

# Gov. Casey Proclaims October 'Cooperative Month'

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Gov. Robert P. Casey, has proclaimed October as "Cooperative Enterprise Month."

In doing so, he has urged cooperative associations to continue to reach out to all members, and encourages all citizens to recognize the important role cooperatives play in our economy.

According to Jay V. Rush, president of York Farm Credit, ACA and president of the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives (formerly the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives), the first cooperatives came into existence more than a century ago when farmers organized to market dairy products and purchase supplies more conveniently.

Today, Rush said, cooperatives have grown to include many more areas, including urban, as well as rural people. However, cooperatives continue to be a driving force in rural communities, providing the infrastructure that maintains the social and economic fabric of rural areas.

Pennsylvania, which has the highest percentage of rural population in the United States, benefits greatly from user-owned agricultural and rural cooperatives, according to Rush.

As today's agriculturalists and rural citizens are facing increasing

consumer and economic challenges, cooperatives continue to provide an important means for them to work together to strengthen our economy.

The Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives is a statewide organization of the agricultural and rural cooperatives that serve Pennsylvania. Its membership includes marketing, service, and supply cooperatives that serve the

rural communities in Pennsylvania. Its mission is to support the membership through educational programs and to provide information about the cooperative way of doing business to cooperative members and potential members, cooperative directors and employees, teens and young adults and support personnel, including extension and agricultural teachers.

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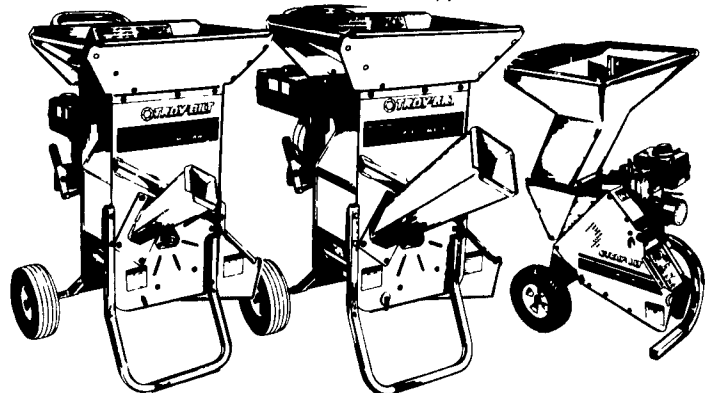


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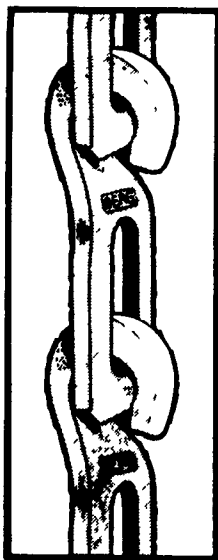


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