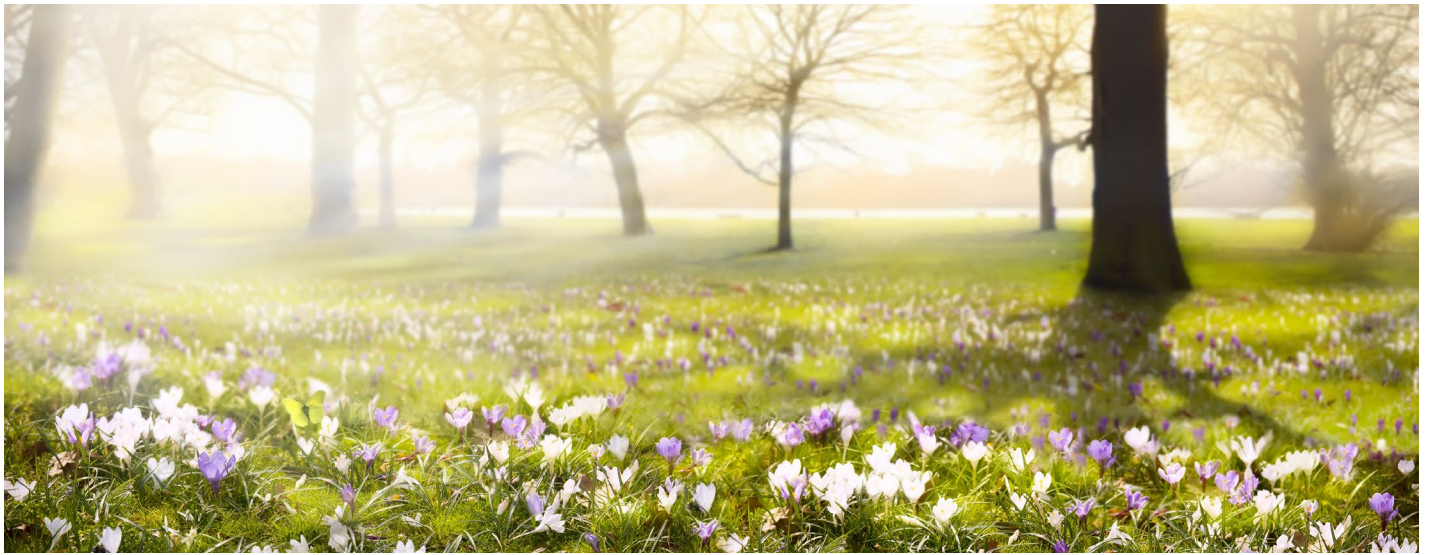


MACC COOPERATOR

News from the Mid America Cooperative Council

Happy Spring! We hope your cooperative is enjoying good weather and renewed excitement for the year ahead. We're pleased to share updates and professional development from the Mid America Cooperative Council.



Industry Leaders Shared Insights about the Road Ahead for Co-ops at MACC Annual Meeting

The Mid America Cooperative Council hosted its 2025 Annual Member Meeting virtually on Thursday, April 10, 2025, to recognize the Council's recent accomplishments, welcome new and returning directors, and hear insights from industry leaders.



Lisa Van Doren, Chief of Staff, Government Affairs with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC), provided a brief update on the current trends, opportunities, and challenges for farmer cooperatives. NCFC's mission is to advance the business and policy interests of America's cooperatives and other farmer-owned enterprises.

Bill Scott, CPA, Tax Principal, Agribusiness, Food and Beverage with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP shared comments about potential changes to federal tax law that could impact cooperatives through the sunset of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

MACC Board Welcomes New Director and Elects 2025 Officers

Voting for MACC's director leaders is an important opportunity for members to shape the council. Results of the 2025 Director Election were announced at the Council's Annual Meeting on April 10. The board was pleased to welcome new and returning leaders, Emery Lewis and Heather McCann, who will help guide the Council's mission and activities. Following the annual meeting, directors elected officers to leadership positions for 2025.

Special thank you to Michael Minnihan with CoBank, who concluded multiple terms on the MACC Board of Directors this year, including a past term as Board Chair. Mike's service to MACC is greatly appreciated!



