

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Vilsack Issues Proclamation Recognizing National Cooperative Month

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4, 2022 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack issued a USDA [proclamation](#) recognizing October 2022 as National Cooperative Month and celebrating the vital role that cooperatives play in improving economic opportunities and the quality of life in America.

This year's National Cooperative Month theme is "Co-ops Build Economic Power," echoing the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to create new and better markets, increase equity and combat climate change.

In his proclamation, Vilsack noted that more than 30,000 cooperatives operate at 73,000 places of business throughout the U.S. They account for more than 2 million jobs, boast about 350 million memberships and generate \$660 billion in annual revenue.

Agricultural cooperatives operate in 9,500 locations in 50 states and have a long history as a resilient, sustainable business model. USDA Rural Development continues to partner with cooperatives as they serve their members' needs, fill market gaps, and create opportunities.

The proclamation also highlighted the importance of cooperatives to provide power and high-speed internet, promote job creation, and improve education and health care services to people in rural America.

USDA Rural Development offers a variety of financial assistance and services to assist rural businesses, including cooperatives and agricultural producers. To learn more, visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/cooperatives>.

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