

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

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH
October 2021

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture has designated “**Build Back for Impact**” as its theme for National Cooperative Month 2021, recognizing cooperatives as a trusted, democratic, time-tested way to conduct business and build communities; and

WHEREAS more than 30,000 cooperatives—including agricultural, utility, financial services, purchasing, 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 \$654 billion in annual revenue; and

WHEREAS 1,746 agricultural cooperatives operate at more than 9,500 locations in 50 States, employ 186 thousand people, generate more than \$200 billion in revenue from farmer-owned assets of \$102 billion, and earn more than \$8 billion, much of which is returned to farmer-member-owners in the form of patronage; 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the vital role that cooperatives play in improving economic opportunity and the quality of life in America, I, Thomas Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as **National Cooperative Month**. I encourage all Americans to learn more about cooperatives and celebrate cooperatives’ accomplishments with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28 day of October 2021, the two-hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.



THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary