

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

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH  
October 2020

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture has designated “Cooperatives Commit: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion” as its theme for National Cooperative Month 2020, recognizing cooperatives as a trusted, proven way to do business and build 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 \$654 billion in annual revenue; and

**WHEREAS** 1,778 agricultural cooperatives operate at more than 9,300 locations in 50 States, employ 184,000 people, generate more than \$203 billion in revenue from farmer-owned assets of \$100 billion, and earn almost \$8 billion, much of which is returned to farmer-member owners; 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, Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim October 2020 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 13th day of October 2020, the two-hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America.



SONNY PERDUE  
Secretary