

Contact Your Representative Today Let Them Know Why You Support The Capper Volstead Act

Obtain contact info by keying the following link into your browser
<http://www.lycos.com/info/volstead-act--capper-volstead-act.html>

Senate Judiciary Committee

D- VT Patrick Leahy *Chairman*
D- IL Dick Durbin

Senate Agricultural Committee

D-AZ Blanche Lincoln *Chairman*
D-MI Debbie Stabenow
D-OH Sherrod Brown
R-IN Richard Lugar
R-KY Mitch McConnell

House Judiciary Committee

D-MI John Conyers *Chairman*
D-IL Mike Quigley 5th
D-IL Luis Gutierrez 4th
R-OH Jim Jordan 4th
D-TN Steve Cohen 9th

House Ag Committee

D-MN Collin Peterson *Chairman*
D-IN Brad Ellsworth
D-IL Deborah Halvorson
D-MI Mark Schaur
D-OH John Boccieri
R-IL Tim Johnson
R-OH Jean Schmidt
R-TN David P. Roe

Deep program discounts for members. Join today!

SAVE THE DATE!!! 2010 MACC Program Offerings

Co-ops101 Ed

Mar 16	Wabash, IN	Beacon Credit Union
Mar 18	Medina, OH	DFA Mid East Region
Apr 13-15	Springfield, IL	AEIC
Apr 29	Louisville, KY	FCS of MA
Jun 18	Indianapolis, IN	Marten House Hotel
Jul 23	Fostoria, OH	Ag Credit
Aug 12	Jerseyville, IL	Shipman Elevator
Sep 16	Louisville, KY	FCS of MA
Dec 10	Plain City, OH	Der Dutchman

Co-op Start-up

Mar 18	Medina, OH	DFA Mid East Region
Jul 23	Fostoria, OH	Ag Credit

Cooperative Credit Conference

Oct 6-7	Indianapolis, IN	4 Points Sheraton
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Cooperative Financial Conference

Nov 11-12	Indianapolis, IN	Four Points Sheraton
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Director Education

Mar 17	Fostoria, OH <i>(Dr. David Barton)</i>	Ag Credit
Jun 18	Indianapolis, IN <i>(Dr. Phil Kenkel)</i>	Marten House Hotel

Illinois Youth Conference

Jun 3-4	Carbondale, IL	SIU
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MACC Annual Membership Meeting

June 18	Indianapolis, IN	Marten House Hotel
	<i>Keynote: Bill Oemichen Health Care Co-op Issues</i>	

Program Details @ www.macc.coop

Register now by simply emailing knowledge@macc.coop

A Word From Rod



On March 21, 2010 in Ankeny, Iowa the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold the first of five public workshops that 'will explore competition and regulatory issues in the agriculture industry.' They are soliciting public comments because, 'Agriculture producers and their representatives have expressed concerns about changes in the agricultural marketplace, including increasing processor concentration in some commodities.'

We need to take these formal workshops very seriously because they will be listening for 'the dynamics of competition in agricultural markets.' Christine Varney, Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division is trying to determine if the limited antitrust immunity provided by the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 has outlived its usefulness.

Please know that the very existence of our cooperative business model is at stake here, and its favorable collective bargaining power status we currently enjoy.

Your feedback is needed as I craft our collective MACC response. Please call me with your thoughts (317-726-6910) or provide feedback through knowledge@macc.coop.



What is ACE? An Association of Cooperative Educators is a membership organization that brings together educators, researchers, cooperative members, and cooperative developers from across cooperative sectors and national borders. The resulting cross-pollination of ideas enhances cooperative development, strengthens cooperatives, promotes professionalism and improves public understanding.

MAC-Ed's co-op program were recognized in 2006 with an ACE award. Rod Kelsay joined the ACE board in 2007. Rod was elected to the role of president in July 2009. Please register for the 2010 ACE Institute Annual Conference.

Crossroads: Choosing Cooperation on July 27-30 -Cleveland, OH

Register online www.ace.coop

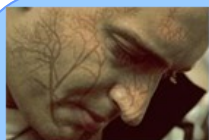
Visit www.macc.coop for program details and membership discounts. Register by emailing knowledge@macc.coop

The price of apathy toward public affairs is to be ruled by evil men. Author Unknown



Our Mission is to Promote, Foster and Enhance the Values of Cooperatives

Cooperatives Scrutinized: DOJ & USDA Hold Hearings Explore Antitrust Issues



Are You Prepared for Your Co-op's Future?

