

The Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives presents

CO-OP CONVERSATIONS

A casual online gathering for co-operative professionals to learn from others in the field and exchange information

FARMER STRESS, CO-OP MEMBERS, PROBLEMATIC SOLIDARITY, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DAIRY FEATURING DR. THOMAS W. GRAY

Date: Wednesday, November 6

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 PM CST

(Saskatchewan time)

Where: on Zoom (free to attend)



Within co-operatives, member solidarity - or the socio-economic, behavioral, and emotional bonds that binds members to each other and to the organization – is vital to their sustainability. What happens when that solidarity is threatened? Dr. Thomas W. Gray recently published a [paper](#), where he qualitatively analyzed 1,000 comments from a survey of farmer members of a dairy co-operative in the northwest United States. Nearly all the comments express some level of dissatisfaction with the members, staff/management, the co-operative itself, and the larger socio-political economy. Within the context of farm displacement, Dr. Gray seeks to specify the worldview of these farmers under a industrialization-productionist regime (Wolf 2019) centering as much as possible on the affective experience of farmers as embedded in the written comments, as well as relying upon his own experience in a dairy farming community. Recommendations are drawn from these results.

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