

Connections



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NWCDC Seeks Co-op Proposals

In anticipation of our upcoming application to the USDA for the 2004-2005 Rural Cooperative Grant, we are accepting proposals from groups interested in participating as projects in our annual work plan.

Project activities covered under this grant include marketing and business plans, strategic planning, cooperative education and feasibility studies. The deadline for proposal submissions to the NWCDC office is **March 31, 2004**. If our proposal is approved by the USDA, funding will be available October 1, 2004.

Projects must provide a minimum of 25% of the total project cost in matching funds. For more details, call us at (360) 943-4241, email us at nwcdc@qwest.net or visit our website at www.nwcdc.coop.

Leadership Tips for Cooperatives

The concept of leadership is often hard to define, and identifying individuals with the leadership capacity to direct cooperatives may be more difficult to pin down. Yet as cooperatives rise to the challenges and changes in the evolving business environment, strong leadership is a vital component in the formula for success.

Effective leaders are often people who are enthusiastic, are good listeners, think before speaking, are decisive yet know when to be flexible, complete tasks, take responsibility and provoke thought.

Suggestions for questions to pose include:

How well will she fit into the situation? What are her chances of success within the specific environment?

How well will she fit in with the current personality mix?

Will members, directors and employees accept and like her?

Will she have an opportunity to grow and thrive in the position?

Does she have the desired education, experience and knowledge of cooperative business?

Is she interested in training to become a more effective leader, such as participating in workshops?

Does she have the vision, values and commitment your co-op needs?

Excerpted from Rural Cooperatives Magazine, Nov./Dec. 2003

Value Added Producers Grant Recipients

Washington

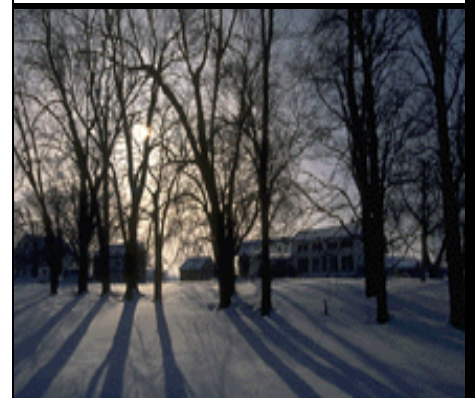
Columbia Co. Farm Bureau, Inc.
Fox Estate Winery
Palouse Grain Growers
Seafood Producers Cooperative
Sequim Growers Cooperative
WA Assn. of Wheat Growers

Oregon

Norpac Foods, Inc.
Oregon Sheppard LLC
Painted Hills Natural Beef, Inc.
Siskiyou Sustainable Cooperative
Summit Ridge Group

Hawaii

Hawaii Cattle Producers
Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation
Hawaii Gold Cacao Tree, Inc.



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Northwest Cooperative Development Center

NWCDC is an association of consumer, producer and worker cooperatives in Washington, Oregon, Western Montana, Alaska, Idaho, Northern California and Hawaii. NWCDC was founded by cooperatives in 1979 with the mission to promote and strengthen cooperatives in the Northwest. NWCDC was formerly known as Puget Sound Development Foundation. In the spring of 2000, NWCDC was reorganized and renamed in order to include a broader geographical area. The mission of the NWCDC is to foster community economic development, primarily through cooperative business models.

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Nurturing Cooperative Growth

Co-op 101 Course Now Available

NCBA's Co-op 101 course, introducing the history, values, principles, structure and business fundamentals of cooperatives in the U.S., is available online at NCBA's Cooperative Learning Center at www.co-opu.coop. Co-op 101 provides must-have information for anyone who works for, or belongs to a cooperative. Individuals can take Co-op 101 online for just \$39.95 by logging on to www.co-opu.coop and purchasing the course from the Course Catalog. Cooperatives can purchase a subscription to Co-op 101, allowing an unlimited number of their employees and members to take the password protected course, for a single annual fee. NCBA members can get Co-op 101 for just \$1 per employee! Contact Leta Mach at 202-383-5450 or lmach@ncba.coop for a co-op group subscription.

The "Co-opU" Cooperative Learning Center also offers a number of free features including an online Co-op Library, a Museum that includes background information, historical materials about cooperatives and co-op discussion forums. Sign up for Co-op 101 by visiting www.co-opu.coop.

NWCDC Project Update

Our Wind Co-op (OWC) is now incorporated. Four wind turbines are up and a fifth is planned to be installed soon. Another five are to be installed this spring. The bylaws and restated articles of incorporation are being drafted and will be reviewed by the board. This co-op is a pilot project to determine the feasibility of small wind turbines to offset electricity needs on farms, as well as a small number that will be cited near cell towers for the same purpose. OWC was formed to market environmental attributes, (aka green tags).

Methow Forest Owners Co-op is organizing forest landowners to employ fire management practices in a cost-effective way and implement sustainable forestry plans.

Sustainable Forestry NWCDC created an online survey for small forest landowners and industry professionals, to determine interest in a series of three cooperative development workshops that would be conducted in various Northwest locations.

