

# Financial Partner





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By Greg Cole, President & CEO, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services



The outlook for 2016 has improved for producers that took advantage of the recent rallies in some crop commodities. The improved outlook is also attributed to a favorable crop progress report (as of this writing August 4) along with a higher projected Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payment on rice. This is good news since most producers lost money the last two years. Yields, marketing and cost containment will be drivers for positive margins. The protein sector should continue to experience modest profitability due to low feed costs offsetting the softening of meat and milk prices.

Unlike in the upper Midwest where farmland values continue to fall from their recent peak, Midsouth values remain positive according to our annual farmland value

study. We estimate farmland values appreciated a modest 2% on average year-over-year in the Association's territory. Solid demand, limited supply, marginal alterative investment opportunities and low interest rates continue to be the main drivers. Going forward, should any of these factors change, values could flatten or fall. For more details on the farmland value study see page 6.

Confirmation of your Association's ability to meet the needs of our customer-owners was seen in the results of the 2016 Customer Satisfaction Survey which are on this page. These results continue to be at exceptionally strong levels with 97% of our customer-owners stating they are either satisfied or very satisfied with the service we provide. In today's business climate, achieving a rating that high doesn't just happen; it requires a lot of hard work, planning, coordination, teamwork and strong leadership at all levels. Your feedback is valuable and is always appreciated. On behalf of the Board of Directors and management, thank you for your business.

Your Association continues to advocate on behalf of its customer-owners. Members of our board and management along with the state advocacy committee met with the Arkansas congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. as part of the 100 year celebration of the Farm Credit System. We discussed emerging issues for Arkansas agriculture and rural communities and expressed our appreciation for their continued support of the current farm bill. The safety net (PLC & Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) payments) has lessened the stress in the crop sector as brought on by the efficiency cycle.

If you have a need for financial capital, please stop by or call one of our convenient branch offices. Serving agriculture and rural America is not just our mission; it's our passion.

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### Customer Survey: How do we measure up?

At AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, our mission is to be the provider of choice for financial solutions to our rural and agricultural markets. And, we strive to make a positive difference in the business affairs of our customer-owners.

In order to determine how well we measure up, each year AgHeritage FCS conducts a survey of randomly chosen customer-owners because there is no one better to tell us if we are meeting your needs than you. The Arkansas Household Research Panel at the University of Arkansas conducted the survey and received an outstanding return response rate of 26%.

"We take the customer survey findings very seriously," said Greg Cole, President & CEO, AgHeritage FCS. "The survey gives us a picture of what is important to you and shows us where we need to adjust. Although findings this year are very good, we will continue to strive to do better."

The survey indicated that 97% were satisfied with AgHeritage FCS as a source of financing for their agricultural operation. The majority (99%) also indicated their expectations were met with 54% of those indicating AgHeritage FCS was exceeding expectations of what an ag lender can and should do.

The survey also indicated that an impressive 96% of current customers said they would "definitely" or "probably" acquire another loan from AgHeritage FCS if they required agricultural financing in the future.

AgHeritage FCS again made donations of \$500 each to the Arkansas Foundation for Agriculture, Arkansas FFA and to the Arkansas 4-H Foundation. Donations were made on behalf of the customer-owners of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services in appreciation of your support of the customer survey.

Cooperative benefits...Working with a cooperative allows us to feel that we are investing in something we are a part of rather than giving our money to someone else. And exceptional knowledge of farming industry.—Brinkley

**Dependable...**FCS have always responded timely to any of my needs. FCS is always dependable and reliable. I totally trust FCS.

—Dermott

Understanding of ag... AgHeritage FCS seems to understand my operation more than other lenders. I feel that our relationship partnership will become more vital to my operation in the changing environment.—Stuttgart



# FARM CREDIT

# New South Produce Cooperative receives \$30,000 donation from Farm Credit

Donation purchases three new cooling trailers to help keep produce fresh in transit

Three new cooling trailers now transport local produce from New South Produce Cooperative member farms to consumers and farmers' markets across the state. The trailers are a result of a \$30,000 donation from Farm Credit of Western Arkansas, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, Farm Credit Midsouth and AgriBank, their St. Paul, Minnesota-based funding bank.

