## AgNewMexico.com

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#### **Board of Directors**

Mark McCollum, Chairman Ronnie Harral, Vice Chairman **Randy Autrey** Linda Miller Brown

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Lucille Conley

**Jason Felty** 

Zane Slater

**Chief Financial Officer** Sr. VP/Policy and Compliance **Officer/Capital Markets Board Executive Assistant** Accounting Manager/VP Senior Accountant Accountant Trainee

**Chief Executive Officer** 

## **Clovis Credit Office**

Brett Valentine
Tammy Bass
Michael Burns
Ryan Pierce
Brad Hodges
Nichcole Aldrich
Stephanie Cullison

Sr. VP/Branch Manager Mortgage Loan Officer Sr. VP/Relationship Manager **Relationship Manager Trainee** Relationship Manager/IT Loan Administrator Associate **Credit Support Specialist** 

### **Belen Credit Office**

John Heckendorn	VP/Relationship Manager/
	Branch Manager
Hal Porter	VP/Relationship Manager
Kathy Lehocky	Director of Secondary Markets
Jody Rigoni	Credit Support Specialist
Julie Riley	Secondary Markets Administrator
Calley Thompson	Credit Analyst/
	Marketing Assistant
Nikki Johnson	Loan Officer Trainee

#### **Las Cruces Credit Office**

Dave Wright Warren Russell Dajah Howell **Elizabeth French Megan Schuller** 

Chief Credit Officer/Administration Sr. VP/Branch Manager **Relationship Manager Relationship Manager Credit Support Specialist** 





## Looking Back, Moving Forward

Ag New Mexico Farm Credit has celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Farm Credit System this past year with great pride. Few businesses reach the century milestone, but Farm Credit has flourished as we have pursued our mission of supporting agriculture and rural communities.

The best part of the centennial year, though, has been the opportunity to celebrate with our member-owners and reminisce about the way agriculture and Farm Credit have

changed over the century. It's been a wonderful trip down memory lane, as borrowers have shared their experiences and memorabilia. From stories of hard times when Farm Credit stood by them and their ancestors to opportunities for financing that couldn't be found elsewhere, a picture emerges of relationships that extend beyond business.

Indeed, we at Ag New Mexico Farm Credit often refer to members, board and staff as a Farm Credit family. Living and working in the communities we serve establishes strong bonds and long-lasting friendships. We celebrated the centennial this year at our annual stockholders meeting in Clovis. Details on the meeting can be found on the following pages.

Farm Credit has evolved over the past century to keep pace with the dramatic changes that have occurred in agriculture. While we can't predict what the next 100 years will bring, we can guess that there will be up-and-down cycles and an even greater need for a dependable source of agricultural credit.

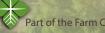
Ag New Mexico Farm Credit will continue to be that steady lender. As a cooperative, we operate in the best interests of our member-owners, and with our reliable source of funds and our agricultural financing expertise, we will always strive to help our borrowers succeed.

Ag New Mexico Farm Credit is honored to have helped generations of families start and grow their ag operations and to make their homes in the country. We look forward to helping you and future generations to do the same.

Frank Act

Frank Shelton Chief Executive Officer





# Association Celebrates Farm Credit Centennial at Annual Stockholders Meeting

More than 90 stockholders, staff members, directors and guests came to Clovis in April for Ag New Mexico Farm Credit's annual stockholders meeting at K-Bob's Steakhouse.

This year's guest speaker was David Specht, author of "The Farm Whisperer: Secrets to Preserving Families and Perpetuating Farms" and the founder of Advising Generations LLC, a family business consulting firm. Specht also was one of the rural visionaries honored this year by the Farm Credit 100 Fresh Perspectives program, in the agriculture education and community impact category.

Ag New Mexico CEO Frank Shelton gave an association update, Chairman Mark McCollum spoke on behalf of the board, and Chief Financial Officer Ginger Garrett gave an update on the association's financial statements. Diane Lieb, an association customer and nominating committee member, introduced the board candidates, who were given the opportunity to speak. Candidates for Position 1 were Linda Miller Brown, Allen Deen and Thomas Runyon. Candidates for Position 2 were Tony Martinez II, Dwayne "Butch" Vidlar and Brad Wrye. Brown and Vidlar were re-elected to the board.

This year's stockholders meeting was unique in that Ag New Mexico celebrated the Farm Credit centennial. Dessert was a Farm Credit 100 birthday cake, and door prizes included a high-definition smart TV, a YETI cooler, an iPad mini, a Keurig coffee maker, Cabela's gift cards and other great items.

If you missed the meeting this year, we hope to see you at future stockholders meetings!



David Specht



## Las Cruces Branch Raises Over \$3,000 for March of Dimes



On April 7, Ag New Mexico Farm Credit's Las Cruces branch held a customer appreciation lunch to thank borrowers for their business. The event included a day of golf at the Picacho Hills Country Club that raised over \$3,000 for the March of Dimes — a very successful fundraiser!

Margarita Eddings, senior community director at Southern New Mexico March of Dimes, spoke about the organization's mission to prevent birth defects and improve maternal and child health.

Jeff Flores, an Ag New Mexico member and chairman of the 2016 March for Babies, spoke about his personal experience as CEO of the children's health service MECA Therapies, and why these funds and support are so critical to New Mexico, especially its rural communities.

# MIKE BURNS VISITS WASHINGTON DURING FARM CREDIT 100 WEEK



The annual Farm Credit Association Leadership Program was extra special for this year's participants — it coincided with Farm Credit 100 Week, a celebration of the Farm Credit System centennial in Washington, D.C. The mid-June events included a congressional reception at the Library of Congress featuring Farm Credit customers' products, and visits with five senators, 10 congressmen and several congressional staff members.

