

# IOWA INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATIVES

2515 University Blvd., Suite #104 • Ames, IA 50010 • (515) 292-2667 • info@iowainstitute.coop

## **2025 NextGen Managers Program**

(Maximum 20 participants)

### **1 Program Cohort – delivered in 4 Sessions:**

**July 28-29, 2025;      January 5, 2026;**

**February 3, 2026;      March 2-3, 2026**

Courtyard Hotel - Ames  
311 S 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames, Iowa 50010

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This cohort program is designed for your next level of management, exposing attendees to multiple beneficial topics as they grow in their careers at your cooperative.

In today's evolving business landscape, visionary leaders who can navigate complexities and drive innovation are essential. Our program cultivates the next generation of leaders, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and mindset to excel.

Participants will cover diverse subjects, including strategic thinking, effective communication, and advanced problem-solving. Through interactive workshops, case studies, and collaborative projects, attendees gain practical insights and hands-on experience, empowering them to lead with confidence and agility.

The program emphasizes ethical leadership and collaboration. By engaging with industry experts, participants adopt the best practices and innovative approaches for their teams and the broader cooperative.

Investing in our future leaders enhances individual capabilities and strengthens our cooperative foundation. Together, we will build a resilient, forward-thinking organization ready for tomorrow's challenges and opportunities. Join us in this transformative journey and shape the future of leadership at your cooperative.

Sincerely,

Matthew Eddy, Director of Cooperative Education

Bobby Martens, Executive Director

## NextGen Hotel information:

A room block is available at [Book your group rate for Iowa Institute for Cooperatives](#) or by calling the Courtyard Ames and mentioning the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives.

Courtyard Ames and Conference Center  
311 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames, Iowa 50010  
866-994-8737

## Event Summary:

**Start Date: Sunday, July 27, 2025**

**End Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2025**

**Hotel(s) offering your special group rate:**

- Courtyard Ames for 149.00 USD per night - Last Day to Book : Wednesday, July 02, 2025

[Book your group rate for Iowa Institute for Cooperatives](#)

**Start Date: Sunday, March 01, 2026**

**End Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2026**

**Hotel(s) offering your special group rate:**

- Courtyard Ames for 149.00 USD per night - Last Day to Book : Sunday, February 08, 2026

[Book your group rate for Iowa Institute for Cooperatives](#)

## Q&A:

**Who should I register for the NextGen Managers Program?**

- Cooperative employees that you see have the potential to continue their career and be promoted within your company. Currently, we are holding to a **maximum of 3 participants** from any one cooperative.

**What will participants need to bring with them?**

- Participants will need a laptop and access to the Copilot application within their Office 365 subscription. The application will be used on July 29 and again on January 5. Continued access to Copilot after the program ends will be determined by the management of each cooperative. For additional assistance, contact Matthew Eddy at [meddy@iowainstitute.coop](mailto:meddy@iowainstitute.coop) or call 515-231-1929.

**Do I need to attend on all dates?**

- To complete the program, participants will need to participate in all activities listed in the program. This inaugural cohort will meet over 4 different periods from July to March.
- We will utilize a virtual delivery in February to take advantage of programming content and mitigate weather concerns.

**Do I need to stay at the Courtyard Hotel?**

- No, a block of rooms has been secured for July and for March at the Courtyard and the hotel will host the sessions. You are welcome to make alternative arrangements.
- You can book 1 or 2 nights in the block on either date.

# Agenda

2025 NextGen Managers Program

Courtyard Ames and Conference Center

311 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames, Iowa 50010

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## Monday, July 28, 2025 – Day 1

10:00 AM-5:45 PM – Site: Ames, Iowa

10:00 a.m.	-	12:00 p.m.	<b>Cooperative Foundations and Principles</b> <i>Iowa Institute for Cooperatives will share insights on cooperative vision and culture. We'll explore the rich history of cooperatives within Iowa, highlighting key milestones that have shaped the cooperative landscape and the value propositions that cooperatives offer.</i>
12:00 p.m.	-	12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
12:30 p.m.	-	3:00 p.m.	<b>Growing Managers</b> <b>Dr. Jim Summers, Iowa State University</b> <i>In this module, managers will learn about what is expected of a first-time manager, focusing on understanding the foundations of accountability. Specifically, managers will learn how to properly set and communicate expectations, provide effective feedback including how to better handle difficult performance issues while coaching employees up.</i>
2:00 p.m.	-	2:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3:45 p.m.	-	5:45 p.m.	<b>Learning Tour</b> Location TBD
5:45 p.m.	--		<b>Dinner and Networking</b>

