

Workshop to explore rural cooperative opportunities

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Nebraska Farmers Union will sponsor a Rural Cooperative Opportunities Workshop at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis Tuesday, April 6, at the Student Center from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The event is open to the public.

Speakers will include:

Lori Cappel, area technician for Nebraska USDA Rural Development in the North Platte Service Center, who will focus on the various programs and funding opportunities available for renewable energy from USDA Rural Development

Jim Crandall, outreach program coordinator for the Nebraska Cooperative Development Center, who will explain cooperative history, structure, and benefits as well as state sources of funding.

Scott McPheeters, board member of KAAPA Ethanol, will describe the history, challenges and benefits of farmer ownership of ethanol.

Jim Knopik, president and manager of North Star Neighbors in Fullerton. He will describe his direct marketing cooperative experience and also how to participate in the Nebraska Food Coop.

John Hansen, president of Nebraska Farmers Union and co-chair of the Nebraska Wind Working Group, will detail the various ways that farmers and ranchers can help gain the benefits of wind energy ownership through Community Based Energy Development and Landowner Wind Farm Associations.

There will be no registration fees for the workshop nor charge for the noon lunch thanks to

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funding from CHS Foundation.

The public, especially farmers, ranchers and individuals working in the rural economic development areas are encouraged to attend.