New South Produce Cooperative purchases from about 18 farms and has expanded sales from individual Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares to supplying a number of restaurants in Central and Western Arkansas. In 2015,

they packed and distributed approximately 76,000 pounds of produce.

"The three refrigerator trailers are a scale-appropriate solution that provides small farmers with the ability to increase their marketing and distribution capabilities. The trailers serve as an important link in the supply chain by preserving product quality and food safety," says Ben Maddox, New South Cooperative Manager.

Farm Credit made the donation in celebration of its 100-year anniversary on



July 17. Congress created the Farm Credit System in 1916 to ensure rural America has access to reliable, dependable credit. Farm Credit is committed to that mission today, and tomorrow.

"As a financial cooperative committed to serving our local communities, we believe it's important to support local food system initiatives and all aspects of agriculture," said Greg Cole, President and CEO of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services. "An increasing number of consumers appreciate knowing where their food comes from, and who grows it."



Above photo, from left, Bob Bloom, CFO, and Hilary Haddigan, CME, Heifer International; Ben Maddox, Manager, New South Produce Cooperative; Greg Cole, President & CEO, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services; Tom Peebles, Executive Vice President, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas; and James McJunkins, President & CEO, Farm Credit Midsouth.

Photo left, Ben Maddox, Manager, New South Produce Cooperative, explains how the refrigeration system works.

#### ABOUT HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Heifer's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. For more than 70 years, Heifer International has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income. Heifer is currently working in nearly 30 countries, including the United States, to help families and communities become more self-reliant. Heifer's 2020 Goal is to help 4 million families achieve living incomes by 2020, which will allow them to feed their families daily; educate all their children; and have proper housing, water, hygiene and other essential resources. For information, visit Heifer.org, read our blog, follow us on Facebook, on Twitter @Heifer or call 888.5HUNGER (888.548.6437).





# Farm Credit Celebrates 100 Years with a Presidential Message

Importance of Reliable, Consistent Credit for Rural America and Agriculture Acknowledged in Presidential Message, Congressional Resolutions and Comments from Agriculture Secretary

Farm Credit celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 17, 2016. In recognizing the organization's milestone, the President of the United States shared a message of appreciation, the House of Representatives and the Senate both introduced resolutions to commend and congratulate the Farm Credit system, and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack lauded the organization's role in American agriculture and spoke to its ongoing importance to the future.

"By providing loans and financial services to farmers and communities through its network of cooperatives, the FCS [Farm Credit System] plays an integral role in local economies across the United States," said President Barack Obama. "I commend everyone working to ensure America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities have the resources and information they need to thrive, and I wish all those celebrating this historic occasion the very best."

The House of Representatives resolution (<u>H.Res.591</u>) is jointly sponsored by U.S. House Agriculture Committee Leaders Mike Conaway (R-TX), Collin Peterson (D-MN), Austin Scott (R-GA), and David Scott (D\_GA) and co-sponsored by more than 160 other members of the House. The Senate resolution (<u>S.Res.349</u>) was introduced by Senate Agriculture Committee leaders Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and co-sponsored by 56 other senators. Both resolutions received bi-partisan support and applaud Farm Credit for helping to meet the credit and financial services needs of rural communities and agriculture.

From left, Greg Cole, President & CEO, AgHeritage FCS, Representative Rick Crawford, and Carl Loewer, Farm Credit Midsouth Board Member. Photo made at event held in conjunction with the June 2016 Farm Credit 100 celebration in D.C.



From left, Glen Manchester, President & CEO, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas, Greg Cole, President & CEO, AgHeritage FCS, Senator Boozman, and Ron Hubbard, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas Board Member. Photo made at event held in conjunction with the June 2016 Farm Credit 100 celebration in D.C.

