



Tennessee Council of Cooperatives – May 2019

Happy Summer 2019 to you, and welcome to our 1st edition of the TCC quarterly newsletter! In our newsletters, you will find featured articles of events and activities taking place throughout the year, meet our yearly scholarship recipients, learn more about your local cooperatives, and much more!



2019 TCC Board of Directors

Back Row L-R: Sam Comer, Rob Holland, Mike Partin, Keith Harrison, Charlie Boring

Front Row L-R: Dan Strasser, Roberta Smith, Todd Blocker, Scott Lewis



The Council is comprised of member representatives from various cooperative organizations in Tennessee. The TCC has 2 types/levels Council of membership including "parent cooperatives" and "individual cooperatives." The total membership is approximately 60 members consisting of 8 parent cooperatives and 52 individual cooperatives. The total TCC membership can be further segmented into 23 electric cooperatives, 29 Tennessee Farmer Co-ops, 5 telephone cooperatives, 3 financial institutions, 2 milk cooperatives, and the Tennessee Farm Bureau.



THE ANNUAL YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE PROVIDES COOPERATIVES ACROSS THE STATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE YOUNG LEADERS REGARDING THE BENEFITS OF COOPERATIVE BUSINESS.

Conference Highlights

- ❖ 360 registered attendees participated in the event
- ❖ On Friday, participants toured Hatcher Dairy and Arrington Vineyards in Williamson County, Tennessee
- ❖ Special recognition of former Ag. Commissioner Jai Templeton
- ❖ Breakout sessions allowed attendees to learn more and participate in discussions relevant to rural lifestyles and cooperatives
- ❖ The conference ended Saturday evening with an auction to raise money for the Young Farmer's and Rancher's Program



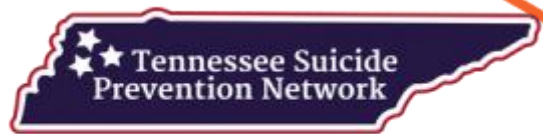
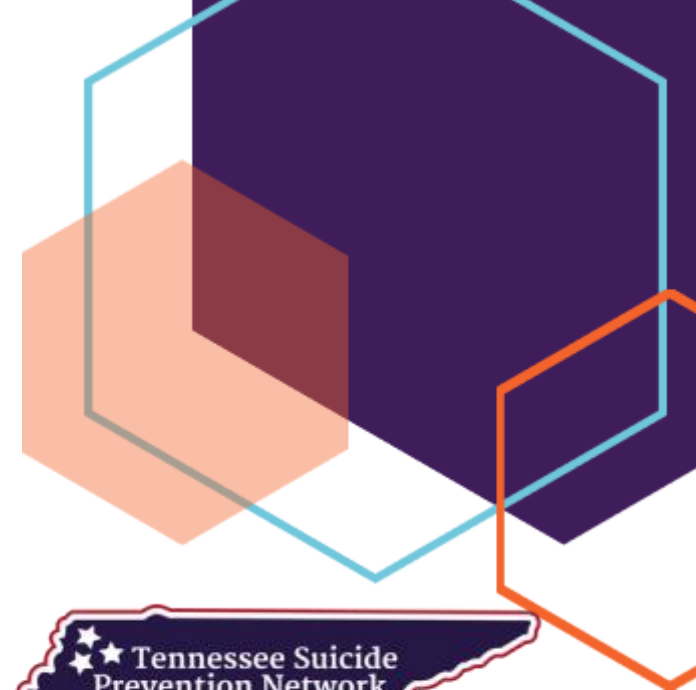
DID YOU KNOW?

Hatcher Dairy is the family farm of TN Commissioner of Agriculture, Charlie Hatcher. During the tour of Hatcher Dairy, Charles Hatcher shared the operation's strategy for success in the troubled dairy industry. "It was my dad's vision that people would come to the farm and buy their milk....."

Our first step in making this happen was to open our creamery and control our entire process from farm to store.” Hatcher Dairy, like many farms throughout the area has seen an increased interest in people wanting to know where their food comes from.

Farmers in America are facing an economic and mental health crisis; how can we help?

Scott Ridgway, Executive Director of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, led a session highlighting the frightening increase in deaths by suicide among farmers throughout the nation. His timely topic included warning signs to look for, and methods everyone can consider to reduce suicides in our respective communities. Scott shared with the group that a new task force has just been appointed in the state to address and look for solutions to farmers dying by suicide.



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"



TCC SCHOLARSHIPS

The Council sponsors 6 college scholarships for agricultural students from each of Tennessee's 4 year agriculture programs: Austin Peay State University; Middle Tennessee State University; Tennessee Technological University; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; the University of Tennessee, Martin; and Tennessee State University

The scholarship program, started in 1984, is an effort to acknowledge & aid young people most likely to return to communities served by rural cooperatives. TCC considers the scholarships an investment in the future of cooperatives & their leadership. Several scholarship recipients from the past currently serve in one of Tennessee's cooperatives or in one of the state's agriculture-related agencies which work with, support and help build cooperative businesses.

