Thursday, February 16

4:00 pm  Registration Opens
6:30 pm  Pizza Social

Friday, February 17

7:00 am  Breakfast
8:00 am  Farmers Union Welcome and Overview Meet your fellow participants
9:00 am  Co-ops 101
Kelly Maynard – Cooperative Development Specialist, UW Center for Cooperatives
10:00 am  Break
10:15 am  Panel Discussion: Cooperation in Agriculture and Beyond
How have cooperative business structures helped the agricultural sector?
- Char Vrieze – Co-op Development Specialist, Cooperative Development Services
- Justin Freisz – Senior Director, Global Trade Team Lead, Soybeans, CHS Inc.
- Sai Thao – Senior Lending Officer, Compeer Financial (Farm Credit)
- Josh Fairfield – Cooperative Public Relations Manager, CROPP Cooperative | Organic Valley
11:15 am  Break
11:20 am  Panel Discussion: Farmer Perspectives
Hear from farmers themselves about how their local cooperatives have helped their businesses and their communities thrive
- Anne Schwagerl – Perennial Promise Growers Cooperative
- Tim Velde – Grain farmer and Rural Electric Cooperative leader
- Cindy & Josh VanDerPol – Pastures a Plenty
- Angela Dawson – 40 Acre Co-op
12:20 pm  Break
12:30 pm  **Keynote Luncheon**

In partnership with CoMinnesota and hosted by the Ralph K. Morris Foundation

Introduction by Megan Wolle – President, CHS Foundation

Keynote address by Megan Rock – Chief Sustainability Officer and Vice President of Sustainability and Innovation, CHS Inc.

2:00 pm  Break

2:15 pm  **Decision-making in Cooperatives: How Would You Act?**

Dr. Todd Schmit – Professor in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University

3:15 pm  Break

3:30 pm  **Panel Discussion: What is unique about working at a co-op?**

What kinds of career opportunities are there in the cooperative space? Professionals discuss the co-op difference.

- Scott Jax – Net Promoter Program Director, SPIRE Credit Union
- Margaret Bau – Cooperative Development Specialist, USDA Rural Development
- Evan Carlson – Vice President of Marketing, Bongards Creameries
- Esther Cortez Reyes – Business Analytics Manager, Global Dairy Ingredients, Land O’ Lakes

4:30 pm  Break

5:00 pm  **Twin Cities Night Out**

Dinner on your own – bus will take interested participants to the Mall of America

---

**Saturday, February 18**

7:00 am  Breakfast

8:30 am  Load buses for Twin Cities Co-op Tours: Seward Co-op and Riverton Community Housing

1:00 pm  Lunch at Farmers Kitchen + Bar

2:30 pm  **Panel Discussion at REI Co-op: Power and Access for All through Consumer Co-ops**

- Nate Moore – Retail Sales Manager, REI Co-op
- Barbara Murphy – Director of Marketing, 7500 York Senior Housing Co-op
- George Svedrup – President, 7500 York Senior Housing Co-op
- Evan Sallee – Co-Founder and CEO, Fair State Brewing Co-op

3:45 pm  Return to hotel; break

5:00 pm  Load busses and depart for Conference Night Out
5:15 pm  Dinner at Midtown Global Market – gift cards provided
7:00 pm  Load busses for Orpheum Theatre
8:00 pm  Showing of *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Orpheum Theater

**Sunday, February 19**

8:00 am  Breakfast
8:30 am  Leadership Training: Developing the Future of Rural America, Co-ops, and You
Chuck Lariviere – Professor, Next Gen Ag, UMN Crookston
10:15 am  Break – hotel check out and load vehicles
10:45 am  Co-opportunities and Next Steps: What’s Out There for Me?
    Hear from National Farmers Union staff about what Farmers Union has to offer.
11:15 am  Conference Wrap Up: So, how did that turn out?
    William Nelson – Co-op Hall of Fame Inductee and Chair of the Ralph K. Morris Foundation
12:00 pm  Boxed lunch provided; depart for home