"Farm Credit is made up of dedicated Ameri-

cans who understand the needs, and champion the values, of rural America," said Congressman Austin Scott (R-GA), chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. "For a century Farm Credit has been providing our farmers, ranchers and rural communities with the capital they need to build and grow successfully."

Secretary Vilsack attended the Farm Credit 100 luncheon on June 16 in D.C. The event recognized the organization's anniversary as well as the honorees of Farm Credit's Fresh Perspectives search. The Fresh Perspectives program identified leaders and visionaries in agriculture and rural America that are shaping the next 100 years.

"The rural communities and the farm community trusts Farm Credit to be there in the good times, but more importantly, in the tough times," said Secretary Vilsack. "Over the course of the last 100 years, that trust has been cemented."

Said Todd Van Hoose, President and CEO of the Farm Credit Council of the anniversary: "We are grateful for the strong support for Farm Credit's mission from President Obama, Secretary Vilsack, and congressional leaders and look forward to another 100 years of supporting rural communities and agriculture."

### Lonoke Branch:

More than 200 customer-owners, community members and agriculture leaders gathered for the AgHeritage Farm Credit Services Customer Appreciation Lunch-Farm Credit 100 Celebration held in July at the Lonoke Community Center.





## **Crop Insurance Claims**

By Mala Turner, Appraisal and Insurance Coordinator,
AgHeritage Farm Credit Services



Crop insurance is an important tool in your risk management plans. This is not likely to change and, in the near future, an expanded crop insurance program has replaced the traditional "safety net" farm programs. Federal crop insurance seems to have emerged as one of the most important risk management and future farm legislation. Your coverage can help when planted crops are

damaged or do not turn out as well as they have in the past.

Crop hail insurance is also available on spring crops. It provides coverage from hail, fire and transit. There are also additional endorsements for certain crops.

Under the crop insurance policy, the producer has the responsibility to report losses to their agent as soon as a loss is discovered to initiate the loss claim procedures. There are deadlines and filing requirements that are explained in your policy.

Under the basic provisions of the crop insurance policy, it is the farmers' responsibility to report their planted acres accurately. When acreage is not correct it could be costly at loss time. Incorrect acreage reporting may cause loss penalties and delays.

Contact your crop insurance agent just as soon as you notice you might have damage or a loss in production.



## 2016 AgHeritage FCS Benchmark Value Update

Compiled by the AgHeritage Farm Credit Services Appraisal Department

The Randolph County Benchmark (BM) update indicated the highest change in value in the past 12 months of all the benchmarks. The trend is to larger farming operations with

> operators farming their individually owned land in addition to rented land. Area towns depend on the agricultural economy and provide support businesses. There are also some industry and average opportunities for off-farm employment in the larger towns of Pocahontas and Jonesboro (Craighead County). The market area is primarily a rice, soybean, and wheat producing area. Soils range from silt loam to clay soils with a Class II or Class III classification. Yields in the area are typically good due to this fact. Groundwater is sufficient in both quality and quantity in the area and many landowners have precision leveled fields which have led to an increase in rice production in the area over the last couple of years. This market continues to experience high demand

for cropland tracts. Sales in the past year indicate that land values may be trending upward after last year's void of

appreciation which was likely a response to the downward trend in commodity prices. Sales activity was up in this area and the majority of buyers continue to be local landowner and/or operators. With the 8.57% increase in value in this market, it continues to be the highest valued land in AFCS territory.

The Part-Time Farm Benchmark update indicated a decrease of 5.26% in value over the last 12 months from July 1 2015 to July 1 2016. The immediate neighborhood West of US #67 and North of US Hwy #64 is primarily a rural area consisting of livestock farms to part-time farms to rural residential developments. The neighborhood has nonagricultural influence and development potential is considered average to above average for uses other than agriculture. From conversations with area Real-

tors, it is their opinion that the value for this type of property has only slightly softened over the past twelve months.

