

In recognition of October as National Cooperative Month, Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that cooperatives across the U.S. have set records for sales, income and assets in 2012.

Along with that announcement, the USDA released its annual list of the nation's 100 largest cooperatives.

Eight Nebraska cooperatives, including Frenchman Valley Coop headquartered in Imperial, are in the top 100.

FV Coop moved up considerably on the top 100 list, based on 2012 revenue and assets, jumping to No. 48 from No. 73 in 2011.

The local coop is the sixth largest in Nebraska, based on the rankings list.

The 100 largest ag cooperatives reported revenue of \$162 billion in 2012, a new record and an increase of more than nine percent over 2011, when revenues were \$148 billion.

Net income for the 100 top cooperatives also set a new record in 2012, reaching \$3.5 billion, up from the previous record of \$3.1 billion in 2011.