- *Chair* – Heather McCann, Senior Director of Public Affairs, Governance and Administration with Dairy Farmers of America
- *Vice Chair* – John Marihugh, Vice President; Strategy, Communications & Member Services with United Producers, Inc.
- *Treasurer* – Brock Burcham, Regional Vice President Agricultural Lending with Farm Credit Mid-America
- *Secretary* – Erin Cumings, Senior Consultant, Sponsor Relations with Nationwide Insurance
- Chuck Squires, Risk & Government Relations Manager with Cooperative Elevator Co.
- Jennifer Weaver, HR Technology Manager with GROWMARK, Inc.
- Emery Lewis, Lead Credit Officer with CoBank

MACC's 2024 Year in Review Available Online

In 2024, MACC offered members valuable opportunities to connect, learn, and grow together. *Online Co-op Roundtables* fostered meaningful dialogue and knowledge sharing from cooperative experts. *Welcome to Co-ops Online* trainings provided a helpful introduction to the cooperative model for team members new to their co-ops, while *Welcome to the Board Online* helped onboard and empower board members with knowledge to lead effectively. These initiatives reflect MACC's continued commitment to strengthen the co-op community.

Highlights from the year include:

- 171 individuals, from 73 organizations engaged with MACC programs throughout the year, bringing diverse voices and fresh perspectives to the table.
- Participation in roundtable events increased by 65% - with registrants from 25 different states!

Learn more in the [MACC 2024 Year in Review](#) available online.



On Demand Learning: Employee Retention Strategies Roundtable Recording Now Available

Shawn Miler with [S. Miller Consulting](#), shared insights on employee retention strategies for cooperatives as a part of MACC's Online Co-op Roundtable series. Retaining the best employees is a key to success, but it can be a challenging task.

Mr. Miller explored the reasons people leave an employer and high-level strategies to create an organization where employees are enthusiastic, dedicated, and motivated. One key to engaging employees – creating an organization where team members connect with the work and their teams.



Cooperatives have a unique opportunity to engage their employees in their purpose-driven mission to cultivate engagement. Hear more insights from Mr. Miller, who provides senior level Human Resources support, connecting people to processes to achieve alignment and higher performance, in the roundtable recording available at macc.coop.

Do you have an idea or are you interested in leading a roundtable? Connect with Hannah Scott at scott.1220@osu.edu.

Hannah Scott Accepts Secretary Role with NCSCC



Hannah Scott, Program Director for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Center for Cooperatives at The Ohio State University, which provides management services to the Mid America Cooperative Council, has accepted the role of Secretary with the National Conference of State Cooperative Councils (NCSCC).

State and regional member councils across the United States serve cooperatives through employee and leader education programs, advocacy efforts, and other activities. The NCSCC offers networking and peer learning opportunities for councils to learn from one another and identify opportunities for collaboration.

*Info about MACC programs and news
in your inbox!*



Upcoming Trainings for Your Co-op Team

A complimentary registration at one of these events is included with members' 2025 membership renewal. Email knowledge@macc.coop to sign up a team member!



Thursday, June 5, 2025
9:30-11:30 a.m. Eastern

Welcome to Co-ops Online

Designed for new and early-tenure co-op team members.

Learn about the co-op business model, explore co-op principles, dive into the roles and responsibilities of member-owners and directors, and think of yourself as an ambassador for your co-op.



Thursday, September 25, 2025
9:00-11:00 a.m. Eastern

Welcome to the Board Online

Designed for future board members, newly elected directors, and early-tenure directors.

Learn about the co-op board's role, responsibilities of directors, crucial skills directors use as they lead their co-ops, and resources they can use to continue their learning journey.

Learn more and register online!

Online events are hosted by the CFAES Center for Cooperatives at Ohio State via Zoom. Participants can join via the Zoom application on a computer or mobile device or by telephone. Unless otherwise noted, events will not be recorded. Registrants will receive Zoom connection details via email prior to the event. Events will be presented with automated closed captions. If you wish to request traditional CART services or other accommodations such as interpretation, please contact Hannah Scott at scott.1220@osu.edu or 614-247-9705. Requests made two weeks in advance will generally allow us to provide seamless access, but the university will make every effort to meet requests made after this date.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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Mid America Cooperative Council, Inc. is managed by the Center for Cooperatives in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University. Learn more about the [CFAES Center for Cooperatives at Ohio State](#).

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