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Dothan

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Enterprise

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Enterprise, AL 36330
(334) 347-6954

Gulf Coast

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Spanish Fort, AL 36527
(251) 626-2929

Monroeville

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Monroeville, AL 36460
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Opelika

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Selma

420 Broad Street, Suite A
Selma, AL 36701
(334) 874-7437

Tuscaloosa

2618 Eighth Street, Suite 10
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
(205) 247-4475

Here to Serve You for 100 Years

When any one of us faces a tough challenge, we sometimes need a little help to either lift our spirits or carry us through those hard times. And if we look, we can usually find someone who will help us make tomorrow better than today. That might sound a lot like the sermon you heard in church recently, but the message applies to every other aspect of our lives too.



Alabama Ag Credit was created 100 years ago to serve in such a capacity for those in agriculture and rural America. In the early 20th century, times were hard and access to rural credit was difficult at best. So our elected officials in Washington, D.C., studied problems facing rural families and determined that a cooperative credit system was needed. Representatives were even sent to Europe to study land-mortgage banks and other institutions that promoted agriculture and rural development.

As a result, in 1916, Congress passed and President Wilson signed the Federal Farm Loan Act that basically started what is known today as the Farm Credit System. That action 100 years ago is what we are celebrating in 2016.

Today, Alabama Ag Credit is one of the 74 independently managed and cooperatively owned local lending institutions that compose Farm Credit. We exist for the benefit of those who do business with us, and we know that this year of celebration will also be a challenging year for many of our customers. But that's why Farm Credit was created. We have been and will be an organization that can help carry you through those bad times even as we look forward to the good ones. The board of directors and employees of this association serve you, our customers, with a deep passion because we know the contributions that you make to your local communities and the world.

Over the years, Congress has made changes to laws that govern Farm Credit. What has remained consistent, however, is the mission that Farm Credit serves. We are here to be that reliable and consistent source of credit to agriculture and rural communities — we have done that for 100 years, and we hope to do it for 100 more. Please join us as we celebrate the centennial of Farm Credit in 2016. Truly, we are here to help you make your tomorrow better than today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Thiessen'.

Douglas Thiessen
Chief Executive Officer

There's No Place Like the Home Place

Coosa County Family's Rural Roots Date Back to 1925



The home where Ed Prater's grandmother lived on the family's Coosa County property.



Bobbie and Ed Prater

For the Prater family, there's just something about Coosa County. For decades they've been drawn to the quiet, rolling countryside of the notably sparsely populated county.

It all started with William Jefferson "Will" and Valera Prater. Will was an optometrist in the county seat of Rockford during the early 1900s. When he wasn't caring for patients, he spent his time capturing images of local folks at his photography studio until dusk, at which point he headed out to turn on the street lights. Faithfully, he'd return each morning to turn them off.

The couple lived in Rockford, which today is a quiet, unhurried one-stoplight town. But in the early 1900s, the place was vitally important for the county, and played host to much trade and commerce. In 1925, Will, Valera and their three children who were still at home left the hustle and bustle of

city life for property southeast of town, near the rural community of Hissop, that featured a simple two-room logging shack that would become the family's home.

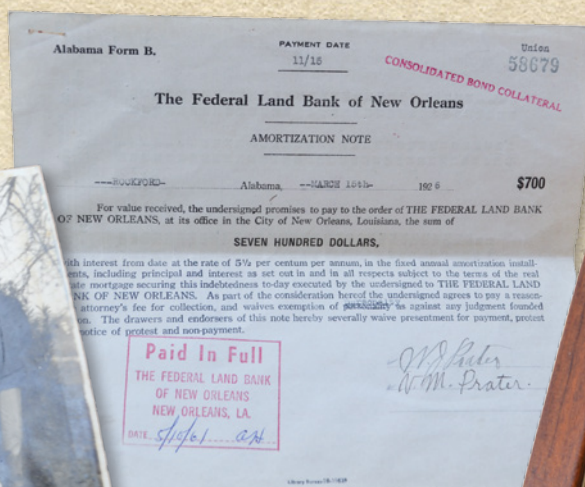
The 60-acre tract cost the couple \$2,000, and although they had a solid down payment of \$1,300, they needed a little help with the remaining \$700. That's when they turned to their local farm loan association and district Farm Credit bank, later known as Alabama Ag Credit and the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans, respectively.

Paying annual installments of a whopping \$45.50, the couple paid the loan off in full in 1961.

Ed Prater, the couple's grandson, said his father, Clyde, was 15 when they purchased their new piece of paradise. His grandfather grew to love his new home, Ed said, and eventually passed that love down to Clyde and his siblings.



The Prater family at their home, ca. 1940



In 1961, the Praters paid their loan off in full.



Valera and Will Prater

Clyde married a young lady named Sadie Belle and started a new life on the property. The couple raised seven children, Ed being the second youngest. Ed said life in the country didn't lend itself to a whole lot of organized activity, but he highlighted fond childhood memories of time spent on the estate.

"It was a big day when the rolling store came through," Ed said. "We'd all line up to get our piece of candy."

And while others may have seen an old dark, dusty crawl space beneath his Grandmother Valera's home, Ed saw something much different.

"I used to have a whole road system under the house for all my toy cars," he laughed. "It was the country — there wasn't much to do, so we found ways to entertain ourselves."

Clyde eventually got a job at a glass factory in town, so he, Sadie Belle, Ed and the other children all moved to Montgomery.

While the couple enjoyed city life, Clyde's Coosa County roots ran deep, and upon his retirement in 1972, they moved back to the property where they would live for the remainder of their lives.

