

## **“Cooperative Development Emphasis”**

A special program emphasis conducted by *the Center for Profitable Agriculture* and funded in cooperation with the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development (KCCD) and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture

*Established in October 2003, the Cooperative Development Emphasis is a 15-month Extension program which combines resources and objectives from the Center for Profitable Agriculture, the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. The program is envisioned to improve the understanding and application of cooperative development strategies, increase the consideration of cooperative efforts and improve the success of cooperative efforts by farmers. Specific program strategies include identification of a “cooperative development program leader,” conducting two mini-conferences, conducting one training session for agricultural leaders and educators, facilitating strategy sessions for two well-organized producer groups, disseminating cooperative development information via the Internet and conducting analytical work relative to the state’s pending “processing cooperative law.”*

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**Below is an update on the “Cooperative Development Emphasis” activities from July to September 2004.**

### **Publishing:**

- **“Considerations for Membership/Investment in a Processing Cooperative”** - - This document provides a quick introduction to some important thoughts and terms for those farmers who may consider membership and investing in a processing cooperative. The 12-page manuscript is currently in the peer-review process and is slated for publication in November 2004.
- **“Commentary and Overview for the Tennessee Processing Cooperative Law”** - - The manuscript for this 42-page document has completed the peer review process and is currently in the layout and design phase of final publication. It will be published as UT Extension PB # 1748 and is slated for release in October 2004.
- CPA Info #95 - - Printed slides of a PowerPoint Presentation on the Tennessee Processing Cooperative Law - - This fact sheet has been used as a handout for various presentations and discussions regarding the new cooperative law.
- CPA Info # 96 - - **“Thoughts for Farmers Considering Membership/Investment in a Processing Cooperative”** - -This fact sheet has been used as a handout and worksheet for various group meetings and teaching.
- CPA Info # 97 - - **“Introduction and Overview for the Tennessee Processing Cooperative Law”** - - This fact sheet has been used as a handout for various group meetings and teaching. It has served as an interim handout until the official UT PB #1748 is completed.
- CPA Info #98 - - **“A Follow-Up to the Cooperative Study Tour”** - - This fact sheet was developed to document many of the quotes, thoughts and observations from the out-of-state cooperative development study tour. This document is pending distribution to those who participated in the study tour and will be used in various other outreach and teaching programs.

### **Outreach:**

- **July 27** - - Small Group Training Session on the new Tennessee Processing Cooperative Law. Training sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and the CPA. Training conducted at the Ellington Agricultural Center with 18 participants.
- **August 13** - - Presentation at the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation’s “County President’s Conference.” This presentation was made in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture with 50 participants.
- **August 17 - 19** - - Cooperative Development Study Tour. This trip included educational presentations and on-site visits and discussion with various farmer cooperatives in Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky and involved 19 participants from Tennessee.
- **August 26** - - Presentation to the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives “Coop Employee Training” Seminar Training conducted at the Ellington Agricultural Center with 34 participants.

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*“The Cooperative Development Emphasis is well established in the Center for Profitable Agriculture. We have a strong foot-hold on meeting each of the program objectives. We are assisting with real issues and we are learning about how to better develop cooperative efforts among farmers. The program is well underway.”*

Rob Holland  
Program Leader for the “Cooperative Development Emphasis”  
*Center for Profitable Agriculture*