> Much of the decrease indicated by this update is due to the fact that the land category was revised to include four acres of Woods (rather than the 0 acres of Woods as used in previous years). In certain areas of this market, mineral rights still play a role in value; however, these areas are more clearly defined than they have been in the past. Also, of the properties being sold in the area, most are reserving the mineral rights.

There was a good selection of sales in the Lonoke County BM area to conclude that farm land values have held steady to slightly increasing, from July 2015 to July 2016. The 2016 update indicated a 3.06% value increase of this benchmark in the past 12 months. The immediate neighborhood along AR

#31 is primarily a rice, soybean, and corn producing area

having desired soil types for these crops. Historically,

farms with good silt loam soils rarely go on the market;

The Broiler Farm Benchmark update for the past three years has indicated no change in value. This year there was however, during the 2012 to 2014 update, a sharp upturn in a decrease in value, 3.13%, primarily attributed to physical



Jon Plafcan Chief Appraiser



Drew Vance Certified Appraiser

Jake Minton Certified Appraiser

the number of sales and land values in the subject's market was indicated but this trend has steadied since 2014. There has continued to be a fair amount of sales in the past year, but prices paid have varied widely. As with last year, buyers in this market have been a mix of individual, local investors and institutional investors. Four of the eight comparable sales used in the valuation of this benchmark were purchased by individuals that planned to farm the property

The current 2016 Monroe County BM update indicates a slight decline of -1.73%. For a little background of this BM, the 2008 update indicated an unprecedented value increase of nearly 30%, the 2009 update indicated sustained increases at 9.59%, the 2010 update indicated a 5.71% increase, the 2011 update indicated a 16.40% increase, and (as reflected above) the 2012 update indicated a 6.33%. The 2013 update indicated another significant increase (26.55%) more similar to the large jump in 2008. The 2014 update indicated an 8% value increase which finally appeared to stabilize in 2015 with the most conservative increase in seven years at 2.79%. In 2016 there have been several sales in the Harris market but only one was truly comparable to the benchmark farm. The available sales indicate a wide range of both values and cap rates requiring some subjective judgments when arriving at this year's market value for the Monroe County BM.

It appears that the market has remained largely unchanged since the 2015 report for the Lincoln County BM farm. This is the only BM farm of the five cropland BM properties that did not show any movement, up or down. Four of the five sales that were analyzed in the valuation of this benchmark occurred since November 2015 and were purchased by local buyers. The remaining sale occurred in July 2015 and was purchased by a large investment group that has been active in the area for several years.

The Arkansas County Benchmark property has, over the last 12 months, indicated a moderate appreciation of 4.23%. This benchmark is a high yielding rice, soybean, corn, and wheat producing add-on tract located in a good farming area. The soils found on the BM are the preferred soils in the area for rice and soybean production. There is a 22-acre reservoir on the property which is fed by two irrigation wells and also through a water recovery system (where the water is placed in the reservoir by underground pipe from a relift). By gravity feed, the water is released from the reservoir to the cropland. Historically, agricultural land rarely transfers in this area of the Grand Prairie region, and the past year was no exception. The available sales data was not only limited, but also indicated a fairly wide range from an expanded market area. The most reliable sales data available (that which occurred between October 2015 and April 2016) established the mid of the range of the five sales and supported the fact that land values in the area have continued to appreciate over the last 12 months.



