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## The Value of a Cooperative – The Value of Your Cooperative!

It has been a busy spring as the cooperative wrapped up its annual district meetings in March, and as I write this article, we are nearing the end of the local association's annual meetings. Throughout the meetings this year, I heard many concerns about the future of cooperatives. From the agricultural trade upheaval to a global virus pandemic and the continued industry consolidation, all seem to have had an impact on cooperatives over the past years. Some believe cooperatives are a business form that was needed in the past, but don't see the need for them in today's modern agricultural industry. I began to think more about the importance and need of agricultural cooperatives, and quickly concluded ag cooperatives still benefit farmers and are a very essential part of today's modern agriculture.



**Curt Larson**  
President/CEO

A cooperative's goal is serving its patron members. Your patron member owned cooperative strives to do just that. From selling your livestock, on farm visits from our field services team, financing your operation, and providing risk management options- your cooperative does not stop there. We continue efforts in supporting the livestock industry and our rural communities on state and national issues that are important to our patrons. Providing educational opportunities on cattle raising, animal welfare training, and marketing information from experts in their fields to our patrons is another service that adds value to members and the future of their businesses.

Supporting youth organizations such as FFA and 4-H continues. The cooperative provides opportunity for market internships and supports the education of future farmers and leaders of the industry through scholarships.

Your cooperative is a member of and stays very active in both state and national organizations that strive to advance the business of agriculture through policy interests of cooperatives and farmer-owned operations. We are the voice for our patron members through our involvement in current issues such as the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2023, Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act, the proposed changes to animal identification, immigration, and oversight of checkoff dollars. Staff and our farmer members remain involved in the

education and promotion to the public to keep our members' products economically viable.

Equity offers operation transparency to its members, timely and secure payments for their livestock, and we value our members' input to guide our cooperative. These are just a few of the many services that members of the cooperative receive as an added benefit to membership.

My conclusion, cooperatives are just as valuable today as they were when the business model was formed. Cooperatives are becoming increasingly necessary for farmers desiring a successful operation, and they are an essential part of modern agriculture. The fact is, when farmers own and control channels for marketing their products, they are able to stay competitive in the marketplace. What's the value of your cooperative? Equity provides its producer members with dependable and reliable services that undoubtedly adds value to their farm operation.

## Celebrate June Dairy Month

Kick off your summer by celebrating with America's family dairy farms. June dairy month is filled with fun and exciting events from on-the-farm breakfasts to dairy themed festivals. Farmers have a lot to be proud of as they produce healthy, wholesome and nutritious food that consumers depend on every day. Support our farmers by attending a local dairy event near you.

For a complete listing of June Dairy month events in Wisconsin, go to [www.wisconsin dairy.org/national-dairy-month](http://www.wisconsin dairy.org/national-dairy-month). To learn more about June dairy celebration events in Northeast Iowa, visit [www.iowadairycenter.com](http://www.iowadairycenter.com).

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# Equity News



## 2024 Calendar Theme: Fun on the Farm

Farming is more than just a job; it is a way of life. With the many hours farmers and their family members spend on the farm, it is a sure fact that memories are being made. Share a



captured moment of you, family members, friends or animals having fun on the farm. Examples include a grandchild feeding calves, a meal being enjoyed in the field during harvest season, you milking your favorite cow, or a friend showing at the fair; whatever the fun moment is, be sure to capture it!

Send in photos of fun on your farm or with your farm animals with a description of the special captured moment to us for a chance to be featured in the 2024 Equity Calendar - Fun on the Farm.

A panel of judges will select the winner and honorable mentions. The top photograph will be awarded the calendar cover and a basket of Equity goodies. Digital images are preferred and need to be sent as high resolution (300 dpi) via email to [ccarpenter@equitycoop.com](mailto:ccarpenter@equitycoop.com) or mailed in on a CD or USB drive. Low resolution images will not be included in the contest. Printed images must be at least 8" x 10" and can be mailed to Equity Livestock, Cora Carpenter, P.O. Box 1003, Baraboo, WI 53913. The entry deadline is Friday, September 8, 2023. For each photo entered, please include the name of photographer, address, phone, email, and description of the photo.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cora Carpenter at 608-356-8311 ext. 152 or [ccarpenter@equitycoop.com](mailto:ccarpenter@equitycoop.com). Good luck and happy photo taking!

