



Cooperative Programs

Deputy Administrator – LeAnn M. Oliver



Secretary of Agriculture

Under Secretary
Rural Development

Rural Utilities

Rural Housing

Rural Business

Cooperative Programs Organization

Funded
Programs

Cooperative Programs

Statistics

Resource Management

Development

Marketing



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Three Goals for Today

- Information on CP's Research Agenda.
- Assessment activity of current publications and educational materials.
- Your feedback (now and in future).

CP Research

A core CP mission area.

Authorized by the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926.

- Conduct economic, organizational, legal, financial, social, and other studies about cooperatives.
- Research is done in-house and through collaboration or cooperative agreements with outside researchers.
- Special studies conducted periodically (e.g., Cooperatives in the 21st Century in 2001, REIC ongoing now).

Our Process for Focusing Research Efforts



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Our Process for Focusing Research Efforts

1. Research committee formed – management staff.
2. CP researchers presented current and future activities.
3. Research projects/ideas were captured and compiled, including state office input.
4. Committee categorized and prioritized projects into a draft agenda.

Our Process for Focusing Research Efforts (cont.)



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Our Process for Focusing Research Efforts (cont.)

5. Draft research agenda shared with outside researchers (NCERA 194 researchers and other researchers, educators, etc.).
6. Committee reviewed feedback, reprioritized projects, and finalized agenda.
7. The CP Research Agenda is a working document.

CP Research Agenda

- Covers the fiscal years 2008-2010.
- Eight categories.
- 54 projects within first 7 categories (recently completed, active in FY2008, or planned).
- Also, 8 projects identified in the 8th category as potential, with outside assistance or collaboration.

CP Research Agenda

Categories:

- I. Cooperative Tax, Finance & Government Policy
- II. Cooperative Organization & Structure
- III. Agricultural Cooperatives
- IV. Rural Non-Ag Cooperatives
- V. Community Development
- VI. Renewable Energy

I. Cooperative Tax, Finance & Government Policy

7 Projects

Cooperative performance, outside equity issues; joint ventures and subsidiaries as leveraging techniques; value of cooperative membership; comparative analysis of cooperative policies; finance and governance issues in the cooperative commodity sector, etc.

II. Cooperative Organization and Structure

13 Projects

Bargaining issues of pear growers; current law, economic theories and cooperative character; role of culture and social norms and institutional change; purchasing cooperative models; cooperative objectives and their implications; value-added transformation of fruit & vegetable cooperatives; cooperative conversions, practice of cooperative development; etc.

III. Agricultural Cooperatives

8 Projects

Marketing operations of dairy cooperatives; implications of agriculture in the middle; financial profile of dairy cooperatives; cooperatives and sustainable production; coordination mechanisms to facilitate local marketing; value-added producer grants to dairy producers using a cooperative approach, etc.

IV. Rural Non-Ag Cooperatives

2 Projects

Small Business Transfer to Worker Ownership.
Cooperatives in Rural Housing.

V. Community Development

6 Projects

Adapting community development approaches to rural areas; a community development handbook; optimizing RD's resources in community development; community development learning initiative; community development investment program, etc.

VI. Renewable Energy

10 Projects

Whey to ethanol; cellulosic ethanol and ownership opportunities; renewable diesel at intersection of ag and energy; fuel ethanol industry expansion and agriculture; ethanol and environment; shouldering technology risk; cooperative approaches for dairy manure digesters; community wind project guide; collaboration in cellulosic ethanol projects; effects of ethanol plant concentration, etc.

VII. Economic, Statistical, and Historical Information on Cooperatives

8 Projects

Traditional data projects of CP: annual farmer cooperative statistics and top 100 cooperatives; equity redemption issues and alternatives for farmer cooperatives; directory of cooperatives.

Included in this category is the cooperative agreement research for measuring the economic impact of cooperatives (REIC).

Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives (REIC)

Research is multiyear, ongoing, and is being conducted via cooperative agreement. The goal is to estimate the national economic impact of all types of cooperatives.

University of Wisconsin was awarded the first 2 grants (data collection and analysis)

FY2008: \$492,000 program level

Preliminary date of NOFA: _____, 2008.

VIII. Potential Projects with Outside Assistance/Collaboration

8 Projects

Role of cooperatives in marketing small and medium-size farmers fresh and specialty produce; case of Dakota Growers Pasta Company – post conversion; small and mid-size enterprise development; globalization, countervailing power, and local empowerment; health care insurance cooperatives; finance and governance issues with “Wyoming” type cooperatives; behavioral aspects of cooperation; farm industrialization and farm women’s involvement in cooperatives.

CP Publication Assessment

Currently assessing and reviewing our publications and educational materials.

Goal: A quality, comprehensive, up-to-date slate of cooperative publications to make available to cooperative leaders, educators, rural Americans, and the general public.

We're reaching out to educators and researchers, such as yourselves, for feedback on our publications and materials.

CP Publication Assessment

1. What publications are still relevant and widely used?
2. What publications need to be updated?
3. What publications are no longer needed?
4. What are emerging needs (the CP research agenda has projects that will fill some gaps, but others are likely to be identified).

Cooperative Programs on the Web

Front page:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/csdir.htm>

Publications:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/pub/NEWPUB.htm>

Funded programs:



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Cooperative Programs Delivery

- National Office
in Washington, DC



- Professional staff of agricultural economists,