



www.AlabamaFarmCredit.com

Your rural lending partner since 1917.

Administrative Office

Phone: (256) 737-7128
Toll Free: (877) 681-6087

Albertville Branch

Counties Served: Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah and Marshall
Phone: (256) 878-2631
Toll Free: (888) 305-0093

Athens Branch

Counties Served: Jackson, Limestone and Madison
Phone: (256) 232-0344
Toll Free: (888) 305-0091

Cullman Branch


Counties Served: Blount, Cullman, Jefferson, Morgan, Walker and Winston
Phone: (256) 734-0132
Toll Free: (888) 305-0074

Talladega Branch

Counties Served: Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair and Talladega
Phone: (256) 362-0507
Toll Free: (888) 305-0098

Tuscumbia Branch

Counties Served: Colbert, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence and Marion
Phone: (256) 381-5512
Toll Free: (888) 305-0081

Part of the Farm Credit System 

The Country Is Where We're Most at Home

Here at Alabama Farm Credit, part of our mission is to help rural communities thrive. In fact, the need for dependable credit in rural areas is why Farm Credit got its start a century ago. At the end of 2016, Farm Credit's centennial year, Alabama Farm Credit had \$695 million in loans for farmland, rural homes, poultry farms and agriculture equipment.

In the early days, nearly everyone in rural Alabama made a living from farming or ranching. But you don't have to be a full-time farmer to enjoy rearing your children in a small town or retiring where you can watch wildlife at sunrise. Today our lending cooperative puts the rural lifestyle within reach for people from all walks of life.

We understand rural property in North Alabama, and put our expertise to work for you when you want to buy or build a home in the country. Whether your goal is to find the right property, maintain an ag-use tax valuation, put in a well or hire someone to get the job done, our knowledgeable loan officers can point you in the right direction.

After you've chosen your property, we can finance the home and acreage with one loan, saving you time and money. Our flexible financing includes farm loans and rural home loans for up to 30 years. We can even finance raw land and make a construction loan when you're ready, or we can help you build a temporary or weekend home.

Once you're settled in, you don't need to go anywhere else to finance livestock, farm equipment, operating expenses and improvements — from home renovations to fences, barns and ponds.

Alabama Farm Credit understands why you make your home in the country, because we wouldn't want to be anywhere else, either. If you have friends who are ready to finance a rural home or farm, send them our way. We'll be happy to help them become members of our cooperative and our community.



K. Ben Gore
Chief Executive Officer



Remember to Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!



Preserving Memories

Borrowers Restore 1964 Family Farmhouse

When borrowers Ben and Shannon Hutton took on their farmhouse remodel in Athens, the main draw was the history that the home held. Shannon's mother grew up there, and her family had maintained the farm since 1964. Harold and Marie Smith, Shannon's grandparents, built the house in 1964, raised their children there and farmed the surrounding land. They grew cotton, raised livestock and had extensive gardens.

The Smiths also produced pork and had a smokehouse on the farm where they smoked about 500 hams a week under the name Smith Brothers Hams. All of this farming parlayed well into their main business — running their family-owned L & S Grocery stores, where they were able to market some of the harvest from their garden.

Most of the family stayed close by, in what they called "Smith Village." Shannon grew up a few houses down the road and spent much of her childhood roaming the farm and helping her grandmother in her immaculate flower gardens. Her grandfather added a swimming pool and tennis courts as his family grew so that everyone would have a place to gather and enjoy plenty of entertainment.

When Ben and Shannon married in 2000, their wedding reception was held on the property.

As their own family expanded with the addition of Cecilia Ann, 15, Marie, 13, Benjamin, 9, and Sam, 5, the grandkids also made fond memories there playing and helping their great-grandmother pick apples from the backyard tree for baking.



The Hutton family, from left to right, Cecilia Ann, Shannon, Sam, Benjamin, Ben and Marie, with their puppy June

After Shannon's grandparents passed away, the Huttons knew they wanted to keep the farm in the family. The house, however, at almost 50 years of age, would need quite a bit of maintenance and redesign to make it work for their family of six. To help them make this dream happen, Ben and Shannon contacted Jason Thomas at Alabama Farm Credit.

They began the renovation in August 2013 and quickly realized it was going to be more work than they originally anticipated. They found some major structural problems, and after getting an architect involved, ended up having to take the house down to the studs.

