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Part of the Farm Credit System

Serving Those Who Serve the Nation

Farm Credit has been serving veterans for as long as we've been around.

Nearly a century ago, the United States entered World War I, sending more than 2 million troops to Europe over 19 months. Many of those soldiers and sailors were young farm people, and when they came home, some turned to their local Farm Credit cooperatives, established during the war, for financing to purchase land.

Since then, millions more young people from rural areas have fought to protect our nation's freedom. Even today, over 40 percent of the men and women who serve in the U.S. military come from rural communities, although just 16 percent of the American population lives in rural areas.

Coming home and building a new career can be difficult, and rural America is one place where they can start. As a cooperative lending organization that is owned by farmers and ranchers, Farm Credit has always worked hard to meet the financing needs of returning veterans.

Central Texas Farm Credit is also proud to have two former military personnel on our staff — Dominic Allgood, financial reporting analyst in the Coleman administrative office, and Andrew Ogilvie, credit analyst trainee in the Coleman branch office.

Veterans Day was just a few weeks ago, but appreciating veterans' service — and providing service to them — is not limited to one day a year at Farm Credit. If you, or someone you know, is a veteran or current member of the U.S. military, please let us know. We'll be happy to offer guidance for making a home or a career in rural America.

Thank you to all of our vets — and best wishes to our customers and our friends for a very happy holiday season.

Boyd J. "Jimmy" Chambers
Chief Executive Officer



Wheat and the Wildes

Farmers Shift From Cotton to Wheat, Build Top-of-the-Line Grain Facility

Just over a decade ago, the Wilde family made a major farming decision.

The San Angelo–area family had been growing predominantly cotton, but in 2004, Dale and Laura Wilde and their sons, Blaise and Harrison, decided to shift to 100 percent wheat. Dale talked with David Holubec of Melvin and Johnny Beach of Wall about increasing yields by allowing land to lie fallow in the summer, keeping it free of weeds and fertilizing for the fall crop.

Luckily, Dale says, 2004 and 2005 were good rainfall years, and their wheat program was off to a good start. The Wildes farm in Tom Green, Glasscock, Reagan and Upton counties and lease out their land in Concho County; their operation includes dryland farming in St. Lawrence and mostly irrigated land around Wall.

A bumper crop in 2010 prompted another important decision. Wheat sold to local elevators and feedlots was mostly contracted, but the basis on wheat that wasn't contracted widened to \$2 per bushel, providing only \$2.80 a bushel for the rest of the crop.

“We didn't want to go through that again,” Dale said. Thinking ahead to the day when their sons will take over the farming operation, the family wanted to add price protection controls.

They purchased a 15-acre tract in Wall, near San Angelo, from cousin Harvey Wilde in 2013, where they decided to build a grain facility with an office for the expansion of their farming needs. Dale's parents, Edwin and Cordula Wilde, had always stored milo, wheat and other grains. In fact, one of the first buildings they



It's a family operation for the Wilde family. From left to right are sons Harrison and Blaise, with their parents, Laura and Dale Wilde, outside their new office building.

constructed in 1946 was a barn for grain storage. Thus, for Dale, building his own storage bins was a logical solution to the limited grain storage options available in the area.

Dale and Laura decided to construct three 50,000-bushel grain bins, with a scale certified for public use, grain-testing equipment, fencing and an office — a project that took three years from planning to completion. During the first two years, the bins were not needed for storage because prices were favorable at harvest, but in 2015, the Wildes stored all of their wheat.

According to Dale, owning grain storage offers many advantages. They can harvest at a higher moisture content, trucks do not have to wait in line to unload, and, most importantly, they have control of their crop after harvest. They also can buy grain from other farmers if they wish.

Their new building is designed for buying grain, with offices for Dale, Blaise and Harrison, plus showers for truckers, a scale room, a kitchen and conference room. Old family photos tastefully decorate the

interior. Outside, the Wildes use newly installed equipment to monitor and maintain the temperature of the stored wheat to prevent spoilage. This year, with help from Dale's brother Donald, they were able to use a 92-foot portable auger to unload trucks in about 10 minutes.

Dale and Laura have been Central Texas Farm Credit members since 1995, and say their association with Farm Credit and the San Angelo office employees has helped them improve and expand their business. Laura works with Dale and the family operation and continues her 33-year career with Verizon. Their sons, who have helped with the Wilde farms since they were young, are now expanding their involvement. Blaise is a recent graduate of Angelo State University (ASU) and Harrison is beginning his sophomore year at ASU; both have active roles in the growing family farming operation. Dale says that the solid relationship between the Wildes and Central Texas Farm Credit is a cornerstone for the success and growth of their farming business.

The Flow of Farm Credit Funds

Jim Ed Field Participates in Farm Credit Leadership Program

The funds that Central Texas Farm Credit lends to farmers and ranchers follow a unique path. This past summer, Jim Ed Field, credit analysis director, met some of the bond dealers, financial experts and policymakers responsible for the smooth and continuous flow of funds from Wall Street to your farm or ranch when he participated in the Farm Credit Association Leadership Program.

