What Is a Dairy Cooperative?

First Things First

Have you ever been told to “be cooperative” by a parent or teacher? Even if you haven’t, you know this means to do a better job of getting along with others. In other words, your cooperation is needed. But do you know that cooperative has another meaning? It is also the name of a type of business that depends on cooperation and lots more!

What is a Cooperative?

A cooperative, or co-op, is a business or organization. It is jointly owned by many different people. The owners of a co-op are called members. In a way, being a member of a co-op is like being a member of a club. All members work together to get something done. In a co-op all members have equal voting rights, and all profits are shared equally among the members. Co-op members believe that individuals have the power to make things happen by working together within an agreed upon value system. Members respect, trust, and support each other.

So do all co-ops do the same thing? The answer is no. Depending on the needs of their members, co-ops can do any number of things. Some provide a service, such as health care or financial services. Others purchase goods and sell them to their members at reduced prices. Some co-ops use their members’ raw materials to make manufactured goods. That’s how a dairy co-op works!

How Does a Dairy Cooperative Work?

A dairy co-op uses the milk produced by its members’ cows to make dairy foods like cheese and yogurt. A single dairy co-op might have hundreds of dairy farm families as members. These farms may be in the same state or in neighboring states. The milk from each dairy farm goes to a processing plant owned by the co-op. This is where dairy products are produced and packaged for sale. The co-op members know that high-quality dairy products require high-quality milk. All farmers within the co-op hold themselves to the same high standards of cow care.

Commitment to Community

Supporting the community is another shared value of co-op members. This support takes many forms. For example, some dairy farmers are using new technologies to turn cow waste into energy. This energy is then used to make electricity for their communities. Other examples of community involvement include being volunteer firefighters, school board members, and scout leaders. And in the spirit of cooperation, co-op members understand the importance of sharing their knowledge with other co-op members and with the public. They especially want young people, like you, to understand the benefits of working together in cooperatives!

Write the answers.

1. What are the owners of a cooperative called? _____________________________________________
2. How are decisions made in a cooperative? ______________________________________________
3. Do all co-ops do the same thing? Explain your answer. ____________________________________
4. Who are the members of a dairy co-op? ________________________________________________
5. Explain how some dairy farmers are helping their communities. ______________________________

Bonus: List five behaviors that guide all co-ops.
Answer Key
“What Is a Dairy Cooperative?”
Grade 5 (RI.5.10)

1. members
2. The members vote.
3. no; Answers will vary.
4. dairy farmers and their families
5. They are using new technologies to turn cow waste into energy. The energy can then be used to generate electricity for their communities.

Bonus: trust, respect, cooperation, support of each other, support of the community
The Calcium Connection

Find the rule for each pattern. Write the letter of the rule beside the pattern and then write the next two numbers in the pattern.

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Rules

A. Subtract 5; add 7.
B. Multiply by 2.
C. Multiply by 10; subtract 8.
D. Multiply by 10; subtract 8.
E. Add 8.
F. Divide by 3; add 6.
G. Divide by ½; add 4.
H. Multiply by ½; add 4.
I. Multiply by 3; subtract ½.
J. Multiply by 3; add 1.
K. Multiply by 10; divide by 5.
L. Subtract 6; add 7.
M. Divide by 2; add 3.
N. Add 7; subtract 3.
O. Add 2.
P. Subtract 2.
Q. Multiply by 2; subtract 1½.
R. Subtract 2.
S. Add 2.
T. Subtract 7; add 9.

How are bones like a bank account?
To find out, write each letter on its matching numbered line or lines.

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Answer Key
“The Calcium Connection”
Grade 5 (5.0A.B.3)

1. I; 60, 120
2. S; 6, 9
3. Y; 11, 13
4. H; 6, 12
5. E; 40, 48
6. V; 90, 88
7. P; 36, 43
8. A; 8, 15
9. L; $3 \frac{3}{4}$, $7 \frac{3}{4}$
10. N; 174, 175
11. U; 20 $\frac{1}{2}$, 41
12. D; 4,120; 4,112
13. O; 80, 16
14. T; 19, 26
15. C; 96, 192
16. R; 15, 75
17. X; 62, 71
18. M; 48, 47 $\frac{1}{2}$

YOU CAN DEPOSIT AND SAVE IN THEM!