

COOPERATIVE MONTH

WHEREAS: Cooperatives are intrinsic to American private enterprise and our state and national economy, bringing into the free enterprise system people from every walk of life and every economic condition, thereby enriching our communities; and

WHEREAS: Cooperative businesses are created through the self-reliance of Americans who come together to meet their common economic, social and cultural aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise; and

WHEREAS: In Georgia, 70 percent of our population are capable of being served by electric cooperatives, and several farm cooperatives are prominent in Georgia as well. Working with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office, the Georgia Cooperative Council seeks ways to aid Georgia farmers in improving their income and staying on their farms through cooperatives; and

WHEREAS: The 2003 theme for Cooperative Month is “Cooperatives . . . Businesses People Trust,” emphasizing the principles that guide every cooperative and define their unique structure; and

WHEREAS: During the month of October people from every type of cooperative celebrate their achievements, reaffirm their commitment to the values that are the foundation of cooperative enterprise and look to the future that cooperatives help create; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2003 as COOPERATIVE MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this second day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand three.