Hosted by the Farm Credit Bank of Texas, the annual program takes Farm Credit employees to financial and policy organizations in the New York City area and Washington, D.C., for four days.

Landscapes sat down with Jim Ed to talk about his experience.

Landscapes: What were the highlights of the trip?

Jim Ed: I have been incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to work in the Farm Credit System and blessed even more to have been chosen to participate in the Farm Credit Association Leadership Program. Besides the opportunity to visit these beautiful, historic cities, this program afforded me the opportunity to meet and work with fellow Farm Credit employees from different associations across the Texas Farm Credit District.

What did visiting the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation or the Farm Credit Administration teach you about the Farm Credit System?

The Farm Credit System is widely respected. As a result of the System's high credit rating, investors see Farm Credit bonds as a safe investment, ensuring avail-

ability of funds to local Farm Credit offices. The high ratings are due, in part, to stringent oversight by the Farm Credit Administration and the high credit quality of local Farm Credit office portfolios.

How has this trip and seeing this side of the System impacted your impression of Farm Credit?

I have always been passionate about Farm Credit's mission of improving the income and well-being of American farmers and ranchers by furnishing sound, adequate and constructive credit and closely related services. However, my experience has been limited to the local, association and district levels. The Farm Credit Association Leadership Program allowed me to see all aspects of our cooperative, enhancing my love and respect for this System and its people!

Was there anything from the trip that reinforced for you why your customers should feel good about doing business with Farm Credit?

The Farm Credit System is the only creditor I know that was created for the sole purpose of the success and well-being of rural America. The structure and the reputation of the Farm Credit System



Farm Credit employees, including Jim Ed Field, far left, visited Washington, D.C., and New York City, in the background, during the Association Leadership Program in July.

ensure continuous availability of funds from Wall Street all the way down to the local Farm Credit office. Our members and future members can be assured that we will continue to be available to serve their needs. In addition, we give our profits back to our members as a dividend we call a patronage!

Which congressional staff did you visit? How were your visits?

I met with staff members of Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, as well as staff from the offices of Representatives Randy Neugebauer, Lamar Smith and Blake Farenthold. We had a chance to remind them of the importance of Farm Credit in American agriculture. Most were familiar with the Farm Credit System, and all expressed their support.

Celebrate the Past, Embrace the Future

Excitement is building at Central Texas Farm Credit in anticipation of the Farm Credit System's 100th anniversary in 2016.

We are eager to celebrate the day when President Woodrow Wilson signed the Farm Credit Act on July 17, 1916, creating the Farm Credit System. On that day, farmers and ranchers across the country gained a new source of financing that would support agriculture in good times and bad.

The System's longevity has much to do with how it was structured by Congress nearly a century ago. Congressional lawmakers chose a cooperative structure, wherein members would have a say in how their lending institution is run and would share in its benefits.

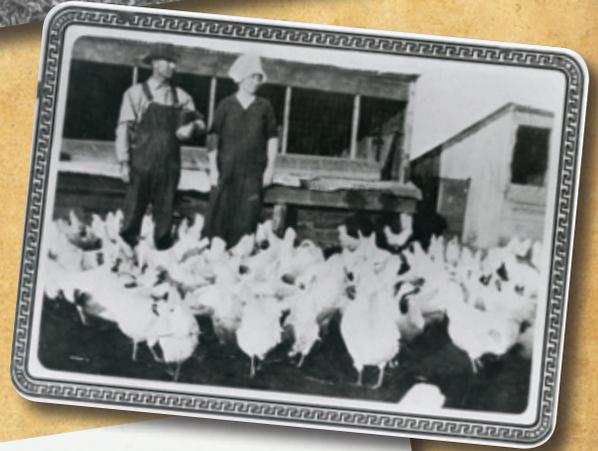
Central Texas Farm Credit is proud to be a part of this System and to have been able to help agricultural producers, decade after decade.

Be on the lookout for future communications regarding our centennial plans.

We hope you will help us celebrate the Farm Credit centennial in 2016, and we look forward to working with you and future generations for another 100 years!




FARM CREDIT
100
ESTABLISHED 1916



Jennifer Spraberry

Meet New Marketing Manager JENNIFER SPRABERRY

Jennifer Spraberry joined Central Texas Farm Credit on May 1 as marketing manager. She currently works out of the Coleman office and will move to the new corporate office in Brownwood when it is complete.

Jennifer attended Texas Tech University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary agriculture in 2009 and her master's degree in agriculture education in 2011. After graduation, Jennifer accepted a marketing assistant position with a large farm equipment dealership, working with the media in advertising, digital and graphic design.

Originally from Anson, Jennifer is a fifth-generation cattle producer who maintains an interest in farming and ranching. Her parents, Mary and Joel Spraberry, are longtime Farm Credit customers.

Jennifer is an avid Texas Tech football fan who enjoys running, live music, and spending time with family and friends. She says that she likes the family atmosphere at Central Texas Farm Credit, explaining that "it is so inspiring how everyone here works as a team for a common goal — to serve agriculture and rural America."