

Florida



Council of Cooperatives

FCC future co-op leaders conference set for Aug. 10-12, 2007 in Sarasota

News Release

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(Arcadia, FL) — More than 50 members of cooperatives from across Florida, including members of credit unions, agricultural and electric co-ops, and the Florida Farm Credit and Farm Bureaus, are expected to meet in Sarasota August 10-12, 2007, to learn more about the co-op form of business and how to ensure a stronger future for their co-op.

The occasion is the 28th annual Cooperative Education and Leadership Conference sponsored by the Florida Council of Cooperatives (FCC). David Bridges, FCC president and senior vice president of Farm Credit of Southwest Florida, Arcadia, says attendees will include cooperative educators from high schools across the state, sponsored by Farm Credit, and members of different types of business co-ops whose attendance is sponsored by their cooperative.

Last year a team of students from Hernando High School in Brooksville was recognized with the FCC's annual "Cooperative in the Classroom" award. It was the second consecutive year that a HHS FFA team has won this award. The FCC is in the process of updating its curriculum package for cooperative education teachers; this project is led by FCC Board member Dr. Al Wysocki, IFAS, an associate professor at the University of Florida.

The 2007 conference program includes presentations by Bridges and Wysocki as well as a number of outside speakers. Florida legislators also will discuss civic activism and political involvement. Program participants also will complete a leadership case study exercise developed by Wysocki and Todd Lawrence, general manager of Farmers Cooperative Inc., Live Oak.

The two and a half day conference is held at the Sarasota Hyatt. Participation is sponsored by co-ops; there is no cost to participants, who must be co-op employees or members. For more information, co-op members may contact their cooperative or Bridges at (863) 990-5219.

The Florida Council of Cooperatives is a non profit trade association dedicated to promoting and supporting the co-op form of business, and helping prepare future co-op leaders. For more information visit the FCC's web site at <http://www.flcoop.com>.