Many cooperative leaders are also baby boomers, who are roughly between the ages of 46 and 62. This age-group includes most top executives and leaders, as well as the upper level management tier in most organizations. As aging leaders peer into the future, they are faced with this question "Am I doing all I can to leave a legacy?"

Employers Slow To Capture Knowledge

(Source: Novations)

- 4% Have formal process of transferring knowledge from retiring boomers to other employees
- 23% Have informal process of transferring knowledge from retiring boomers to other employees
- 29% Have no knowledge transfer process but plans to implement one
- 44% Without a knowledge transfer process and no plans for one

Organizationally, there is a huge demographic shift. The American Society for Training and Development says that over the next 20 years we will have 76 million people retiring and 46 million entering the workforce.

Because Boomers have such a short-term focus, many have neglected succession planning and are leaving Gen Xer's to fend for themselves. With all the downsizing that has dominated the workplace, training and development programs have been marginalized, leaving little focus on the transfer of hard knowledge, institutional knowledge, relationships and networks — all key for co-op leaders.

A recent graduate of MAC-Ed's Cooperative Leadership Forum exemplifies the sentiments of co-op employees that are being groomed for the future. **"Great experience, I'm so appreciative of the knowledge of others in the group that helped me understand "cooperative."**

Invest in your co-ops future. Register today and join MACC on June 18th in Indianapolis where Dr. Kenkel will instruct leaders on "Succession Planning & Strategic Planning Principles."

Powerful interests in Washington and across the country want to strip farmers of their ability to work together through their co-ops. Do you represent the over 250+ farmer cooperatives in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio protected by The Capper Volstead Act? If so, you, your cooperative colleagues and thousands of other farmers must come together to protect any alterations to Capper-Volstead.

The Capper Volstead Act has consistently allowed individuals to associate and collectively compete in our globally competitive world and protect their rural communities; this is not an entitlement. The Cooperative community must operate within the boundaries and promote dealings that protect the allowances that have been granted and rightfully deserved. To date, the courts have consistently upheld the right of farmers associations to form, purchase, process and market collectively without facing prosecution under the Sherman or Clayton Acts. The courts have also reminded cooperatives that they are not immune from prosecution if they employ anti-competitive or restraint of trade practices.

Our role at the Mid America Cooperative Council is to beseech the cooperative community to rally to protect our ability to associate and form cooperatives. On March 12, 2010, the first of five public workshops will be conducted in Ankeny, Iowa by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

According to the Federal Register, "The workshops will address the dynamics of competition in agriculture markets, including, among other issues, buyer power (also known as monopsony) and vertical integration. . . and will provide an opportunity for farmers, ranchers, consumer groups, processors, agribusinesses, and other interested parties to provide examples of potentially anticompetitive conduct and to discuss any concerns about the application of the antitrust laws to the agricultural sector."

The workshops are also, "inviting input on the impact of agriculture concentration on food costs, the effect of agricultural regulatory statutes or other applicable laws and programs on competition, issues relating to patent and intellectual property affecting agriculture marketing or production, and market practices such as price spreads, forward contracts, packer ownership of livestock before slaughter, market transparency and increasing retailer concentration."

The Mid America Cooperative Council would like to underscore the following key issues that must be emphasized and routinely reiterated during these hearings and to our representatives in Washington, DC:

- American agriculture is a wonderful success story with fewer than 2% of the population actively producing the safest and most abundant food for American consumers who enjoy the widest selection of nutritious food, while spending an average of 5.7% of their household income, the lowest percentage in the world.
- The success cooperatives receive from limited antitrust immunity provided by the Capper Volstead Act allows farmers to join together to collectively purchase supplies and market their products; Farmer-owned cooperatives level the playing field in an environment of increasing concentration of suppliers to food retailers.
- Any action to eliminate or dilute the Capper Volstead Act or other federal statutes would harm the success and effectiveness of farmer cooperatives, damage US agriculture's natural competition in the marketplace and harm the economy of our rural communities.
- Capper Volstead allows farmer cooperatives to countervail the market power of buyers, processors, and wholesalers; culturally cooperatives are subject to numerous practical constraints that prevent them from achieving monopoly power.
- Cooperatives allow their members to level the playing field, and share in any profits that are returned to their member/owners who live and work in rural America.

MACC urges you to visit:

<http://www.justice.gov/atr/public/workshops/ag2010/index.html>

Here at DOJ's website learn more about the location of these five workshops and make your thoughts known. US Senators and Congressmen from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio are committee members of Justice or Agriculture. (see back)



**IN MEMORY OF
Dr. John Logue
1947- 2009
OEOC's Founder and Director
for 23 years
Read his legacy
johnlogue.blogspot.com**