"We consulted with several different experts and asked each one 'Is it worth it? Should we just tear it down and start over?'" Shannon remembers. Each time they were told that the house was salvageable — if they had the patience for it.

After two years of construction, sweat and a few tears, the Huttons were finally able to move into the remodeled and restored house in June 2015. They still had a few small things left to do but were able to finish it out while living there. Today they say that they have no regrets about the project.

Due to extensive structural problems, they were able to incorporate some features that they otherwise would not have. They altered the floorplan, moving the staircase and opening up some spaces for a more open concept. They also used every inch of the once-wasted attic space to make unique nooks and cubbies for the children's rooms. And to ensure that structural problems don't resurface, they have a very unique, scientific, climate-controlled crawl space.

While the house no doubt had a major overhaul, the Huttons are proud that they were able to preserve the details of its history. They incorporated many of the original doors and fixtures as well as several pieces of furniture. But the main thing they hold on to are the memories.

"I remember my grandmother sitting in her chair looking out these windows into her flower gardens and marveling over them to me," Shannon says. "And my children have fond memories of visiting her here, and they love knowing they live in the same house their grandmother and great-grandparents lived in."

Shannon and Ben have big plans for the future of the farm. Ben plans to add some cattle to the farm, and they've just expanded their family with the addition of a new puppy, June. Much like her grandfather before her, Shannon enjoys entertaining, and her next project is turning the barn into a haven for just that. For now, though, they enjoy having the open space and watching their children run and play all around Smith Village.

\$8.45 MILLION CASH PATRONAGE WAS A RECORD



Alabama Farm Credit had a successful year in 2016, and we were pleased to share our earnings with our borrowers by returning 59.5 percent of last year's net income as patronage. Checks were mailed to members in early March.

Based on the cooperative's solid performance in 2016, Alabama Farm Credit's board of directors declared a record \$8.45 million cash patronage payment to our stockholders. Alabama Farm Credit has a long history of paying patronage — we have returned more than \$55 million in patronage to our stockholders since 1999.

Pictured above with a symbolic check are Alabama Farm Credit board members, left to right, Stewart McGill, Danny Baugh, Dr. Matthew Christjohn, Loyd Rutherford, John Adams, Larry Don McGee, Rickey Cornutt and Hugh Harris.

Athens Borrower Jerry Batts Retires From the Bench

Athens borrower Jerry L. Batts was active in the Limestone County legal arena for the better part of the last four decades and was just as well known for his civil service outside the courtroom. He was a private-practice attorney before he was elected to the 39th Judicial Circuit in 2004. Retirement, Batts claims, just snuck up on him.



"I'm the best evidence of a merciful God, because I have been blessed far more than I deserve," Batts said.

Jerry Batts, right, pictured with his mother, Thula Batts, a former borrower, and his nephew, John Christopher Batts, a loan officer in the Athens office

Borrowers' Farms Recognized on Seeds of Success Ag Tour

We are proud that two of the six farms on the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District's Seeds of Success Ag Tour were our very own Alabama Farm Credit borrowers in Athens. Borrowers' farms that were recognized were Tate Farms (Stewart and Kasey McGill) and Mann Cattle Farm (Todd Mann). Congratulations to these borrowers for being honored!

Christjohn and Cornutt Elected to the Board

Congratulations to directors Dr. Matthew Christjohn on his re-election and Rickey Cornutt for his election to the Alabama Farm Credit Board of Directors. The elections were held on April 13, 2017, at the Annual Stockholders Meeting. The association extends appreciation to all those borrower-stockholders who attended the meeting and the nominees who ran for election.



A Tribute to Longtime Board Member Benny Smith Jan. 8, 1939 – Jan. 30, 2017

Alabama Farm Credit lost a valued board member on Jan. 30 with the death of Benny Smith.

Benny was retired from Synergy Gas Company, where he worked for 33 years as a route salesman. He operated a cattle farm in Etowah County, as well as a poultry farm for over 46 years. He was also a member of the Alabama Poultry and Egg Association and the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and a director of Cherokee County Electric Cooperative.

A Farm Credit member for over 25 years, Benny served on the Alabama Farm Credit Board of Directors from 1996 to 2017, where he served on the association's compensation committee. Benny was considered a friend and was highly respected among the staff and his fellow board members.

