

Cooperatives in the U.S.

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—A 2009 report published by the National Cooperative Business Association and the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives entitled *“Research on the Economic Impact of Cooperatives”*, herein referred to as the Economic Impact report, found the following:

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Nearly 30,000 U.S. cooperatives operate at 73,000 places of business throughout the U.S. These cooperatives own over \$3 trillion in assets, and generate over \$500 billion in revenue and over \$25 billion in wages. Extrapolating from the sample to the entire population, the study estimates that cooperatives account for nearly \$654 billion in revenue, over two million jobs, \$75 billion in wages and benefits paid, and a total of \$133.5 billion in value-added income. Americans hold 350 million memberships in cooperatives which generate nearly \$79 billion in total impact from patronage refunds and dividends.

For the Economic Impact Report, cooperatives were categorized in two ways - by type and sector. Which type a cooperative's is classified education as depends on the ownership structure and function of the organization (2009, pg. 10). The three main types of structure are: consumption, production, and hybrid (“Types of Cooperatives,” n.d.). Each type can be organized among individuals or organizations. To give the reader a better understanding of each of these types of cooperatives, a table illustrating cooperative type, subcategories, examples within each subcategory, and key facts about each cooperative is provided below. Information from this table, including definition, examples, and facts, were gathered from the aforementioned 2009 Economic Impact study and the National Cooperative Business Association, International Year of the Cooperatives websites, and CHS websites (“About Co-ops,” n.d.; “Types of Cooperatives,” n.d.; “CHS History Highlights,” 2013).

Table 1. Cooperative Classifications and Examples

Type	Subcategory	Example	Facts
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Description of Local Agricultural Economy

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The four major commodities marketed through Offerle Co-op are corn, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat. A 10 year average of total acres planted in Ford and Edwards counties for each of these commodities can be found below. While Offerle Co-op ~~does~~ serves customers from other counties, ~~these two counties are where~~ the majority of its members are located within these two particular counties. Two additional tables are ~~also~~ provided below, profiling key farm data from both Edwards and Ford counties.

Figure 5. 10 Year Average Acres Planted (2003-2012)

10 Year Average Acres Planted (2003 - 2012)				
County	Corn	Sorghum	Soybeans*	Wheat**
Edwards	64,000	25,000	26,000	111,000
Ford	49,000	70,000	12,000	190,000
Total	113,000	95,000	38,000	301,000
*Sorghum and soybean data was unavailable for 2008, average was taken for the remaining years				
**Wheat data was unavailable for years 2009-12 so the average was taken from years 2008-2002				

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service. (2013). Quick stats database. Retrieved from quickstats.nass.usda.gov

Figure 6. Edwards County Agriculture Profile

Edwards County, Kansas Agriculture Profile		
	2007	2002
Number of Farms	371	353
Land in Farms (acres)	439,243	420,001
Average Size of Farm (acres)	1,184	1,190
Market Value of Products Sold	\$ 172,990,000	\$ 131,404,000
Crop Sales	\$ 73,732,000	
Livestock Sales	\$ 99,258,000	
Average Value Per Farm	\$ 466,280	\$ 372,249

Source: United States, USDA. (December, 2009). 2007 Census of agriculture county profile edwards county kansas (p. 1).