The Code of Plains Land Bank

Are you familiar with the Code of the West? It says:

• Live each day with courage.
• Take pride in your work.
• Always finish what you start.
• Do what has to be done.
• Be tough but fair.
• When you make a promise, keep it.
• Ride for the brand.
• Talk less and say more.
• Remember that some things aren’t for sale.
• Know where to draw the line.

I like to think we could also call that the Code of Plains Land Bank. Every member of our team and board upholds these values. We have a great group of people and our success is evidence of that.

Plains Land Bank is proud to be a part of Farm Credit in supporting rural communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services. We’ve been here for 100 years, and we will be here today and tomorrow to help you own a piece of Texas.

Greggory S. Lloyd
Chief Executive Officer
Plains Land Bank staff members, directors and guests celebrated the groundbreaking for a new Plainview office on June 1. The event was sponsored by the Plainview Chamber of Commerce and opened with a welcome address by Chamber Executive Director Linda Morris.

Kenneth Hooper, branch president for Plainview, described how the new facility — located at 3102 W. Seventh St., on the corner of West Seventh and Ennis streets in the College Hill subdivision — is part of Plains Land Bank’s vision for growth in the coming years.

“Plains Land Bank has made a significant investment in personnel and facilities across our territory,” Hooper explained. “This office is a tangible reflection of our plan to grow not only loan volume, but service for our customers. The new facility provides three critical components: space for employees, improved customer access and improved visibility in the community.”

Board Chairman Don James expressed appreciation to those in attendance, and echoed Hooper’s sentiments regarding service to area producers. He recalled years past when he had visited the Land Bank office as a young man, expressing pride in the association and its financial services.

CEO Gregg Lloyd further elaborated on the decision to move the Plainview office. “The office at Seventh and Baltimore has been a Land Bank since the 1950s,” Lloyd explained. “With remodeling and updates, it has served us well, but now it’s time to move on. We are proud of this new facility and know it will have a positive impact in Plainview.”

The new office is scheduled to open in early 2018.

We are excited to have the opportunity to give back to our customers and our communities. Thank you for being a part of our journey!

**Board Member Rusty Henson Earns Award**

Plains Land Bank Director Rusty Henson of Quitaque and his son, Walt Henson of Canyon, earned top honors in the Texas Conservation Awards program earlier this year.

The Hensons won first place on May 2 in the conservation rancher category at the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board’s annual awards banquet for Area 1, which consists of 50 counties in the Texas Panhandle. The duo represented Palo Duro Soil and Water Conservation District 147.

The awards program began in the late 1970s to recognize the vital role conservationists play in managing Texas’ natural resources. Its purpose is to acknowledge, recognize and honor individuals who dedicate their time and efforts to conservation.

Sponsors of the area conservation awards program are the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the 216 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Texas.
The Plains Land Bank team and board of directors gathered on July 20 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our association, which was founded by farmers in Canyon, Texas, in 1917. That year marked the start of the first local lending cooperatives chartered under the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916 — the beginning of today’s Farm Credit System.

The party kicked off at the Panhandle Country Club with team-player awards, which were given to Sierra Blais, executive assistant to CEO Gregg Lloyd; Kay Lynn McLaughlin, controller; Kenneth Hooper, senior vice president; and Marcy Bohannon, loan administrator.

The party was a great success, and everyone enjoyed swimming and taking photos in the photo booth designed by Loan Administrator Molly Seabourn and operated by her mother, photographer Sherry Seabourn. Amarillo Vice President of Lending Trent Tyson manned the grill with help from customers Scott McLaughlin and Corby Shadid. Beef and sausage were provided by McLaughlin and fellow customers Clint and Sons.

Everyone at Plains Land Bank would like to thank you, our member-owners, for your support. Without you, we wouldn’t be celebrating 100 years of Plains Land Bank. Thank you for letting us help you own a piece of Texas!

Maria and Steve Brown celebrated the association’s 100th anniversary in July, when Steve announced his retirement from the board of directors.

Director Retires After 19 Years

At Plains Land Bank’s July board meeting, Steve Brown announced his retirement from the board of directors, where he has served since 1998.

Steve may be retiring from the Plains Land Bank Board of Directors, but like most farmers and ranchers, he’ll never retire from agriculture. He will continue to operate his agricultural equipment dealership, which has stores in Floydada and Tulia. A farmer and cattleman, Steve also has an interest in a cotton gin in Silverton.

Fellow board members and staff sent Steve off in style with custom cookies and a pair of binoculars. We will miss him and his precious wife, Maria, and are thankful for their contributions to Plains Land Bank’s success.

The 100th anniversary celebration gave the association staff a chance to express their fun side, including, from left to right, Sierra Blais, executive assistant; Cathy Scribner, chief financial officer; Gregg Lloyd, CEO; Kay Lynn McLaughlin, controller; Cory Bruce, chief credit officer; Noemi McLaughlin, accounting specialist; and Joy Gray, marketing manager.

Celebrating 100 Years

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From left to right, Sierra Blais, Marcy Bohannon and Kenneth Hooper display the oversized $100 bills they received that represent bonuses for winning team-player awards.
Plains Land Bank staff members, directors and customers traveled to Washington, D.C., in late July for Farm Credit Week, a gathering of more than 600 Farm Credit representatives from around the country. The three-day event included the launch of a new national campaign — One Mission. Many Voices. — as well as meetings with elected officials about the importance of passing a strong farm bill when the current legislation expires in September 2018.

The event began with a speech by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, who said, “We need to be smart, be wise and be compassionate as we serve the farmers and ranchers of America.”


Board Chairman Don James, CEO Gregg Lloyd and Vice President Jeff Taylor were joined on Capitol Hill by Plains Land Bank customers Dane and Lori Mullins, who were in Washington as participants in the Farm Credit Young Leaders Program. The Mullinses have a crop and cattle operation in Silverton, where Dane also is part owner of the Silvercot Inc. cotton gin and serves on the Silverton school board. The couple met at Texas Tech University and has three sons — Cooper, Jake and Knox. Customers since 2011, they work with Taylor, their loan officer in the Plainview branch.

The week ended with about 1,300 people gathering at the Library of Congress Great Hall for the Farm Credit Marketplace, where officials and Capitol Hill staff members sampled products made by Farm Credit customers across the nation. Plains Land Bank was represented by Sugar and Spice Jams, which is proudly made in Abernathy, Texas, by Erin Mueller and Plains Land Bank customer Celia Miller.

“My experience with Farm Credit has been a long and wonderful relationship,” Celia Miller says. “I just love Kenneth (Hooper, her loan officer and the Plainview branch president)! He and my husband, Mark, work out the greatest things to keep our ranch productive.

“Kenneth and Farm Credit really understand the needs of the farmer and rancher of this time. I don’t know of a better group to work with!”

Plains Land Bank customer Celia Miller, left, and Erin Mueller provided their Sugar and Spice Jams for the Farm Credit Marketplace on July 26 in Washington, D.C.