



Brooke L. Rollins

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20250

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH
OCTOBER 2026

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

“WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes ‘Built for this Moment’ as the theme for National Cooperative Month 2026. Celebrating the cooperative business model’s unique ability to inspire collaboration and spark innovation across businesses, farms, and rural communities, and help unlock greater economic prosperity throughout rural America;

WHEREAS more than **30,000 cooperatives**, including food, grocery, worker, retail, purchasing, utility, housing, and financial cooperatives, support over **2.5 million jobs** and generate roughly **\$650 billion in annual revenue**. Employee-owned worker cooperatives are the fastest-growing sector, offering workers a vital pathway to assume ownership of small businesses as their owners retire, preserving local enterprises and expanding economic opportunities;

WHEREAS agricultural cooperatives generate **\$229 billion in revenue** for America’s farmers from **9,172 locations in all 50 states**;

WHEREAS cooperatives serve as a powerful catalyst in rural America, putting Farmers First by supporting all types of farms, with particular emphasis on America’s beef ranchers and producers. This will strengthen profitability, expand markets, foster innovation, bring jobs back to rural communities, and reinforce America’s leadership in agriculture, food production, and farm security;

WHEREAS rural electric cooperatives provide affordable power to more than half of the nation’s landmass, serve **42 million people**, and are leading the way as innovators of the country’s energy deployment initiatives;

WHEREAS rural telecommunications cooperatives help unlock new markets for rural businesses and improve education and health care services via the expansion of broadband;

WHEREAS the cooperative model is resilient as evidenced by the fact that nearly **25 percent** of agricultural cooperatives are **more than 100 years old**;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the unique and vital role that cooperatives play in setting the stage for the next generation of American greatness, I, Brooke L. Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim October 2026 as National Cooperative Month. I encourage all Americans to learn more about cooperatives and celebrate their economic power with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, the two-hundred fiftieth year of the Independence of the United States of America.”

Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture