



**SUPPORT for the COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL
and the INTERNATIONAL YEAR of COOPERATIVES
2024 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Support for the cooperative business model is a bedrock principle of NFU. The Farmers Union triangle represents our core principles, one of which is cooperation. This includes the importance of working together to achieve common goals, along with our commitment to cooperative education and cooperative business development.

Farmers Union was founded in 1902 by farmers organizing – in large part – to form cooperative warehouses to store cotton until market prices improved and to build strength in the face of corporate monopolies. Additionally, in the early years of our organization, Farmers Union helped develop and pass laws, such as the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922, that allowed for the growth and proliferation of farmer-owned cooperatives.

We reaffirm our commitment to cooperative development and education. We also reaffirm our belief in the Rochdale Principles of cooperation, which were designed to ensure democratic control of cooperative businesses by members and that the members receive the primary benefits of their cooperative enterprise. These seven principles include voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community.

In November 2023, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2025 the second International Year of Cooperatives. NFU was a leader in the promotion of the first international year of Cooperatives in 2012, and we will again demonstrate our leadership in 2025 by promoting the cooperative model and educating our communities and policy makers about the principles, benefits, and impact of cooperatives.

When cooperatives are successful and remain committed to the cooperative principles, their members, their communities, and our country benefit. The continued success of the cooperative movement is essential to the mission of every Farmers Union state division, the future of NFU, and our country.