

# Congressional Farmer Cooperative Caucus Created

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) has applauded the creation of a new, bipartisan and bicameral Congressional Farmer Cooperative Caucus.

The caucus will provide a forum for Members of Congress interested in working together in support of public policy and programs to protect and enhance the ability of farmers to join together in cooperative self-help efforts to improve their economic well being.

The co-chairs of the caucus are Representative Sam Graves (R-Mo) and Representative Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.) in the House and Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln (D-Ark.) and Senator Larry Craig (R-Idaho) in the Senate.

"I commend the co-chairs for their leadership in establishing a forum to promote a greater awareness and understanding of the vital role that farmer cooperative businesses play in American agriculture and the need for public policy to be supportive," said John E. Gherty, chairman of NCFC and president and CEO of Land O'Lakes, Inc., a national food and agricultural cooperative based in Arden Hills, Minn.

"The caucus co-chairs represent states and congressional districts with diverse agricultural interests, yet each is closely acquainted with the benefits of farmer cooperatives to farmers," continued David Graves, president and CEO of NCFA (no relation to Congressman Graves). "Helping farmers to help themselves is crucial to any long-term solution to the challenges facing American agriculture."

There are more than 3,000 farmer cooperatives across the United States whose farmer members represent a majority of our nation's nearly two million individual farmers. Across the country, they provide over 300,000 full- and part-time jobs in rural communities with a payroll in excess of \$8 billion.

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During the convention of the Society of the Lancaster County Farm Women, the officers join motivational speaker Stan Deen, center, who challenged members to live life to its fullest. With him, from left, are Gladys Espenshade, president; Phyllis Newcomer, vice president; Mabel Hershey, secretary, and Eileen Burkhart, treasurer.

## Farm Society Perseveres 'For Happiness'

LOU ANN GOOD  
Food And Family  
Features Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Members of the Lancaster County of Farm Women gathered Nov. 2 for their annual convention at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

This past year, the county's 26 individual societies with 495 members gave more than \$11,730 to charities. At the convention they presented more than \$2,000 to SafeKids.

Not all the societies monthly meetings focused on raising

money for charities. They also had sessions on flower arranging, candy making, how to eat crabs, how to hook rugs, and many special speakers. Members also entertained guests at retirement villages, helped in many community events, and also took car and bus trips to local historical places and other points of interest.

Of members numerous activities, the secretary said, "Mostly we are perpetuating our motto 'For Happiness' and rein-

forcing our purpose."

The state Farm Women Society was founded in 1914 for the purpose of contributing to the power and influence of the farm home, to the community activity of farm women, and to develop leadership and promote better living and working conditions in farm homes.



Gladys Espenshade hands a check to a representative for SafeKids. The Society raised more than \$2,000 to promote farm safety programs.

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