Mountain Community Co-op of Eatonville, Washington is working toward a sustainable community, beginning with a natural foods storefront (currently a buying club), a book exchange and a farmers market. They are currently working through a strategic planning process that includes a feasibility study.

The "Economic Power Project" (WA Credit Union Foundation) is a U.S. Treasury Accounts project whose purpose is to bring financial education and services to the underserved, primarily Hispanic population of Washington State. **Big Island Hydroelectric Co-op** is exploring the feasibility of supplying water to the dry side of a coast on the Island of Hawaii from water resources in nearby mountains and produce electricity to serve area towns. Membership outreach began this January.

Cooperation Really Works

An Inspiring Testament to the Power of Cooperation

By Audrey Malan of CooperationWorks!

Well, we've had our excitement here at the world headquarters of CooperationWorks! in Dayton, Wyoming: Last Wednesday night we got a call from a neighbor asking us if we knew what that red glow in the sky was. We went outside and saw lots of people on the street and were told there was a large fire headed toward Dayton. The fire had started up in the canyon, and the 60 mile an hour winds and very dry conditions had driven it over two miles in less than one hour; it had jumped the highway and broke into two fires going down the southwest and northwest sides of town. Shortly after that the Mayor told us they were evacuating our side of town--to get some things and go to the Town Hall. He was frightened. Volunteer firefighters were everywhere.

We ran back into the house in a daze--evacuate? We grabbed the photos, the hard drive, our documents, clothes, little sentimental items and left. It's remarkable how most of our "stuff" meant very little when it came down to it!

The air was a thick fog of smoke and ash, choking the throat and burning the eyes. We went to the Town Hall, then the cafe, to find out what was going on. In less than an hour we got the call--the whole town had to evacuate. We could see the flames towering hundreds of feet in the sky, seemingly burning through the west side of town. As we joined the convoy north to Ranchester, it appeared the whole town would be swallowed up in the wind-stoked flames.

Everyone went to the middle school in Ranchester. We were given an update: all available firefighters from a 50-mile radius were on their way; all the local ranches had mobilized their hands, irrigation systems, dozers and were fighting the fire on all fronts. They would have cots and blankets, videos set up for the


kids, beverages, everything we would need to spend the night. People looked scared as they formed groups and talked about what they had seen and heard. Rumors were flying; the school had burned, the church was burning, propane tanks were exploding...

We spent a sleepless night, first at the school, then at the road block to Dayton, and finally in our van at a friend's house. We didn't know if the morning would find us homeless, but we knew that as long as we had each other, everything else would be OK. Around 4 a.m., it started to rain, and then snow. We drove into Dayton. Our town was still there, our house was still there. We went to the cafe and found that no one had been hurt; some outbuildings and barns had burned but no houses had been destroyed. All the firefighters, ranchers and volunteers had been victorious! They had saved our town!

Later that day, Mother Earth wrapped us in a thick white blanket of snow and it seemed the events of the previous night were just a bad dream. Everyone was exhausted. As one guy said, we all had a fire hangover.

On Sunday we had a town dinner to honor all the firefighters. Several hundred people packed into the community center. We shared our stories, recalled the fear, the bravery, the luck and how close it all came and heartily thanked and cheered our heroes.

This Thanksgiving, in the town of Dayton, Wyoming, there will be 679 souls very thankful that we are not homeless or, maybe more importantly, community-less.

We are thankful that the Enron attitude of 'every man for himself' is not the prevailing ideal here. If it were, we'd all be out in the cold. 

Happy Thanksgiving, Audrey



Co-op Miscellany

"Building a Sustainable Business: A Guide to Developing a Business Plan for Farms and Rural Businesses," published by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, includes worksheets and steps for developing a lender-ready business plan for organic farming, on-farm processing, direct marketing, agri-tourism, alternative crops and value-added products. To order, send \$14 plus \$3.95 s&h to Sustainable Agriculture Publications, 210 Hills Bldg., University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0082. Credit card and volume orders may be placed at (802) 656-0484. Preview the book at www.sare.org/publications.

Co-op Calendar

Tree School

Saturday, **March 27**, 2004

Registration Deadline:

March 8 or 575 attendees

Clackamas Community College

Oregon City, Oregon

(503) 655-8631

www.oregonstate.edu/extension/clackamas

Thank you, NWCDC membership & United Co-op Appeal Contributors!



**Northwest Cooperative
Development Center
1050 Capitol Way South
Olympia, WA 98501
www.nwcdc.coop**

NWCDC Annual Membership 2004

Membership Directory Website Links Publications Event Invitations

Name _____ Date _____
Organization _____
Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Individual Membership: \$25

Business Associate Membership: \$100

Co-organizational Membership:

\$50 My organization's membership is under 500;

\$100 My organization's membership is 500 – 999;

\$500 My organization's membership is 1,000 – 4,999;

\$1,000 My organizations' membership is 5,000 plus.

Please return this form with your check to *NWCDC, 1050 Capitol Way South, Olympia, WA 98501*

Thank you for your support!

Questions? Call (360) 943-4241