2018 Scholarship Recipients

- ❖ Madison Armstrong- Middle Tennessee State University
- ❖ Aniya Bryant- Tennessee State University
- ❖ Kendall Malone- Tennessee Tech University
- ❖ Kristen Brown- University of Tennessee Knoxville
- ❖ IvieAnn Anderson- University of Tennessee Martin
- ❖ Taylor Milliken- Austin Peay State University



For more information about the TCC scholarship, contact Roberta Smith, TCC Administrative Secretary, at 423-447-2121 or via e-mail to smithr@bledsoe.net. You can also find scholarship information on the TCC Web site at <http://tennesseecouncilofcoops.org/>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

What: Georgia Cooperative Council Youth Leadership Conference

When: July 15-19, 2019

Where: Georgia FFA/FCCLA Center
Covington, GA

Who: FFA and 4H contest winners will be chosen to attend

Purpose: Build and enhance teen leadership skills, and teach participants the role cooperatives play in the communities they serve

What: Cooperative Employee Training Workshop

When: Thursday, August 22, 2019
8:00am – 2:30pm

Where: Tennessee Farm Bureau 147 Bear
Creek Pike, Columbia, TN 38402

Who: All employees of any type of cooperative business

Lunch Speaker: Charlie Hatcher, TN
Commissioner of Agriculture

Registration Deadline: August 9, 2019
Cost: \$100 per TCC member participant



TCC Featured Cooperative



Established in 1953, BTC Fiber is a member-owned cooperative dedicated to delivering advanced telecommunications technology to the people of Bledsoe and Sequatchie counties and portions of Van Buren, Cumberland and Hamilton counties. The cooperative serves approximately 10,000 members over an 804-square-mile service area.

BTC Fiber is currently upgrading its network to provide members with access to lightning-fast broadband speeds of up to one gigabit per second. At this time, 100% of all 804 square miles of BTC Fiber's service area is fully served with a minimum of 10 Mbps.



❖ Members of the Tennessee Telecommunications Association (TTA) announced the Department of Economic and Community Development has awarded more than \$8-million in grants through the Broadband Accessibility Grant program. The grants will bring broadband access to 10 counties where more than 3,700 homes and businesses remain unserved.

❖ This coming October is Co-op Month in Tennessee, as declared by Governor Bill Lee. Pictured with Governor Lee representing the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) is Matthew Boynton of Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative, Roberta Smith, TCC Administrative Secretary, Paul Binkley, TCC Vice President representing Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, Dr. Charlie Hatcher, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) & Keith Harrison, TDA Assistant Commissioner for Business Development.



CURRENT TCC MEMBERSHIP

AgCentral Farmers Cooperative
Anderson Farmers Cooperative
Appalachian Electric Cooperative
Bedford Moore Farmers Cooperative
Benton Farmers Cooperative
Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative
Caney Fork Electric Cooperative
Carroll Farmers Cooperative
Chickasaw Electric Cooperative
Claiborne Farmers Cooperative
CoBank
Coffee Farmers Cooperative
Cumberland Electric Membership Corp
Cumberland Farmers Cooperative
Davidson Farmers Cooperative
DeKalb Telephone Cooperative
Dickson Farmers Cooperative
Duck River Electric Membership Corp
Farm Credit Mid-America
Fayetteville Public Utilities
Fentress Farmers Cooperative
First Farmers Cooperative
Forked Deer Electric Cooperative
Fort Loudon Electric Cooperative
Franklin Farmers Cooperative
Gibson Electric Membership Corp
Gibson Farmers Cooperative
Giles County Farmers Cooperative
Grainger Farmers Cooperative
Greene Farmers Cooperative
Hancock Farmers Cooperative
Hawkins Farmers Cooperative
Henry Farmers Cooperative
Highland Telephone Cooperative
Holston Electric Cooperative
Humphreys Farmers Cooperative
Jefferson Farmers Cooperative

Lawrence Farmers Cooperative
Lincoln Farmers Cooperative
Macon Trousdale Farmers Cooperative
Marian Farmers Cooperative
Marshall Farmers Cooperative
Maury Farmers Cooperative
Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative
Middle Tennessee Electric
Mid-South Farmers Cooperative
Montgomery Farmers Cooperative
North Central Telephone Cooperative
Obion Farmers Cooperative
Overton Farmers Cooperative
Perry Farmers Cooperative
Pickwick Electric Cooperative
Powell Valley Electric Cooperative
Putnam Farmers Cooperative
River Valley Ag Credit
Gibson Farmers Cooperative
Robertson Cheatham Farmers Cooperative
Rutherford Farmers Cooperative
Scott County Telephone Cooperative
Scott Morgan Farmers Cooperative
Sequatchie Farmers Cooperative
Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative
Smoky Mountain Farmers Cooperative
Smith Farmers Cooperative
Southeastern Farmers Cooperative
Southwest Tennessee Electric Cooperative
Sumner Farmers Cooperative
Tennessee Electric Cooperative Assoc.
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative
Tipton Farmers Cooperative
Tri-County Electric Membership Corp
Tri-State Electric Membership Corp

Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative
Union Farmers Cooperative
Upper Cumberland Electric
Volunteer Energy Cooperative
Warren Farmers Cooperative
Washington Farmers Cooperative
Weakley Farmers Cooperative
West KY & TN Telephone Cooperative
White Farmers Cooperative
Williamson Farmers Cooperative
Wilson Farmers Cooperative



Interested in learning more about us? Check us out...

- ❖ Please visit the TCC website at <http://tennesseecouncilofcoops.org/>
 - ❖ Follow us on Twitter! @TNcooperatives
 - ❖ Contact TCC Administrative Secretary, Roberta Smith, at 423-447-2121 or email at smithr@bledsoe.net
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