

CO-OP MONTH

FOSTER COUNTY INDEPENDENT



tion, which translates into broader civic and political involvement.

Equity, diversity and inclusion. To be an effective contributor to its community, cooperative membership reflects the community in racial composition, gender, age and abilities, and historically excluded communities and individuals have a voice and leadership opportunities.

Financial security and advancement for workers. Cooperatives work best for their members, employees and communities when they provide living-wage jobs with benefits and increased opportunity for wealth building, career advancement, training, and leadership development with lower turnover and higher job satisfaction.

Growth. Cooperatives can be local and regional anchors, promoting economic growth through stable jobs, high industry standards, consistent services and economic multiplier effects through increased community investment, local jobs and local procurement.

Celebrated by cooperatives nationwide during the month of October, National Co-op Month is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and build resilient, inclusive communities. Under the theme, "Owning Our Identity," this year's Co-op Month is also a chance to lift up what makes cooperative businesses unique in the marketplace. Guided by a set of shared principles and values—among them democracy, equity and solidarity—co-ops are hardwired for economic and societal transformation. In a moment when corporations are scrambling to find an identity outside of maximizing shareholder value, that's a meaningful difference.

group of metrics that apply across cooperatives given their range of activities and local contexts. Despite the challenge, it is important to do so, and we present a streamlined framework with specific examples of metrics across the spectrum of cooperative industries. Our research surfaced seven key areas of impact where cooperatives can be thoroughly assessed in the extent to

which they promote social and economic opportunity. We first introduce each area of impact briefly, then describe examples of sector-specific metrics and, finally, provide a proposed series of metrics across cooperative sectors.

Access. A cooperative can increase access to affordable quality products, services, suppliers and markets, lowering costs and serving markets and

communities historically seen as "higher risk" or underserved.

Business sustainability. A cooperative business structure can increase firm survival and profitability through higher and less volatile revenues, lower costs and a focus on long-term outcomes, including scaling the cooperative to compete with multinational corporations.

Community commit-

ment. A community-focused cooperative is committed to being a good neighbor through education, financial support, facility use and business practices that reflect the values of the community.

Democratic governance and empowerment. In a well-functioning cooperative, membership actively participates and shapes the mission and decisions of the organiza-

North Dakota News Cooperative to document public opinion

The North Dakota News Cooperative (NDNC) announced recently that it has developed a new public opinion research service that will measure current attitudes and opinions on a variety of public policy and consumer issues. The North Dakota Poll (ND Poll) will be the only regular, non-partisan statewide survey of eligible North Dakota voters and consumers.

"The ND Poll will be the most comprehensive, cost-effective and accurate polling ever conducted in the state of North Dakota," said Steve Andrist, NDNC co-chair. "We developed this new service to guide our own news coverage, but also want to make it available to others."

The ND Poll will serve as an "omnibus" survey providing media organizations, trade associations, businesses, government agencies and other interested groups with an affordable opportunity to survey the citizens of North Dakota on their own issues. By sharing the common costs associated with conducting statewide polls, omnibus surveys provide a cost-effective way to scientifically survey the public.

"We invite anyone interested in knowing more about the attitudes and opinions of North Dakotans on any specific issue to contact us about participating in our regular polls. Any data collected on behalf of others will

be provided to them on a strictly confidential basis," said Jill Denning Gackle, NDNC co-chair.

Participants in the omnibus survey will be provided with the "headline" results for the questions they ask along with the "crosstab" results which break down the data into many different demographic categories including age, gender, ethnicity, income, education, region/media market and political party preference.

The NDNC has partnered with WPA Intelligence, a leading national provider of survey research, predictive analytics and data management technology to assist in survey design, representative sampling, program-

ming, fielding and data analysis.

For more information about participating in the next ND Poll, please contact Steve Andrist at stevea@crosbynd.com, Jill Denning Gackle at jilldg@restel.com or Brian Lunde at brian.a.lunde@gmail.com.

The North Dakota News Cooperative is a non-profit news organization that provides diverse, reliable and independent reporting on issues and events that impact the lives of North Dakotans. It increases the public's access to quality journalism and advances news literacy across the state.

For more information about NDNC, please visit newscoopnd.org.

CO-OP FUN FACTS

- The co-op business model is **at least 525 years old**. The Shore Porters Society in Aberdeen, Scotland claims to have established the world's first cooperative in 1498.
- There are over **one billion co-op members** in the world.
- Cooperatives **exist in every sector** of the economy. Daycares, breweries, community gardens and renewable energy producers are among the endless examples of cooperatives.
- As community-driven, member-controlled organizations, cooperative business start ups are **twice as likely to succeed** and still be in business after five years.
- Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Co-op Month proclamation in 1948.
- Co-op Month has been a **nationally recognized celebration since 1964**, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former Minnesota governor, proclaimed October Co-op Month.
- The first national theme in 1964 was "Cooperatives: USDA Helps Build a Better America."

Celebrate with these local cooperatives!

**ARROWWOOD
Prairie Co-op**

Carrington Locations
Propane and Bulk Fuels 652-3172
Agronomy 652-2913
C-Store 652-3949

Co-op Month Food Drive

October is National Co-op Month. In honor of Co-op Month, Fessenden Co-op Association will be collecting & distributing pantry items to local area food pantries. Drop off at the following locations' main office:

- Fessenden
- Hamberg
- Esmond
- Maddock
- Precision Ag
- Harlow
- New Rockford
- Sheyenne
- Oberon
- Carrington (CCG & CCMP)

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY
Thursday, October 19

Carrington 701-652-2482 New Rockford 701-947-5011
Fessenden 701-547-3856

Stop in Thursday for treats.
Sign up for prizes all week!

joinccu.com

630 5th St. N, Carrington
652-3184
1-800-771-0974
www.daktel.com

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