

## Secretary Vilsack Announces that America's Farm Co-ops Set Records in 2011

Written by USDA Office of Communications  
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Month: Co-ops set Sales and Income Records, Number of Co-op Jobs Also up

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2, 2012 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said today that farmer, rancher and fisher

"These new cooperative sales and income records for 2011 underscore the strength and productivity of our

Net income before taxes for all agricultural co-ops was a record \$5.4 billion, eclipsing the previous high

The year also saw double-digit increases in prices for dairy products, cotton, livestock and grains and o

Top 100 Ag co-ops

USDA's annual list of the [100 largest agricultural cooperatives](#), also released today, shows that they also

CHS Inc., Saint Paul, Minn. – an energy, farm supply, grain and food co-op – was once again the nation

Iowa is home to 14 of the top 100 ag co-ops, the most of any state. It is followed by Minnesota with 13,

Most Ag co-op sectors see gains

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Looking at the entire ag co-op sector, grain and oilseed sales by cooperatives climbed by almost \$14 billion in 2011.

Marketing of food, fiber, renewable fuels and farm supplies by cooperatives experienced 24 percent increase in 2011.

The value of cooperative assets in 2011 grew by about \$13 billion, with liabilities increasing by \$11 billion.

Patronage income (refunds from other cooperatives due to sales between cooperatives) fell by more than 10 percent in 2011.

Farmer, rancher and fishery cooperatives remain one of the largest employers in many rural communities.

There was a continued downward trend in farm numbers, with USDA counting 2.2 million farms in 2011, down from 2.3 million in 2010.

Producers held 2.3 million memberships in cooperatives in 2011, up 2 percent from 2010. The number of cooperatives grew to 10,000 in 2011.

For more in-depth information about how the nation's Agricultural Cooperatives performed in 2011, see the report at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/About/AbouttheAgency/SAG/Coop/CoopOperatives.html>.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger economic growth in rural America.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has an active portfolio of more than \$170 billion in rural development loans and grants.

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