### BENCHMARK UPDATE VALUES

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ESTABLISHED 1916					

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	<b>TOTAL %</b>	AVG %
BENCHMARK	% CHANGE	INCREASE	Last 5 Years				
	S PER UNIT	2012 to 2016	(Simple)				
	Cap Rate		S PER ACRE				
#472 - Randolph Co	16.22%	9.42%	11,58%	0.00%	8.57%	45,79%	9.16%
200 Ac - Precision leveled	4.300	4,705	5,250	5,250	5,700		5,041
rice production	3.18	3.30	3.18	2.76	2.70		
#364 - White Co	2.86%	3.33%	0.00%	2.15%	-5.26%	3.08%	0.62%
30 Ac * - Part-time farm widwig & pasture	180,000	136,000	186,000	190,000	180,000		184,400
* total value	2.61	2.61	2.59	2.51	2.65		
#375 - Lancke Co	11.29%	37.70%	0.00%	3.15%	3.06%	55.21%	11.04%
289 Ac - Cotton production	2,464	3,393	3,393	3,500	3,607		3,271
	4.19	3.42	3,33	3.20	3.00		
#487 - Monroe Co	6.33%	26,55%	8.01%	2.79%	-1.73%	41.95%	8.39%
287 Ac - Rice production	2,753	3,484	3,763	3,368	3.801		3,534
	4.40	3.98	4.05	3.67	3.60		
#490 - Lincoln Co	25.93%	13.83%	14.89%	2.93%	0.00%	57.58%	11.52%
162 Ac - Rice/cotton production	3,220	3,654	4.198	4,321	4,321		3,941
	4.18	3.86	3.48	2.90	3.10		
#185 - Arkansas Co	20.49%	19.40%	10.42%	7.16%	4.23%	61.70%	12.34%
308 Ac - Rice production	3,263	3,896	4,302	4,610	4,805		4,175
	4.01	4.12	3.79	3.06	2.90		
#488 - Cleveland Co	0.00%	0,00%	0.00%	0.00%	-3,13%	-3.13%	-0.63%
40 Ac * - Poultry Broilers	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	775,000		795,000
* total value	13.07	13.07	17.21	15.70	16.00		
#460 - Ashley Co	19.66%	17.14%	12.20%	2.59%	-2.33%	49,25%	9.85%
320 Ac - Cotton production	3,500	4,100	4,600	4,719	4,609		4,306
1	4.20	3.75	3.16	3.05	3.15		
Cropland BM Only - Avg Increases Last 5 yr /Ac Average for Cropland	15.32%	20.67%	9.52%	3.10%	1.97%		10.38% 4.045

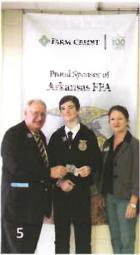
depreciation not being offset by building cost increases over the past year. There were land sales available to estimate the land portion of the property but there were no recent sales discovered of broiler farms in the past 12 months in the Southeast Arkansas poultry region. A determination of whether the market is increasing or decreasing is, nonetheless, very subjective but the fact still remains that the broiler houses continue to depreciate causing the downward value. There have been a few sales in the northern AFCS territory (Batesville market) and these sales indicate similar, to slightly stronger, values than the limited sales data available in the Southeast Arkansas poultry region.

The Ashley County Benchmark update has indicated a slight decrease of -2.33% over the past 12 months. All of the five sales used in the analysis were purchased by investment groups which, obviously, still play a major role in the SE Arkansas market and continue to exhibit demand on larger tracts (over 500 acres) with relatively high percentages of tillable acreage. All of the sales used in this update are smaller than 200 acres which are commanding lower values than larger more economical cropland tracts. As was true with a few of our other cropland benchmark properties, transfers of large, quality farmland in SE Arkansas were limited over the past 12 months.

In conclusion, this year's update appears to be, when compared to recent years, a return to more conservative increases (for comparison, consider the nearly unprecedented 20% increase noted by our agricultural benchmark properties between 2012 and 2013 (greater increases had not been reflected for the past 32 years). For the past three years our cropland benchmarks have indicated single digit increases, 2014 - 9.52%, 2015 - 3.1% and 2016 - 1.97%. Over the past five years, which includes this current update, our benchmarks have shown an overall annual increase of 12.63%. Our current 5 year average cropland value is \$4,045 per acre which is 9.5% higher than the 5 year average in 2015. Last year we stated that it certainly doesn't hurt to have a stabilizing year. It is our opinion that over the past two years that moderate, steady increases are indicative of a land market that, while not increasing rapidly, is healthy and is a market that does not point to a precipitous drop in value in the near-future. With this year's modest increase, however, it appears that we may see a hesitant market in the upcoming months which may show some downward turn but we feel it will be mostly on below average/marginal cropland. The benchmark update provides a good, annual baseline on agricultural land values in our area and is a useful tool not only in recognizing past trends, but also in attempting to predict what the future may hold.

