"Benny and I served on the board together for over 20 years," said Alabama Farm Credit Board of Directors Chairman Loyd Rutherford. "He was a true friend who cared about his fellow man. He will be missed by a lot of us. The world needs more men like Benny Smith."

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

STAFF NEWS

PROMOTION



Lisa Baggett has been promoted to manager of credit analysis. She now also focuses on branch training and managing the association's participation portfolio, in addition to her other duties.

Eli Howard has been promoted to senior credit analyst. Eli is now the team leader for the credit analysts, while continuing to serve in his underwriting capacity.



NEW HIRES



Jerri Brazelton has joined our Cullman branch as an administrative assistant. Jerri is from Hartselle and comes to us with experience as a customer service specialist with a commercial bank. Jerri has two children, Trevor, 22, and Deonah, 19.



Yudi Pesina Cervantes has joined our Cullman branch as an administrative assistant. Yudi is from Cleveland, Ala., and was previously a service manager with a commercial bank. Yudi and her husband, Cristian, have a son, Cristian, 4.



Appraiser **Scott Helms** has joined the association's appraisal department and will be headquartered in the Athens branch office. Scott is from Huntsville and has a bachelor's degree in forestry from Auburn University. He is also an Alabama registered forester and holds an Alabama general real property appraiser certification. He previously has worked as a real property appraiser in Huntsville. Scott and his wife, Robyn, have a son, Hardy, 12, and a daughter, Ellie, 8.



Emily Patterson was hired as an administrative assistant in our Albertville branch. She lives in Oneonta, and has a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Most recently, she did graphic design work for a local business in Boaz, Ala.



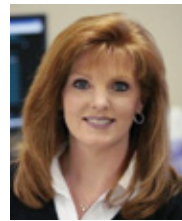
Elaine R. Troxtel has joined our Albertville branch as a loan administrator associate. She lives in Geraldine with her husband, Zane. Elaine has a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Auburn University. Most recently, she was a plan administrator for Benefits Professionals, Inc. in Albertville. Elaine and Zane raise registered Black Angus and commercial cattle together on their farm.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to **Jamie Huddleston** of the Talladega branch and her husband, Don. They welcomed a new daughter, Piper Sloan, on Dec. 20, 2016, at 11:59 a.m., weighing 6.6 pounds and 19 inches long. Piper also has a proud big brother and big sister.

Congratulations to **Amanda Stanton**, Cullman loan officer, and Jared Stanton on the birth of their daughter, Audrey Joanna Stanton, born on Oct. 21, 2016, at 2:38 pm. Audrey weighed 7.7 pounds and was 20 inches long. Audrey has a big brother Bennett, 5.

NEW CASH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT



In order to centralize our loan payments, the association has added a Cash Management Department, which is located in the Cullman branch office. With this new department, **Beth Kreps** has been promoted to senior cash management specialist. Beth has been with the association for the past two years, most recently as an administrative assistant in the Cullman branch office. She received her bachelor's degree in accounting from Athens State University and her MBA from the University of North Alabama.



Samantha Stacey joined the association as cash management specialist in the Cash Management Department. With this addition, we have been able to fully transition loan payments to this centralized department. Samantha is from Gardendale and has an associate's degree in accounting from Sullivan University. She joins us from Mountain High Outfitters, where she worked in accounting. Samantha and her husband, Gary, have a daughter Madison, 4.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR SERVICE AWARDS

Alabama Farm Credit recently said a special thank you to 12 employees for their dedication and years of service to the association. Together they have 120 years of Farm Credit Service.



20 YEARS

Heath Davis, vice president and branch manager, Tuscombria Branch

Ralph Stewart, chief credit officer, administration

Jimmy Tollison, vice president and branch manager, Talladega

15 YEARS

Terri Smith, loan administrator, Talladega

10 YEARS

Justin Chittam, appraiser, administration

5 YEARS

Sally Barkley, collateral custodian, administration

Sandra Black, accountant, administration

Amanda Brown, insurance administrator, administration

Brooke Burns, loan officer, Athens

Lindsey Goodwin, loan officer, Albertville

Jamie Huddleston, administrative assistant, Talladega

Nicole Thrash, administrative assistant, Albertville