**The Cooperative Advantage**

When it comes to making economic and charitable contributions to their communities, the nation’s more than 40,000 cooperative businesses are industry leaders, setting the bar high for other types of businesses. Being owned largely by people who live and work in the communities they serve gives cooperatives a different perspective from businesses owned by distant investors.

These co-ops are motivated to serve their members, not outside investors. Nationwide these 40,000 cooperative businesses are sometimes an overlooked but thriving economic sector. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, and they operate in virtually every industry and range in size from small storefronts to Fortune 500 companies.

From the agricultural standpoint, nearly 3,000 farmer cooperatives account for 300,000 jobs nationwide and a total payroll of more than $8 billion. Some of the well-known farmer cooperatives include SunKist, Land O’Lakes, CHS (Cenex Harvest States), Farm Credit Services of America, and AGP.

In Nebraska, farmer-owned cooperatives also contribute heavily to the economy of our state. For instance:

- 57 local supply/marketing co-ops operating:
  - 57 headquarter locations
  - 375 branch locations in Nebraska
  - 34 branch locations out of state
  - 11 regional co-ops operating in Nebraska
  - 58,982 total voting members of co-ops
  - $3.4 billion total sales of local supply/marketing co-ops

- $55.7 million net savings generated by local co-ops
- $1.5 billion total assets of co-ops
- $4.122 million cooperative employees (full and part-time) employee payroll
- $140.6 million investment in new equipment and facilities in past year
- $83.2 million
- $10.6 million equity/estate redemption in past year

As you can see, cooperatives in Nebraska are vital to our economy. There are many outstanding career opportunities for young people wishing to pursue a career in the rural portions of our state. The Nebraska Cooperative Council represents these businesses that are focused on production agriculture, and we encourage you to explore what could be a very rewarding career in one of Nebraska’s farmer-owned cooperatives. Then you too will understand The Cooperative Advantage.

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**FOR THE 2008-09 ACADEMIC YEAR...**

- **Up to six $800 scholarships to students at the UNL College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR).** One scholarship will be awarded to an incoming student and the balance to upperclass students.
- **One $600 scholarship to a student at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) at Curtis.**
- **One $600 scholarship to an upperclass student at Chadron State College.**

**SELECTION...**

Scholarship Committees at the institutions will select recipients based on criteria established for each scholarship.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS...**

Scholarships will be awarded to sons/daughters of a parent/legal guardian who has been an active member, director, or employee for at least the prior three (3) years of a cooperative which has been a member in good standing of the Council for the past five (5) years. Scholarship(s) will be awarded without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, or disability.

**UNL STUDENTS:**
- Must be accepted as a student in the CASNR majoring in agricultural business or agricultural economics
- Upperclass students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above
- Incoming students must have demonstrated academic excellence as determined by UNL from SAT/ACT scores

**NCTA STUDENT:**
- Must be first- or second-year students majoring in business/management or ag production systems with the business option
- Second-year students must have achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above
- First-year students must have demonstrated academic excellence as determined by NCTA from SAT/ACT scores

**CHADRON STATE STUDENT:**
- Must have achieved sophomore, junior or senior class standing with a major or minor in agribusiness
- Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above

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TO APPLY...

Complete the application form on the reverse and forward it to the appropriate institution by April 15, 2008. Additional forms, as well as an electronic version, are available on the NCC website at www.nebr.coop or by calling the NCC office at 402/475-6555.
Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
IN HONOR OF MICHAEL S. TURNER

2008-09 APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2008

Visit www.nebr.coop for an electronic version of this form.

Student Name: __________________________________________ College Student ID#: __________

Declared Major/Minor: ________________________________________________________________________

Class Status for 08/09 Academic Year (circle one):

UNL: FR   SO   JR   SR   NICTA: 1st Year   2nd Year   Chadron: SO   JR   SR

Permanent Address (Street, City, St, Zip): ______________________________________________________________

Phone: ________________________________________ Email:____________________________________

Can you be reached at your permanent address/phone/email over the summer? Yes   No
If no, please give summer address/phone/email below:

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Parents/Legal Guardians’ Name: ______________________________________________________________

Parents/Legal Guardians’ Address (Street, City, St, Zip):

Name and Location of Local Cooperative Membership: # of Years

Name and Town of Hometown Newspaper:

High School Attended: ________________________________________________________________________

Leadership Activities/Outstanding Achievements in High School and/or College (membership and offices held in organizations, awards, honor societies, etc) [Attach a separate sheet of paper if needed.]

Career Plans:

Return completed application forms to the appropriate institution below by April 15, 2008:

Dann Husmann, Assoc Dean
College of Ag Sciences & Nat’l Res
PO Box 830702
UNL East Campus
Lincoln, NE 68583-0702
Fax: 402/472-7911
Email: dhusmann2@unl.edu

Mary Ann Mercer, Financial Aid
NE College of Technical Agriculture
RR 3 Box 23A
Curtis, NE 69025-9525
Fax: 308/367-5203
Email: mmercer1@unl.edu

Sherry Douglas, Financial Aid
Chadron State College
1000 Main Street
Chadron, NE 69337
Fax: 308/432-6229
Email: sdouglas@csc.edu

If you have questions about the scholarship program, please contact Ed or Deb at the Nebraska Cooperative Council (ph: 402/475-6555, email: edw@nebr.coop or debm@nebr.coop)