### From the Board Room

By Michael Taylor, Chairman, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services

Although we are officially only half way through summer, corn and rice harvest have already begun in south Arkansas as of the second week in August. Arkansas appears to have a good crop overall. Soybeans have been helped by some rare summer rains in late July and early August. The rice crop looks normal, but milling yield is an unknown until after harvest. High nighttime temperatures are generally detrimental to rice milling yield. Nighttime temperatures were higher than normal early this summer. Early planted rice will likely show the largest effect.

FARM CREDIT

Price is a worry for all commodities this year, but especially for corn and rice. Yields are a big component of profitability, but with the September futures price for long grain rice below \$10.00/cwt, average yields (163 bushels, or 7,340 pounds, per acre in 2015, according to the University of Arkansas) will result in a net loss for most producers unless prices improve. The low price should result in a substantial Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payment, but the payment for the 2016 crop year won't be paid until October of 2017. Rice is the dominant crop associated with approximately forty-five percent of the AgHeritage Farm Credit Services loan portfolio volume.

Farmers have adjusted quickly to the faltering row crop economy. Rental rates have been adjusted downward in many areas, and new equipment purchases are a rarity. Inputs, especially fertilizer and fuel, have become cheaper. Producers will continue to adjust their operations as long as the downturn persists. The downside to this situation is that these adjustments can have adverse effects over time. Those of you who have picked up land that was previously operated by a struggling farmer know that the soil fertility, weed pressure, and irrigation infrastructure are all negatively affected in these situations.

AgHeritage FCS continues to do well financially. Credit quality is good, but drifting off slightly due to the stress in the row crop sector. We continue to build capital, but at a slightly slower rate. As our borrowers take a more defensive stance, our loan volume growth has slowed. AgHeritage FCS remains very well capitalized and is well positioned to meet your credit needs. Thank you very much for your business.

Michael Do Taylor

# AgHeritage Farm Credit Services... Supporting ag and rural life

1. Mark Dutton, VP & Branch Manager, AgHeritage FCS Star City, speaks during lunch at the National Black Growers Council Model Farm Field Day. Farm Credit is a sponsor of the event. 2. Farm2Home Farmers Market at Moss Mountain Farm. Farm Credit is a sponsor of this Arkansas Grown program. 3. Farm Credit hosted dinner for the newly elected 2016-2017 4-H State Officers and their leaders. 4. Amy Lyman, AgHeritage FCS, Ag Secretary Wes Ward, Arkansas Agriculture Department, Damon Helton, Senator Boozman, and Jana Helton during a meet and great for area Veterans. The Heltons are members of the Arkansas Grown Homegrown by Heroes program. Farm Credit is a sponsor of the program. 5. (Left) Marion Fletcher and Amy Lyman award Beau Hoople, Fountain Lake FFA, \$100 during the annual FFA State Convention. The \$100 giveaway was in celebration of Farm Credit's 100 year anniversary celebration. 6. Governor Hutchison signed a proclamation declaring August 7-13 as Farmers Market Week in Arkansas. Farm Credit is a sponsor of the Arkansas Grown Farmers Market Promotion Program and the Farmers Market Bag Program. 7. Farm2Home at Moss Mountain. 8. Farm Credit hosted dinner for newly elected 2016-2017 FFA

State Officers. 9. UA Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences Alumni & Friends hosted the 17th annual Delta Scholarship Golf Classic on July 15, 2016, raising more than \$22,500 to fund scholarships. 10. Dewayne Goldmon, Monsanto, addresses the crowd during the National Black Growers Council Model Farm Field Day in Wabbaseka. 11. Farm Credit provides backpacks to state competitive event winners during 4-H O'Rama.

