

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH  
October 2019

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture has designated “Co-ops: By the Community, For the Community” as its theme for National Cooperative Month 2019, recognizing cooperatives as vital engines in creating and sustaining a viable future for the Nation’s rural communities; and

**WHEREAS** approximately 30,000 cooperatives—including agricultural, utility, financial services, food/grocery, housing, and retail co-ops—operate at 73,000 places of business throughout the U.S., account for more than 2 million jobs, boast about 350 million memberships and generate \$645 billion in annual revenue; and

**WHEREAS** 1,806 agricultural cooperatives alone operate at more than 8,800 locations in 50 States, employ 187,000 people, and generate more than \$203 billion in revenue from farmer-owned assets of \$96 billion; and

**WHEREAS** rural electrical co-ops provide power to three-quarters of the Nation’s landmass and, along with rural telecommunications co-ops, are helping to expand broadband Internet service, thus making rural America more competitive by promoting job creation and improved education and healthcare services;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of the vital role that cooperatives play in improving economic opportunity and the quality of life in rural America, I, Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim October 2019 as National Cooperative Month. I encourage all Americans to learn more about cooperatives and to celebrate cooperatives’ accomplishments with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of October 2019, the two-hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

  
SONNY PERDUE  
Secretary