*All entries submitted will become property of Equity Livestock and could be used in future publications or projects. If you prefer to have your printed photo or CD/USB drive sent back to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope.*

## Equity Distinguished Patron Award 2023

Merlin and Bea Fredrickson | Fredrickson Farms Inc.

Selection of an individual for this recognition is at the discretion of the local shipping association. A person can receive the award only once, but someone different may be selected each year if their shipping association so desires. The Black River Falls Cooperative Shipping Association has selected Merlin and Bea Fredrickson for the Distinguished Patron Recognition Award. Merlin and Bea were always diversified in their livestock operations from dairy cows, calves, feeder cattle, beef, and hogs. Currently they raise feeder cattle and crops of corn, soybeans, and hay. They have contributed to the agricultural community and continue to show their passion for the industry. Mark Clarke, Executive Vice President and COO, is pictured presenting the award to Merlin and Bea at the Black River Falls Cooperative Shipping Association Annual Meeting.



## Equity Staff Update

Equity is pleased to announce Emily Schlosser as the new Office Manager at our Bonduel Market. Emily lives in Lena, WI, with her husband and 3-month-old son. She is a member of the Oconto County Youth Fair Board and enjoys helping at the fair. Together with her husband, they have 2 dogs, cattle and are starting to raise registered Percheron draft horses.



Emily Schlosser

On her days off, she enjoys walking in the woods with her family, working with horses and spending time with her new son. If you are in Bonduel, be sure to stop by the office and meet Emily.

## Visit us at the 2023 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in Baraboo

Farm Technology Days will be July 18-20 held at the Badger Steam & Gas Engine Club grounds in Baraboo. This year, Equity's booth will be located in the Agribusiness Blue Building near the center of the grounds. Our staff will be there ready to chat with attendees about all the great services Equity has to offer. **Stop by our booth and mention you saw this article in our Equity News for a special prize!** We are looking forward to seeing you there!





# Equity Announces 2023 Board of Directors

Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association is pleased to announce the results of its recent 2023 Regional Board of Directors elections held in five of its ten districts. Incumbent Adam Quandahl, Waukon, Iowa, was re-elected to serve a three-year term representing patron members in District X the Waukon market, and he will again serve as Chairman of the board. Incumbent Peter Kleiman, Wilson, MI, was re-elected to serve a three-year term representing patron members in District IV the Bonduel market. Incumbent Daniel Leischer, Neosho, WI, was re-elected to serve a three-year term representing patron members in District I the Arlington and Johnson Creek markets. Equity welcomed two new regional board directors to our 10-person board of directors; Christina Olson, Mondovi, WI, was elected to a two-year term to represent patron members in District VI the Altoona and Barron markets, and Mike Kunes, Melrose, WI, was elected to a three-year term to represent patron members in District VII the Sparta market. Completing the ten-member board of directors are Todd Cummings, Ogema, WI, District V the Stratford market and Todd is serving as the Vice Chairman of the Board. Re-elected to Secretary/Treasurer of the Board is Steve Schleis, Kewaunee, WI, District III the Reedsville market representative. Brad Solchenberger, Cazenovia, WI, District IX the Richland Center market representative, has been re-elected to serve as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the board. Dan

Reeson, Blanchardville, WI, District VIII the Monroe market and David Wilke, Ripon, WI, District II the Lomira market will continue to represent patron members in their district.

“I’m honored to be serving with these directors,” says Curt Larson, President/CEO. “These are both challenging and exciting times for the cooperative, as we continue to move forward on how to better serve our producer members with the marketing, managing and financing of their agricultural businesses.”

Two board members retired from the board, with our thanks and appreciation for their service, Leslie Danielson, District VI and Karl Merow, District VII.



**DAN LEISCHER**  
DISTRICT I  
ARLINGTON MARKET  
JOHNSON CREEK MARKET



**DAVID WILKE**  
DISTRICT II  
LOMIRA MARKET



**STEVE SCHLEIS**  
DISTRICT III  
REEDSVILLE MARKET  
SECRETARY/TREASURER



**PETE KLEIMAN**  
DISTRICT IV  
BONDUEL MARKET



**TODD CUMMINGS**  
DISTRICT V  
STRATFORD MARKET  
VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



**CHRISTINA OLSON**  
DISTRICT VI  
ALTOONA MARKET  
BARRON MARKET



**MIKE KUNES**  
DISTRICT VII  
SPARTA MARKET



**DAN REESON**  
DISTRICT VIII  
MONROE MARKET



**BRAD SOLCHENBERGER**  
DISTRICT IX  
RICHLAND CENTER MARKET  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY/TREASURER