(National Black Growers Council Model Farm Field Day photos courtesy of Brad Mayhugh, photographer at UAPB.)



# Annual/Quarterly Report Availability

The annual report is made available each year on the AgHeritage Farm Credit Services website 75 days after the end of the calendar year. Members are provided a copy of such report 90 days after the end of the calendar year. The quarterly reports are available on our website 40 days after the end of each calendar quarter.

To access financial statements online, go to the association's website at www.agheritagefcs.com, select the About drop down, choose the Management/Governance page and click on Financial Information.





### Next Generation: 2016 AgHeritage FCS Scholarship Recipients

University Scholarship Program; Ken Shea Memorial Scholarship; Customer Scholarship Program

### University Scholarship -

Rachel Hutchison (1) is the daughter of Robert D. Hutchison. Rachel, a graduate from Parkview Magnet High School in 2013, attends University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Miss Hutchison is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. Additionally, Rachel is involved with both the University Science Scholar Program and the Chancellors Leadership Corps.

### Ken Shea Memorial -

John Whitaker (2) of Monticello is the recipient of the Ken Shea Memorial Scholarship. John is the son of Sam and Alicia Whitaker. John graduated from Monticello High School and is attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to study Agricultural Business. While in high school, Mr. Whitaker was involved in numerous organizations and clubs. He was the class President for two years, the Student Council Vice President and his senior year served as Student Council President during which time he served as the representative of the Student Body at School Board Meetings. He served on the Monticello School District Wellness Committee. Mr. Whitaker was a member of the Ouiz Bowl Team, Renaissance Leadership Team and Beta Club. He was a National Honor Society Member and a three year varsity football letterman.

### **Customer Scholarships-**

Megan J. Bright (3) is the daughter of George and Jeannie Bright. Megan graduated from Bradford High School and is attending Arkansas State University at Jonesboro to study Animal Science (pre-veterinary). Miss Bright was involved in extracurricular activities such as Future Farmers of America (FFA), treasurer of the Beta Club, and members of both Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and Future Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Additionally, Megan participated in basketball, softball, and track.

Michael C. Hall (4) is the son of Phil and Terri Ann Hall. Michael is a recent graduate of Marvell Academy

### FFA & 4-H Program

AgHeritage FCS will donate up to \$100 to a local 4-H or FFA county chapter every time you finance an equipment purchase through an AgHeritage FCS branch office. Donation amounts depend on the amount of the loan. Donations will be made to the local 4-H or FFA of your choice and in your name. Contact your branch for details.

and attends the Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. In high school, Mr. Hall was involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), served as Student Council Treasurer, and was the Class President. Additionally, he participated in football, baseball, track, and basketball.

Chandler M. Konecny (5) is the daughter of Kelly and Melanie Konecny. Chandler is a graduate from Stuttgart High School and is attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to study Biology. Miss Konecny held academic honors at Stuttgart High School. Additionally, Chandler has served as president of the Key Club and Leo Club, and treasurer of the Chemistry Club. Chandler has volunteered her services for Dana's House and Delta Beta Sigma.

Madeline P. Lewis (6) is the daughter of Tommy Lewis. Madeline is a graduate from Newport High School and attends Arkansas State University at Jonesboro to study Medicine. Miss Lewis actively engaged in extracurricular activities such as Future Farmers of America (FFA), as well as competing in the Public Speaking event. Additionally, Madeline was a member of the Art and Bible club, and Holden Avenue Youth Group.