## Tuesday, July 29, 2025 – Day 2

8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. – Site: Ames, Iowa

7:30 a.m.	-	8:00 a.m.	<b>Coffee and Pastries</b>
8:00 a.m.	-	12:00 p.m.	<b>Supply Chain and Global Logistics</b> <i>This Supply Chain Management and Global Positioning module will help managers better understand supply chain concepts they deal with every day but don't usually think about in depth. Topics like balancing supply and demand, handling uncertainty, managing inventory and safety stock, and meeting service levels will give managers a clearer view of the cooperative's role in global agricultural supply chains</i>
12:00 p.m.	-	12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
12:30 p.m.	-	2:30 p.m.	<b>Supply Chain Simulation and Decision-making</b> <i>The simulation will help reinforce supply chain problems and will look at managing valuable logistics and transportation networks in the face of supply/demand scenarios.</i>
2:30 p.m.		3:00 p.m.	<b>Wrap-up Discussion and Conclusion</b>

# Monday, January 5, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. – Site: TBA

<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	-	9:00 a.m.	<b>Coffee and Pastries</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	-	12:00 p.m.	<b>Technology for Managers</b> <i>The first part of the course introduces you to Copilot for Microsoft 365, examines how you can use Copilot throughout the various Microsoft 365 apps, explores best practices for using Copilot and building effective prompts, and examines how you can extend Copilot.</i>
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	-	12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	-	3:30 p.m.	<b>Use Cases for Technology*</b> <i>The second part of this training content is really the heart of this course. Students perform a series of hands-on exercises involving seven Use Cases - Executives, Sales, Marketing, Finance, IT, HR, and Operations</i>
<b>3:30 p.m.</b>		4:00 p.m.	<b>Wrap-up Discussion and Conclusion</b>

*\*Must have Copilot subscription in Microsoft 365*

# Tuesday, February 3, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. – Site: Virtual

<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	-	9:00 a.m.	<b>Coffee and Pastries – BYO</b> Morning Conversation via Web
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	-	11:00 a.m.	<b>Decision Making</b> <i>As decision making is at the very core of management, this module will take managers through a decision-making simulation, which will highlight common situations that managers typically encounter. We will discuss these common pitfalls and how to proactively counteract them.</i>

## Monday, March 2, 2026 – Day 1

10:00 AM-5:45 PM – Site: Ames, Iowa

9:30 a.m.	-	10:00 a.m.	<b>Coffee and Pastries</b> Morning Conversation
9:00 a.m.	-	12:00 a.m.	<b>Conflict Management</b> <i>As decision making is at the very core of management, this module will take managers through a decision-making simulation, which will highlight common situations that managers typically encounter. We will discuss these common pitfalls and how to proactively counteract them.</i>
12:00 p.m.	-	12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
12:30 p.m.	-	3:00 p.m.	<b>Situational Leadership II</b> <i>The SLII Model by Blanchard focuses on three essential skills: Goal Setting, Diagnosing, and Matching, which enhance leadership effectiveness and adaptability. This course equips participants with these skills through engaging videos and case studies, fostering improved conversations with employees and promoting self-reliance.</i>
2:00 p.m.	-	2:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3:45 p.m.	-	5:45 p.m.	<b>Learning Tour</b> Location TBD
5:45 p.m.	--		<b>Dinner and Networking</b>

## Tuesday, March 3, 2026 – Day 2

8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. – Site: Ames, Iowa

7:30 a.m.	-	8:00 a.m.	<b>Coffee and Pastries</b>
8:00 a.m.	-	12:00 p.m.	<b>The Bin is half full – Grain Industry Outlook</b> TBA
12:00 p.m.	-	12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
12:30 p.m.	-	2:30 p.m.	<b>Warehouse Bureau, Iowa Department of Agriculture</b> <i>The Iowa Warehouse Bureau, part of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, oversees the licensing and regulation of grain warehouses and dealers in the state. Its primary responsibilities include ensuring financial solvency, protecting farmers through the Iowa Grain Depositors and Sellers Indemnity Fund, and maintaining standards for safe grain storage and handling practices.</i>
2:30 p.m.	-	3:00 p.m.	<b>Wrap-up Discussion, Graduation, and Conclusion</b>

# Registration

2025 NextGen Managers Program  
Courtyard Ames and Conference Center  
311 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames, Iowa 50010

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**Registration due Wednesday, July 11, 2025**

\$2750 per person

Please make checks out to:

Iowa Institute for Cooperatives  
2515 University Blvd., Suite #104  
Ames, IA 50010

Submit your registration online by [clicking here!](#)

Alternatively, you may complete the registration form below and submit it to [info@iowainstitute.coop](mailto:info@iowainstitute.coop).

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Cooperative Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperative Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrants Name	Registrants Email

# of attendees \_\_\_\_ X \$2750 = \$\_\_\_\_\_