

Girl Scouts and our country. Kathy leaves Girl Scouts on the eve of its 100th anniversary, with a mission and program that is as critically important today as it was 100 years ago. We wish her the best in all of her continuing work for girls nationwide, and we welcome her back home to Tennessee. ●

TRIBUTE TO AMBER AUGUSTUS

● Mr. COONS. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor the 2012 recipient of the Delaware Teacher of the Year Award, Mrs. Amber Augustus. For over 7 years, Mrs. Augustus has been providing Delaware children with an exceptional education in the fields of Social Studies, Math, and Science. Every day Amber approaches teaching with an unyielding determination and passion that fosters a wonderful learning environment for her students. Today, I give thanks to her and all the teachers across the state of Delaware who help foster a love for learning and a desire for knowledge with every student they teach.

It is essential that we continue to take the time to honor excellent educators who are devoted to preparing the next generation of young adults. Day in and day out, teachers and educators across the country are tasked with the enormous responsibility of preparing our children for their futures and helping them to achieve their dreams. It is imperative that we encourage our teachers and thank them for inspiring our youth to be all that they can be. Mr. President, teachers like Amber Augustus are shining examples of the generous and giving spirit of the American people.

I congratulate Mrs. Amber Augustus on being named the 2012 Delaware Teacher of the Year. Her hard work and dedication to her students and the state of Delaware is greatly appreciated. On behalf of all Delawareans, I extend my thanks to each and every teacher who was nominated for this coveted award and to the continued efforts of teachers across the country to invest in and provide quality education to America's youth. ●

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I wish to submit for the RECORD an article written by Scott Zimmerman, cooperatives specialist with the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and published October 15, 2011, in the Wyoming Livestock Journal. The article's title is "Cooperatives Continue to Shape the Landscape in Rural Wyoming."

Across the country, October is celebrated as National Cooperative Month. With the fall harvest season upon us, our Nation's farmers are seeing the fruits of their labors. Gov. Matt Mead has declared October Cooperative Month in my home State of Wyoming. In his article, Scott Zimmerman traces the history of cooperatives and ex-

plains how their founding principles continue to guide cooperatives today.

As Mr. Zimmerman points out, cooperatives form the basis of life in many rural communities. Cooperatives have shaped the landscape of American agriculture and rural way of life. For example, their pioneering organization led to memberowned and operated Rural Electric Associations. These co-ops first brought electricity to many small Wyoming communities. Additionally, cooperatives help many small Wyoming farmers and ranchers keep their costs low by purchasing needed inputs such as fertilizer, seed, and fuel at a discount. They accomplish this by pooling their purchasing power and buying farm inputs with volume pricing, thus taking advantage of their collective economy of scale.

The author also notes how cooperatives market their goods together as well. This allows buyers to source larger volumes of a product from a single seller, rather than attempting to procure a similar volume from many different sellers. This increased procurement efficiency allows buyers to offer higher prices to the co-op members than they would otherwise receive.

American consumers also have reason to celebrate National Cooperative Month. By contributing to increased efficiency, both in the way farm inputs are purchased and outputs are sold, consumers as well as co-op members benefit. Cooperatives provide lower prices to the final consumer by keeping the cost to produce and market their goods and services down.

Two of the founding principles of cooperatives are cooperation among cooperatives and commitment to their communities. I would like to acknowledge and recognize Scott Zimmerman and all co-op members who assist in bringing safe, wholesome, and affordable food to our tables in a spirit of cooperation and community involvement.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COOPERATIVES CONTINUE TO SHAPE THE LANDSCAPE IN RURAL WYOMING

(By Scott Zimmerman, Cooperatives Specialist, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union)

October is being celebrated across the U.S. as National Cooperative Month, and Governor Matt Mead has signed a proclamation declaring Cooperative Month in Wyoming as part of this celebration. Here at Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and our Cooperative Development Center we applaud the Governor's action, and we join with him in saluting cooperatives nationwide.

To understand what cooperatives mean today, it helps to understand the history of cooperatives. The cooperative movement began in Europe in the 19th Century, not long after the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The increasing mechanization of the European economy transformed society. It threatened the livelihoods of skilled workers and destroyed businesses too small to compete with industrial giants. Labor and social movements attempted to address the need for change.

The Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers was formed in Rochdale, England in

1844. Mechanization was replacing skilled workers with unskilled labor. Weavers were being replaced with machines that produced quantity without much regard for quality. These tradesmen, driven into poverty by industrialization, banded together to open their own store. They designed the Rochdale Principles to govern their business and they pooled their meager capital to stock their store with simple necessities at affordable prices. They were so successful that, in the next 10 years, more than 1,000 co-ops sprang up in Great Britain.

Cooperatives worldwide still subscribe to the Rochdale principles that guided these first cooperators to success. There are seven original principles:

1. Open, voluntary membership
2. Democratic governance (one member, one vote)
3. Members control capital and equity
4. Autonomous, independent governance
5. Education and training in cooperative principles
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Commitment to their communities

Agricultural cooperatives have played a huge role in developing and sustaining local agriculture here in Wyoming and across the West. Wyoming agriculture has created and benefited from three general types of cooperative: service, supply and marketing. Each type fills a different role in our state.

The service cooperative, as its name suggests, provides its member owners with a service typically not available otherwise. A good example of this type of cooperative is member-owned Rural Electric Associations. Had it not been for the vision and hard work of the founding members of these co-ops, rural Wyoming would have remained without electricity many years longer. Co-ops emphasize benefits to members rather than measuring their results in raw profits, so small "local" electric utilities were able to address the need.

The supply cooperative offers its members the opportunity to buy inputs and raw materials at prices competitive with the volume discounts offered to the industrial corporations they must compete with. Typically the co-op can offer the supply item at volume pricing based on the buying power of the entire membership, and typically the coop will deliver to small, independent operations. Many rural Wyoming agricultural communities have been home to "fuel and supply" cooperatives. These operations offered fuel, seed, fertilizer and farm and ranch supplies to their members. Cenex is a well-known example of this type of cooperative that is still part of the Wyoming landscape.

The marketing cooperative typically pools its members' goods and offers them for direct sale to obtain the best price. Grain or commodity marketing cooperatives fall into this category, as well as the co-op food markets that benefit both consumers and producers.

Starting in the late 1970s, many states changed the legal definition of "cooperative," and a new kind of co-op emerged. New-generation cooperatives in rural America adapt traditional cooperative structures to the increasing need for capitalization. Some states now allow capital investors to participate as voting members. This kind of co-op often is an agricultural processor adding value to a primary product. Capitalized by investors and run democratically by members, they might be producing ethanol from corn, pasta from durum wheat or gourmet cheese from goat's milk. The highly successful Mountain States Lamb Cooperative, headquartered in Douglas, is an example of such a cooperative.

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union takes cooperation as one of its founding principles, and we have promoted cooperative solutions