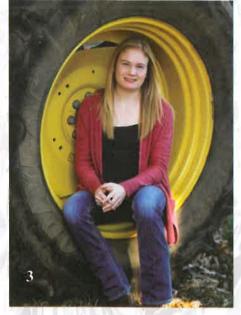
Rose M. Mencer (7) is the daughter of David and Susan Mencer. Rose graduated from Monticello High School and attends the University of Arkansas at Monticello. In high school, Rose was the president of National Honor Society, secretary of Beta Club, and member of both the Future Career and Community Leaders Club (FCCLA), and Spanish Club. Rose also participated on the Lady Billie's softball team, as well as Monticello High School tennis team.

Clayton Parker (8) is the son of C.J. and Cara Parker. Clayton is a recent graduate from Carlisle High School and is attending the University of Arkansas at Fayette-ville to study Agricultural Business. Throughout high school, Clayton was involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Future Farmers of America (FFA), and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Additionally, he participated in football and baseball.

In support of rural America and the next generation of leaders, AgHeritage FCS also offers additional programs such as: FFA & 4-H; Next Generation Farmer; and Youth Loan. For information on these programs, visit agheritagefcs.com.

















From left, Clayton Parker and Cole Plafcan, VP & Branch Manager, AgHeritage FCS Lonoke Office

#### **Board of Directors**

Michael Taylor, Chairman
Dwain Morris, Vice Chairman
Russell Bonner
Tracy Borgognoni
Jerry Burkett
Mike Burkett
Chuck Culver, Outside Director
Mike Ellis
Sandra Morgan, Outside Director
Clay Schaefer
Keith Watkins
Scott Young

### **Branch Locations**

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Brinkley 498 Broadmoor Drive Brinkley 72021 870-734-4561 · 800-689-1304

Dermott 106 South Freeman Dermott 71638 870-538-5205 · 800-689-6978

Lonoke 1121 W. Front Street Lonoke 72086 501-676-3144 · 800-689-1309

Newport 2800 Stegall Road Newport 72112 870-523-5867 · 800-698-5867

Pocahontas 1105 Pace Road Pocahontas 72455 870-892-4579 · 800-689-6976

Searcy 2620 South Main Street Searcy 72143 501-268-3524 · 800-689-6977

Star City 904 North Drew Street Star City 71667 870-628-4218 · 800-689-1306

Stuttgart 1102 East 22nd Street Stuttgart 72160 870-673-1558 · 800-689-1307

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### **Events Calendar**

#### 2016

September 5: AgHeritage Farm Credit Services offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

September 30: Fall Sales closing date for multi-peril crop insurance is the deadline to purchase coverage on wheat/oats. Contact your local branch today.

October 4-6: 71st Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Forestry Association, The Chancellor Hotel, Fayetteville. For more information, call 501-374-2441 or go to http://www.arkforests.org/?page=annualmeeting.

October 14-23: Arkansas State Fair, Little Rock. To see information on entertainment, competitive events, livestock information and more, go to http://www.arkansasstatefair.com/.

October 18-20: Sunbelt Ag Expo, Moultrie, GA. For more information, go to www.sunbeltexpo.com.

November 9: Newport Office Customer Appreciation, Iron Mountain Depot, 425 Front Street, Newport, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

November 24-25: AgHeritage Farm Credit Services offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

November 29: Pocahontas Customer Appreciation, The Studio, 123 West Main Street, Walnut Ridge, 6 p.m.

December 6: Searcy Customer Appreciation, Dondie's White River Princess, Curran St., Des Arc, 6 p.m.

December 7-9: USA Rice Outlook Conference, Sheraton Memphis Downtown, Memphis, TN. For more information, contact Jeanette Davis, jdavis@usarice.com or 703-236-1447.

December 23-26: AgHeritage Farm Credit Services offices will be closed in observance of Christmas.

Brinkley and Stuttgart Customer Event dates will be announced at a later time.

Farmers Markets: For a list of area farmers markets, visit http://www.arkansasgrown.org/ or www.arkansasfoodandfarm.com

