councils Division of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives.

Question: Are individual farmer members of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture?

Answer: No. Only farm co-operatives and organizations may be members.

Question: What are the qualifications that an organization must meet to be eligible for membership?

Answer: To be eligible for membership an association must be made up principally of farmers. If it is a business co-operative it must conduct such business in compliance with the co-operative laws of Wisconsin. To be eligible for membership an association's policies must show "Evidence of farmer control."

Question: What different kinds of organizations now hold membership in the Council?

Answer: In our family of member associations there is almost every type of farm organization and farmer co-operative known to Wisconsin. Our membership includes marketing, purchasing and service co-operatives. Some are very large, being state-wide or regional in nature. Some have limited membership in single localities. Two of Wisconsin's general farm organizations are also affiliated, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and the Wisconsin State Grange.

Question: What is the policy of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative with respect to non-farm organization relationships?

Answer: We stand ever ready to work with organizations from every major economic segment in the state, such as Chambers of Commerce, Unions of Labor and the Association of professional people. While working with any and all of these groups in the interest of general welfare and better understanding, this Council of Agriculture will at the same time remain independent, will stand on its own feet and will determine its own policies.

CREED OF THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATIVE

1. I believe in America, with the conviction that the farm and farm family is the foundation of America and that way of life.
2. I believe that the stability and wholesomeness inherent in rural America, must be preserved, as a challenge to future generations.
3. I believe in representative farm leadership. I believe in truth of fact, unity of thought and that co-operative action will determine agriculture's destiny.
4. I believe that such unity and action can be accomplished through farmer co-operatives, as well as and co-operating with general farm organizations.
5. I believe co-operatives and other economic groups to be economically indivisible as the policies and practices of one affect the welfare of all.
6. I believe in the free educational system, with freedom of speech, unrestricted thinking, and advancement by merit, as a necessity for Democracy. Every farm boy and girl is entitled to educational opportunity equal to that of their "city cousins," but also geared to their full objective in life and living, including therefore, vocational opportunities balanced with cultural arts.
7. I believe in religious neutrality, political freedom, and equality of race and creed. The policies of our voted delegates and committees are our vested interests and not the needs of a particular party or man.
8. I believe in the agriculture co-operative structure; born of need, serving an economic cause for a better American way of life.
9. I believe that agricultural co-operatives are an economic tool invaluable in serving and preserving the farm family. I believe co-operatives can safeguard the finer traditions of a great rural America.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATIVE

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