While Clyde was working toward his retirement and migration back to Coosa County, Ed started a family of his own. He married Bobbie, his sister's roommate,

whom he met in the hospital after his sister was involved in an accident.

Ed accepted a career with Alabama Power, a job that often relocated him, Bobbie, and their two children, Kena and Eric, all over the state — Montgomery, Wetumpka, Birmingham and Eufaula.

But like his father and grandfather before him, he found the allure of Coosa County to be strong. In 2001, upon Ed's retirement, the couple purchased a new home place, not far from the original property, where Ed's mother was still living. Not only did the move get the couple closer to his mother and the family property, it is halfway between their children and grandchildren, as Kena and her family live in Alabaster and Eric and his family live in Montgomery. And just as his grandfather had done, Ed partnered with Alabama Ag Credit in purchasing the new estate.

One visit with Ed and there's no denying the family's love of their Coosa County roots — a fondness passed down from Will to Clyde, from Clyde to Ed, and now from Ed to his children, who are already committed to passing it on to the next generation. In fact, they're working on that already, as Kena's girls — Meg, 19, and Reid, 17 — and Eric's sons — Will, 18, and Matt, 14 — enjoy hunting at the property.

Eric, who is also an Alabama Ag Credit member, highlighted that the land is home

to many a "gobbler." He laughed while saying that although he, his boys and nieces don't always hit what they're aiming for, they enjoy "chasing" those turkeys around the property.

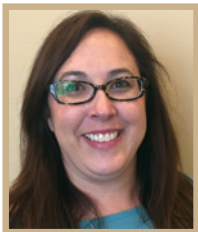
Today, nearly a century after William Jefferson and Valera set out for a quiet country life, the family has expanded their Coosa County property to more than 500 acres. Steve Oswalt, Alabama Ag Credit vice president of lending in the Montgomery branch, is proud to work with the Prater family in that expansion. And he is quick to note that while the Praters are great customers, they are even better friends. In fact he said it is divine intervention that he inherited their business relationship.

"Eric and I first met at church before I ever worked for Alabama Ag Credit," Oswalt said. "So I value the relationship I share with the Praters on a very personal level."

Oswalt's friendship with the family runs so deeply that when his mother called him to tell him she suspected her home was on fire while he was away on a business trip, his first reaction was to call Eric. Eric promptly dropped what he was doing and rushed to help.

"That's the kind of people they are," Oswalt said. "They're great friends, and working with them to grow their family land is a tremendous blessing."

Welcome to Our Newest Staff Members



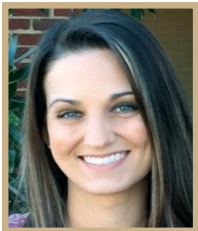
Jennifer Gilley was recently hired as Assistant Loan Administrator in the Enterprise Branch Office. Jennifer will graduate in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She was previously employed with the City of Enterprise Housing Authority and has 25 years of experience in consumer,

commercial and mortgage lending with a strong background in management and auditing. Jennifer is a native of and still resides in Enterprise, Ala., and has been married to her husband Mitch for 25 years. They have three children and one grandchild.



Alabama Ag Credit welcomed **Erin McCarty** as Office Administrator in its Enterprise Branch Office. Erin, a native of Amarillo, Texas, has been living in Enterprise, Ala., for 15 years. She attended Amarillo College and has worked in the banking/mortgage industry for 12 years. She and her husband

Kenny have been married for 15 years and have two children.



Meagan McElroy was hired recently as Loan Officer in the Demopolis Branch Office. She comes to the Association with two years of experience as an Accounts Examiner for the State of Alabama. Prior to that, Megan worked five years as Financial Analyst for Legacy Hospice, Inc. She has a bachelor's degree

in Accounting from the University of West Alabama and a master's degree in Business Administration from Mississippi State University. Meagan and her husband Alex live in Cuba, Ala., and have three children.



Alabama Ag Credit welcomed **Amanda Money** as Assistant Loan Officer in the Enterprise Branch. She comes to us from the Henry County Farm Service Agency where she worked as a Program Technician. A resident of Dothan, Amanda holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business and Economics

from Auburn University.



John Starr was recently hired as Credit Analyst Trainee in the Administrative Office. John is a recent graduate of Auburn University, where he received his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business and Economics. John, a native of Andalusia, currently resides in Auburn.

Alabama Ag Credit Serves as Title Sponsor of Alabama FFA Convention

"I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds..." This is the opening line of the FFA Creed, and at Alabama Ag Credit, we too believe in the future of agriculture. We proved it by again sponsoring the 2016 state FFA convention where more than 2,000 high school students gathered to compete in contests, celebrate the year's accomplishments, develop leadership skills and take advantage of outstanding networking opportunities.

Alabama Ag Credit, along with Alabama Farm Credit, is proud to have served as the title sponsor of the event, held June 8-10 at the Montgomery Performing Arts Center and Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery.

Alabama FFA staff members selected nationally known speakers and entertainment thanks in large part to the support of Alabama Ag Credit. State leaders are also able to incorporate state-of-the-art staging and lighting, creating an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

Additionally, through its sponsorship, Alabama Ag Credit does its part to increase participation in career development events, which are competitions that demonstrate the connections between agriculture-related classroom instruction and real-life scenarios. These contests help prepare students for careers in the agriculture industry.

"The FFA organization offers opportunities to develop the next generation of agriculturalists and rural businessmen and women. We're committed to supporting this outstanding group of young people, and we'll continue that support as they have future lending needs," said Douglas Thiessen, CEO of Alabama Ag Credit.



The reasons for financing with us are **stacking up**

We are proud to have returned a record **\$7.4 million** in patronage to our customers, based on our 2015 earnings.



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Part of the Farm Credit System

