**WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

# MOSES Organic University – Start a Producer-Owned Co-op

# February 27, 2020  |  10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  |  La Crosse, Wis.

#### **Presenters:**

**Kelly Maynard,**[**University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives**](https://uwcc.wisc.edu/) **FL Morris,**[**South Central Hemp Cooperative**](https://www.scwihemp.com/) **Rod Ofte,**[**Wisconsin Grass-fed Beef Cooperative**](https://www.wisconsingrassfed.coop/)

#### **Topics:**

* Increase your understanding of what a cooperative can do
* Steps for starting a new cooperative
* Strategies for working through challenges
* Develop a business outline and actionable steps

#### **Description:**

The cooperative model works well in rural America. If you find that the local infrastructure isn’t supporting your operation the way you need, starting a producer-run cooperative can be just the ticket to getting the job done. To put your cooperative on the path to success, join this team of experienced co-op leaders to learn the fundamentals of cooperative principles, structure, governance, and finances.

Kelly Maynard works for the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives supporting local and regional food system development. FL Morris is a certified organic farmer and founding member of the newly formed South Central Wisconsin Hemp Cooperative. Rod Ofte is an organic livestock producer who helped start the Wisconsin Grass-Fed Beef Cooperative.

They’ll walk you through the steps for starting a new cooperative, including key questions to ask, common stumbling blocks, and decisions you’ll need to make. They’ll look at scenarios from their co-ops and other producer-owned cooperatives to explain the challenges faced by real businesses and the strategies that help cooperative members and boards work through those challenges.

Whether your cooperative is still a dream or something you’re actively planning, you’ll find this class relevant. If you are actively planning a co-op, bring along your plans to “workshop” your ideas during the day and leave with a rough business outline and actionable steps.

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**DUE DATE: February, 1, 2020**

Send completed form to: Diane Tiry at dtiry@wisconsinfarmersunion.com
or to MOSES University - WFU Scholarship, 117 W. Spring Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

## Part I: Participant Information

Name:

 [Last] [First] [Middle Initial]

Home:

 [Street] [City] [State] [Zip Code]

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current WFU member? (circle) yes no Birth Date:

 (Month) (Day) (Year)

**Part II: Scholarship (First Time Attendees-First Choice)**

The WFU Board of Directors has approved four scholarships for the MOSES Organic University – Start a Producer-Owned Co-op from 10am to 5:30pm February 27, 2020 in La Crosse, WI. Each scholarship recipient will be reimbursed up to a **$250 limit** to help offset the cost of registration and travel to attend this event.

**Participant Expectations:**

* Register online for the MOSES Organic University – Start a Producer-Owned Co-op.
* Pay for any meals not included in the event agenda, including meals while traveling (non-reimbursable).
* Keep track of registration expense and mileage to and from the event. Promptly send detailed receipts and report mileage to the state office within thirty days of event. An expense report will be sent to you to report these expenses on.

\* Expenses to include: registration fee of $180 (must be registered by February 18th for that rate), plus $.55/mile reimbursement, with total scholarship reimbursement limited to $250. Reimbursement may take up to four weeks after submission of receipts and report.

* Give a report of your experience at a local Farmers Union chapter meeting and/or in writing (blog post, newsletter article, etc.).

**Part III: Essay Questions** [Answer as completely as possible. You may use extra paper.]

1. Why is attending the MOSES Organic University – Start a Producer-Owned Co-op important to you?
2. Please share a paragraph or two about yourself, your farm (if applicable), and what drew you to Farmers Union.
3. Please include any other information you would like to share not covered in 1 & 2 above (150 words or less).