**ADAM QUANDAHL**  
DISTRICT X  
WAUKON MARKET  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

## Congratulations Mike Hedrick!

Every year at Equity’s Annual District Meetings, we ask patrons to complete a survey which qualifies them for a chance to win a \$250 gift card. Congratulations to Mike Hedrick- our 2023 winner. Mike completed the Equity survey during the District VII Annual Meeting. Thank you for your support, patronage and services as an active member of the Equity Coulee Region Livestock Marketing Cooperative. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out our survey. We truly value input and feedback from our patron members.



## Official Notice of Unclaimed Preferred Stock

Equity is holding unclaimed preferred stock for shareholders. The full list of names can be found on our website, [www.equitycoop.com](http://www.equitycoop.com), under the Patron Info heading. If you find a name you are familiar with, please ask the person or the estate executor to contact our Accounting Department directly at 608-460-1124 or email [accounting@equitycoop.com](mailto:accounting@equitycoop.com).

The stock must be claimed by the rightful owner, or their estate, on or before February 28, 2024. In accordance with the cooperative’s bylaws and state statutes, if not claimed by this date, the value of the stock will be forfeited and used for educational scholarships.

Note: This notice is for unclaimed preferred stock, which is a separate investment from patronage credits that were earned from shipping livestock with our cooperative.



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## Lyle Mohwinkle Retires After 50 Years

Congratulations to Lyle Mohwinkle on his retirement from Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association! Lyle began his career with the Waukon, Iowa, sale barn in 1972, and he has provided outstanding service to cattle producers for over 50 years. He has helped make the sale barn what it is today and for that, we will always be grateful to him. After 50 years of working in livestock marketing, in the same sale barn, and servicing quite possibly three generations of producers, Lyle is ready to move into the next chapter of his life and enjoy more time with Mary Ellen. We thank you for your dedication and years of service. You've been an inspiration to many, and your contributions to the industry are immeasurable. We wish you the best in your retirement, and we look forward to seeing you visiting with producers on sale days!



Pictured: Lyle and Curt Larson, President and CEO

## Too Small for Contracting? Think again.

As the cattle market continues its upward trend, it may be the right time to be thinking about taking advantage of the tools available for mitigating price risk. Finished cattle contracts allow producers to lock in prices for a future delivery. Equity has been helping with these types of contracts for years now, and our experienced staff is ready to help your operation with locking in prices. Many of you might be familiar with the 50,000 pound finished Holstein or Colored Cattle contracts. We have recently added a smaller contract size of 20,000 pounds for finished Holstein cattle. The contracts will be at least 17 head or more of finished cattle weighting about 1400#. These contracts can be priced more than a year in advance allowing producers to focus their energy on making their operations efficient on a production level. At Equity, we are also able to assist in developing break even and harvest date projections. Please contact us to discover potential marketing tools for your operation.

*\*Note, these are binding contracts pursuant to cattle being delivered to a packing facility in an agreed upon delivery period & specifications. If cattle are not delivered within the delivery period or are out of the specs of the contract, penalties are subject to occur.*



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### CREDIT OPTIONS AVAILABLE

#### OPERATING LOANS

- Non revolving lines of credit
- Revolving lines of credit
- Livestock feeding program

#### TERM LOANS

- Intermediate 3, 5 or 7 year terms
- Breeding livestock: dairy or beef
- Machinery, farm improvements

#### REAL ESTATE LOANS

- Amortizations of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years
- Flexible monthly, quarterly, semi annual, or annual payments schedules
- Variable, adjustable, and fixed rates available



CALL OR EMAIL TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION AND DISCUSS YOUR PLANS.

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#### BOARD & OFFICERS

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Secretary/Treasurer  
Brad Solchenberger .....District IX  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer  
Dan Leischer .....District I  
David Wilke ..... District II  
Pete Kleiman.....District IV  
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Mike Kunes..... District VII  
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Cora Carpenter ..... Editor  
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Lomira..... 920-269-4351  
Monroe ..... 608-328-8344  
Reedsville ..... 920-754-4361  
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Sparta ..... 608-269-3104  
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