

Director candidates announced

At the district meetings, stockowners will have the responsibility to help decide who will establish the future direction of NorthStar Cooperative, Inc. Please review the candidate biographies for your district and be prepared to cast your vote via mail ballot or at the meeting.

District 1

Bob Cossen (Incumbent)



A member of the NorthStar board of directors since 2000, Bob originally represented DHI Services and later District 1 on the board. Bob currently serves on the NorthStar audit committee and is a member of the AntelBio board of directors. Bob has served on both the Michigan DHIA and Universal Lab Services board of directors, and was president of both organizations. Active in the community, he has worked in leadership roles with various organizations including the Missaukee County Youth Show and Missaukee County Farm Bureau. Bob operates a 390-Holstein dairy farm in Falmouth, Michigan.

District 2

Ken Gasper (Incumbent)

A member of the NorthStar board of directors since 1983, Ken served as president of the Cooperative for 11 years. Currently Ken represents NorthStar on the Select Sires board of directors and is a member of the AntelBio board of directors. Over the years, Ken has served his community in various capacities being active in both Michigan Milk Producers Association and Michigan Farm Bureau. Ken has served on the Ionia County Cooperative Extension advisory committee; the Ionia County DHI board and the MSU Animal Science advisory committee. Ken and his son Aaron operate Lew-Max Holsteins, a 270-cow herd in Belding, Michigan.



District 11

Kim Barta (Incumbent)



A member of the NorthStar board of directors since 1995, Kim currently serves as chairman of the Cooperative's audit committee. Active in his community, Kim is president of the Barron County Dairy Promoters and secretary for Barron County Farm Bureau. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin - River Falls with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture, Kim is a partner of J Blayne Barta & Sons Dairy Farm, a 110-cow herd in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

District 12

Mike Heckaman (Incumbent)

A member of the NorthStar board of directors since 1998, Mike has served as the Cooperative's president since 2004. Mike has held numerous leadership positions in the agricultural community and currently serves on the resolutions and advisory committee for Dairy Farmers of America, is chairman of the county committee for Farm Service Agency and is a board member for the Marshall County Dairy Association and the Fulton-Marshall Co-op. Mike operates Argos Holstein Farms, a 420-cow dairy in Argos, Indiana.



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