



Unit 8

Cooperatives in Nebraska

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UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

Cooperatives in Nebraska

Unit Objective

Upon completion of this unit, the student should be able to appreciate the economic activity, career opportunities, and benefits which cooperatives create in Nebraska communities.

Competency Levels

After completion of this unit, the student should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the types of cooperatives present in the Nebraska economy and the products and services they offer.
2. Calculate the economic activity created by a cooperative in the local community.
3. Identify benefits contributed to the lifestyle of a community through the business activity of a cooperative.
4. Recognize the difference between agriculture concentration and cooperative convergence.
5. Analyze the employment requirements of career opportunities available in a local cooperative by interviewing two present employees in career positions of interest.

Presentation

The instructor needs to:

1. Become familiar with the information and the reference material provided.
2. Lead the discussion using the power point and/or selected references. The discussion guide questions and answers should serve as an outline.
3. Obtain a copy of the most recent annual financial report of a local cooperative to be used as a basis for estimating the economic impact of it in the community.
4. Invite the manager of a local cooperative to be a guest speaker in your classes and address the economic benefits of his/her cooperative in the local community.
5. Distribute the student activity (HO 8.1) to all students in the class. After they have read the instructions, divide the class into small groups of three to give students an opportunity to discuss the questions and arrive at answers.
6. Arrange for a tour of a local cooperative. The purpose of the tour is to become more familiar with the products and services of the cooperative. It would be most appropriate to conduct this tour prior to the student activity (HO 8.1) to better assure successful completion of both activities.
7. Invite a guest speaker to address the class, such as a community representative (mayor, prominent business person, etc.) about non-economic community benefits provided by cooperative(s).
8. Distribute the students' activities (HO 8.2 and HO 8.3) to all students in the class. It may be most appropriate to conduct this activity during or immediately following the guest presentation of the local cooperative manager.
9. Distribute the student activity (HO 8.4) to all students in the class. This activity could be completed in several ways. It could be given as an individual assignment in which the student is responsible for contacts and appointments, or it could become part of the cooperative tour. On the tour, students could be provided time to meet with selected employees and conduct the interview(s) as a group.
10. Distribute the student activity (HO 8.5) to all students in the class and then divide them into working groups of three to complete the assignment.

Instructional Materials

Slides

- S 8.1a-f - Classification of Cooperatives
- S 8.2a - Marketing Cooperatives in Nebraska
- S 8.2b - Farm Supply Cooperatives in Nebraska
- S 8.2c - Total Cooperatives in Nebraska
- S 8.3 - Password
- S 8.4a - Cash Receipts from Nebraska Grain and Oilseeds in 1997
- S 8.4b - A State Comparison of Cooperative Business Volume - Top 10 States
- S 8.5 - Cooperative Business in a Local Community - Economic Impact
- S 8.6a-b - Cooperative Business in a Local Community - Economic Impact
- S 8.7a - Cooperative Business Presence - Non Tangible Community Benefits
- S 8.7b - Cooperative Business Presence - Non Tangible/Tangible Community Benefits
- S 8.8a-c - Ag Concentration V. Cooperative Convergence
- S 8.9 - Benefits of Cooperative Convergence
- S 8.10 - Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader?
- S 8.11a-c - XYZ Cooperative Co. Management Organizational Chart
- S 8.12 - Career Opportunities - Marketing & Supply Cooperative
- S 8.13 - Nebraska Cooperative Career Opportunities
- S 8.14 - Cooperative Career Plan Example
- S 8.15 - Jeopardy

Handouts

- HO 8.1 - What would our community be like without our local cooperative?
- HO 8.2 - Management Positions of a Local Cooperative
- HO 8.3 - Service Positions in a Local Cooperative
- HO 8.4 - Job Qualifications of Selected Cooperative Employment Positions
- HO 8.5 - The Creation of a Cooperative
- HO 8.6a-b - Nebraska Cooperative Career Examples

Evaluations

- TS 8.1 - Cooperative Business in the State of Nebraska Test
- TS 8.2 - Answers to the Test

Suggested Online Resources:

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| <i>National Agricultural Statistics Fact Sheets</i> | http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/ |
| <i>Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service USDA</i> | http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr.htm |
| <i>Nebraska Career Education</i> | http://www.nde.state.ne.us/NCE/ |
| <i>Nebraska Cooperative Council</i> | http://www.nebr.coop |
| <i>Nebraska Rural Development USDA</i> | http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/ |

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