All of that was in addition to the regular leadership program, which took Farm Credit employees to financial and policy organizations in the New York City area and Washington, D.C., to show them how the Farm Credit System attracts money from Wall Street and delivers it to rural America.

Ag New Mexico Farm Credit's own Mike Burns, senior vice president and relationship manager in the Clovis branch office, was the association's delegate this year to the four-day program, which was hosted by Farm Credit Bank of Texas.

We asked Mike for his impressions of the trip.

"It was a fantastic opportunity to be one of the chosen delegates for this year's Farm Credit Association Leadership Program," Mike said. "I had never been in the New York City area nor Washington, D.C., and found them both to be unique and wonderful places to visit.

"There were many highlights that I was exposed to, the first being our visit to the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding

Corporation, getting the basics on how they issue and market debt securities [to finance Farm Credit's loans], and how the debt is insured by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation. Seeing the flow of funds from investors to Farm Credit members and back was very enlightening.

"We traveled on to Washington, D.C., to experience the political environment and visit with members of Congress and their staff about Farm Credit. The representative that I went to see was Ben Ray Luján, with whom I had a short visit in the hallway because his office was full of 4-Hers from New Mexico. I was warned that some of the meetings might be in the hall, but didn't think I would experience it firsthand.





Above: Mike Burns, fourth from right, attended the 2016 Association Leadership Program in New York City, above, and Washington, D.C.

Left: Mike Burns, right, poses with Mark Miller, CEO of Texas Farm Credit, at Farm Credit 100 Week in Washington, D.C.

"One unique thing I learned about on the 'Hill' was the Senate and the House legislative call system. This system consist of clocks throughout the buildings that have different rings and lights — one red and one orange — to notify

[legislators about] the proceedings on the floor.

"Most importantly, it was exciting to be a part of the Farm Credit 100-year anniversary. A congressional reception where they were expecting over 900 congressmen, Farm Credit members, Farm Credit staff and guests was held at the Library of Congress to celebrate Farm Credit's mission to support rural communities and agriculture. And I think they all showed up, because it was wall-to-wall people!

"I thank the Farm Credit Bank of Texas for funding such a fine educational and enjoyable program, which was most beneficial to all who attended."

# WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF



## **Tammy Bass**

Tammy Bass recently joined the association as a mortgage loan officer in the new Ag New Mexico Country Mortgage division in Clovis. She has 26 years of

banking experience, including 15 years in mortgage lending.

A native of Clovis, she grew up with horses, goats, sheep, chickens and ducks, and once sold a mare that went on to star in the TV movie "Rio Diablo" with Travis Tritt. Her husband, Mark, landed in Clovis via the United States Air Force. Tammy loves spending time with their two sons and three grandchildren, and also enjoys upcycling, antique shopping, and home and wedding decoration.

"My passion lies in helping customers realize their dreams of home ownership," Bass says. "I'm excited to be working at Ag New Mexico because there are so many options we have in helping the rural home buyer."



## **Stephanie** Cullison

Ag New Mexico Farm Credit recently hired Stephanie Cullison as a credit support specialist in the Clovis credit office.

Cullison has 15 years of banking experience, including with Farm Credit of New Mexico. She also owned her own boutique and worked at Farwell Abstract Co.

The Estancia, N.M., native was raised in a ranching family, and has lived in Farwell, Texas, for 21 years with her husband, Jon, a conductor for BNSF Railway. Their daughter, Kayla, will graduate from Eastern New Mexico University in December, and their

son, Tyler, and his wife, Tawny, are expecting a baby in November.

"I love agriculture, and I am honored to work for an organization that is all about helping promote agriculture," she says. "I am so happy to be a part of the Ag New Mexico Farm Credit team."



Ag New Mexico recently hired Nikki Johnson as a loan officer trainee in the Belen credit office. Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business/

agricultural economics in May from New Mexico State University, where she was active in the National Agri-Marketing Association. In her free time, she also coached middle school volleyball in Truth or Consequences, N.M.

Raised on a family farm, she attended Hatch Valley High School, where she was active in FFA, sports and student council. She enjoys hiking, hunting, camping, scrapbooking and cooking, and hopes to finish a cookbook with her own recipes in the near future.

"With Ag New Mexico, I have the opportunity to help farmers and ranchers continue and grow their operations within the industry I love," Johnson says. "I look forward to being part of a great company and working with a great group of people."

## Zane Slater



Zane Slater joined Ag New Mexico as an accountant trainee in the Clovis administrative office.

Born in Lamesa, Texas, he grew up in Monument and Logan, N.M., and

earned a bachelor of accountancy degree in 2016 from New Mexico State University. He enjoys woodworking, leatherworking and auto repair, and says his dad, a ranch manager, taught him the importance of time management and a job well done, and how to handle unforeseen circumstances.

"I recently discovered how much agriculture has influenced me and how many opportunities it has provided me, and I decided I wanted to use my degree to give back to the industry," Slater says. "Upon discovering the opening with Ag New Mexico, I knew it would be a great place to start giving back. This was reinforced upon meeting my co-workers and discovering their dedication to their work."



**Brett Valentine** 

Ag New Mexico Farm Credit recently hired Brett Valentine as a senior vice president and branch manager in the Clovis credit office. He has 18 years

of banking experience, including with Farm Credit of New Mexico and Rabo AgriFinance.

A graduate of Socorro High School, Valentine holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from New Mexico State University (NMSU). He was also active in 4-H and FFA, and served as an NMSU student body senator.

Valentine runs a small cow-calf operation with his two teenage sons, Koby and Dylan, who are active in school sports, 4-H and FFA, and showing market steers and lambs. Dylan also team ropes and calf ropes in Junior Rodeo.

"I am excited about the opportunity to be part of a growing organization that values New Mexico agriculture," says Valentine.