

## October is National Co-op Month

ACE Hardware, State Farm, Land O'Lakes, Prairie Farms, and Butler County REC all share something in common: We're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and service to the greater community good.

October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide framework for the future. Check out the back of this insert for the seven principles of cooperatives.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**



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# The Seven Cooperative Principles

- 1. Voluntary and open membership:** Open to all persons able to use our services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership
- 2. Democratic member control:** Controlled by our members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions
- 3. Members' economic participation:** Our members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative
- 4. Autonomy and independence:** We are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by our members
- 5. Education, training, and information:** We provide education and training for our members, elected representatives, managers, and employees
- 6. Cooperation among cooperatives:** We serve our members by working with local, national, regional, and international structures
- 7. Concern for community:** While focusing on member needs, we work for the sustainable development of our communities through policies accepted by our members