

**From:** National Cooperative Business Association [info@ncba.coop]  
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April, 2010

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## Last Call for Conference Registration

NCBA has a truly exciting agenda planned for our upcoming Annual Meeting and Cooperative Conference, May 4 – 6 at the Capital Hilton, 16th & K, NW, Washington, DC.

On Tuesday, May 4th, you will be able to tour local co-ops in the Greenbelt area or attend a workshop on how your co-op can help establish more co-ops and join us at our opening reception which is focused on international co-op development.

Wednesday, May 5th, is dedicated to our annual business meeting and public policy activities, which means a trip to Capitol Hill to meet with your representatives in Congress to discuss issues of interest to co-ops.

On Thursday, May 6th, we bring the tremendously popular “Best Practices” session from our Purchasing Co-op Conference to this cross-sector meeting so you can learn from the best. The day also includes six amazing breakout sessions.

Single-day registration is available, as well as full-conference rates. Please [register online now](#) or call 202-383-5440 .

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## Changes in Leadership at CDF



The CDF Board of Directors recently

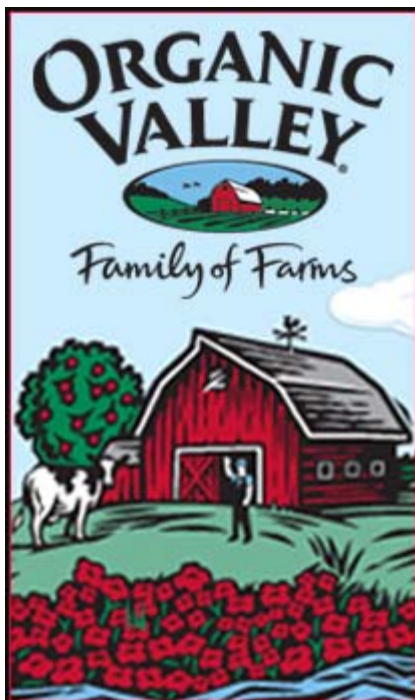
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announced the departure of Steve Thomas and the appointment of Liz Bailey to serve as Interim Executive Director. During Steve's tenure he modernized both the CDF website and contributions database, launched several new initiatives, and lead the CDF staff with a proactive attitude. In thanking Steve for his contributions to both CDF and NCBA, the CDF board also welcomed back someone who is very familiar with CDF and the broader cooperative community. Bailey served as CDF's Executive Director from 2003 to 2008, presiding over a period in which the foundation grew both its programming and its financial assets. Her first priority in this interim period will be the 2010 Cooperative Hall of Fame. "We have an outstanding group of inductees and I hope you all will join us at the National Press Club on May 5th, 2010 to share in the celebration of their lives of service to the cooperative community," Bailey said.

More information on the Hall of Fame can be found at [www.heroes.coop](http://www.heroes.coop). To join a "Friends of..." congratulatory ad, go to [www.cdf.coop](http://www.cdf.coop). You may contact Liz Bailey at [lbailey@cdf.coop](mailto:lbailey@cdf.coop) and (703) 302-8093 .

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## Business Alliance for Local Living Economies Conference Includes Co-ops

BALLE's Eighth Annual Business Conference, "Lighting the Way to a New Economy" takes place May 21-23 in Charleston, S.C. Presenters include NCBA's own Andrew McLeod, as well as a variety of other co-op experts. This conference is a chance for cooperators to meet the nation's leading thinkers and practitioners in green jobs, sustainable agriculture, thinking local first, community capital and slow money, green building and energy efficiency, cooperative businesses, and the evolving policies for sustainable economic development. The BALLE alliance is comprised of 80 community business networks linking 22,000 independent businesses in 30 U.S. states and Canadian provinces. Details and registration is at [BALLE's web site](#).

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## New Staff

Three new employees joined NCBA's Washington, D.C. staff in March.



Carolina Reynoso is the new program manager for Mozambique. She is known as an effective leader working with indigenous communities, non-governmental organizations, and civil society. She has worked with local small business owners and entrepreneurs on strengthening their capabilities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from George Washington University.

Tiffany Cuna is the new assistant program manager for Mozambique. She is a returned Peace Corps volunteer, who served in Mozambique 2006-2009. She has experience in project design and management, leadership, facilitation, and teaching with an unyielding commitment to excellence. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Drama from University of California, Irvine.

Samantha Watson is a new assistant program manager in our international department. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from American University, and holds a Master of Arts in International Policy and Economics at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). She has also published articles in SAIS' newspaper, The Observer.

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## Volcano chaos impacts NCBA

NCBA CEO Paul Hazen was to visit Moscow this week, to participate in a panel of co-operators examining “Co-operative image building and branding” at the ICA’s European Regional Assembly and Co-operative Convention. The workshop – sponsored by [europe.domains.coop](http://europe.domains.coop) which, like NCBA, provides support for the registration of .coop web site domains – featured Hazen alongside leaders from Bulgaria, France, Russia and the U.K. in a discussion of ways to promote understanding and recognition of the cooperative model, including use of a .coop domain name.

Unfortunately, the severe disruption to global air travel caused by the Icelandic eruption led first to the cancellation of Hazen’s flight, and then the postponement of the entire event to a still-to-be-determined date and location.

Nevertheless, the [dotCoop](#) show goes on, and using a .coop domain remains a great idea! Be sure to contact NCBA about the free domain offer if you don’t have your .coop domain or for help in getting your .coop domain activated – it only takes

5 minutes - promise. Call the NCBA dotCoop Support team at 202-383-5442 .

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## Connect to NCBA's New Farmer-to-Farmer Program

Join NCBA on April 22 at 2 PM ET for a webinar on our brand new Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer program in Senegal and Niger!

Program manager Eric Wallace will explain what the Farmer-to-Farmer program is and how you can participate. Volunteers will work on projects in cooperative development, marketing, business planning, conservation techniques and a variety of other topics. Please join us to learn how you can apply your expertise. [Register now](#) to secure your attendance for this session.

For more information on NCBA Webinars, contact Carissa Heckathorn, manager of member services and marketing at [checkathorn@ncba.coop](mailto:checkathorn@ncba.coop) or call 202-383-5471 .

For more information on the Farmer-to-Farmer Program, please contact Eric Wallace at [ewallace@ncba.coop](mailto:ewallace@ncba.coop) or 202-383-5474 .

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## Foundation report mentions NCBA equity effort

In November, the Ford Foundation's Wealth Creation in Rural America project released a report titled, "Keeping Wealth Local: Shared Ownership and Wealth Control For Rural Communities," in which it identified a new NCBA initiative as strengthening the co-op model's potential as an economic alternative.

The report stated, "Another key weakness is that co-ops, because of their member-based ownership and control structure, have difficulty attracting non-member capital. One possible solution is being explored by the National Cooperative Business Association, which is considering creating a new equity investment fund, which could allow many cooperatives to access funds through a pool, like a

mutual fund, paying investors market or near-market returns.”

The report presents co-ops as an important way to “change the nature of wealth ownership in a way that benefits both the community and the individual.” The full report is available [online](#).

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## New Member: National Grape Cooperative

[National Grape Cooperative](#) is the sole owner of [Welch's](#), which is made from the produce of the co-op's 1,282 grape growers. For more than 50 years, the economic well being of co-op members has been the reason for the existence of Welch's, which is the world's leading marketer of Concord and Niagara grape products. The two organizations operate under a two-board system; National Grape focuses on delivering grapes, while Welch's converts them into popular food products.

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## Member Profile: Cooperative Fund of New England



The Cooperative Fund of New England is celebrating 35 years growing co-ops! A U.S. Treasury-certified community development financial institution (CDFI), CFNE serves as a bridge between socially responsible investors and cooperatives, community oriented non-profits, and worker-owned businesses across New England. The mission of the Cooperative Fund is to advance community based, cooperative, and democratically-owned or managed enterprises, with preference for those that serve low income communities. CFNE provides prompt financial assistance at reasonable rates, an investment opportunity that promotes socially conscious enterprise, and a regional reservoir of business skills with which to assist and advise these groups.

Since 1975, CFNE has made \$19 million in loans to almost 500 organizations — all without losing a penny of investor resources. The Cooperative Fund also provides equity-like patient capital through a sister organization, the Cooperative Capital Fund of New England.

For more information on investing or applying for a loan,  
please visit [www.coopfund.coop](http://www.coopfund.coop) and [www.coopcapital.coop](http://www.coopcapital.coop).

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