

# GROWING RURAL AMERICA

2021 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT



# OVERVIEW

Proud Member of the  
Farm Credit System 

As a mission-based cooperative lender and member of the Farm Credit System, CoBank is committed to being a good corporate citizen. The bank is an active supporter of causes and programs that support people and communities in need, as well as the industries we serve across rural America.

## 2-7 CORPORATE GIVING

- \$16.7 million in charitable contributions in 2021, including commitments for future years
- Joint contributions of nearly \$66 million by CoBank Sharing Success and its customers since program's inception

## 8-11 SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOODS

- \$103.7 billion retail and wholesale agribusiness portfolio

## 12-17 COOPERATIVE ADVOCACY AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT

- \$3.3 million to support cooperative advocacy and industry organizations across the U.S. in 2021

## 18-21 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- Eight Associate Resource Groups promote an inclusive workplace and support the bank's diversity and inclusion efforts
- More than \$1 million in 2021 charitable contributions to support the bank's diversity and inclusion efforts

## 22-25 RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION

- Multi-year grants to land grant and other universities focused on agricultural research and education
- Financial support for university centers focused on the study and advancement of cooperatives

## 26-29 RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Major investments in rural equity funds and public-private partnerships designed to bolster investment and job growth in rural areas

## 30-33 RURAL DISASTER RELIEF

- More than \$4 million in disaster relief contributions in the past five years

## 34-37 SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- \$2.1 billion renewable energy portfolio
- One of the nation's leading financers of renewable energy projects

# KEY FACTS



## HEADQUARTERS

Greenwood Village, Colorado



## 14 BANKING CENTERS



## EMPLOYEES

CoBank employed 1,077 associates as of 12/31/2021

**\$170**  
BILLION

## ASSETS

CoBank is one of the largest private providers of credit to the U.S. rural economy



## RECOGNITION

For the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, *Global Finance* magazine named CoBank one of the 50 safest banks in the world.

In 2021, CoBank was recognized as one of the 50 most community-minded companies in Colorado by the Points of Light nonprofit organization.

# TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

**"YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP AND TRUST ALLOW COBANK TO FULFILL ITS MISSION EVERY DAY."**

On behalf of CoBank, we are delighted to share with you our 2021 Corporate Social Responsibility report. Together with its companion annual report, the CSR report is a reflection of who we are as an organization and the strength of CoBank's commitment to our customers and our mission of service.

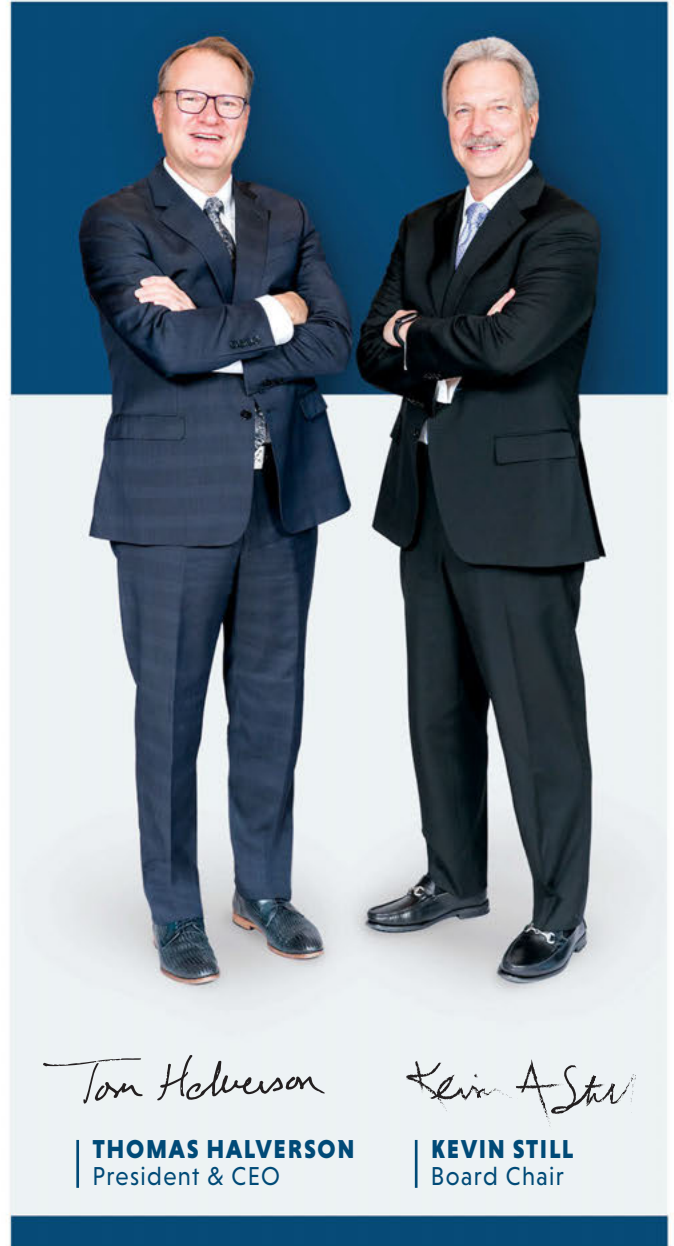
The year 2021 presented tremendous trials, including the ongoing pandemic, challenging economic conditions and devastating natural disasters. Many of our charitable partners were tested as they worked to meet the ever-increasing needs of the communities they serve while struggling to obtain the necessary financial and physical resources. CoBank responded to these challenges with a record \$16.7 million in charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations across the country. We did so in collaboration with our customer-owners, our Farm Credit partners and others equally invested in the success and vitality of rural America.

In response to the generosity of our customers, CoBank's board significantly upsized the annual Sharing Success fund, ultimately matching \$5.4 million in customer contributions. Combined with CoBank's matching funds, Sharing Success provided \$10.8 million in support to more than 1,400 organizations—an all-time high for the program.

In addition to meeting the needs of the present, CoBank made investments in Young, Beginning and Small farmer programs, education, renewable energy and other projects that focus on the possibilities of the future.

Most importantly, CoBank continued to provide strong, dependable financial resources for agriculture and the other vital rural industries we serve.

We hope that the many investments and accomplishments outlined in this report will be a source of pride to you and your organizations. Your continued partnership and trust allow CoBank to fulfill its mission every day.







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SINCE 2016, COBANK HAS PARTNERED WITH NO BARRIERS USA TO SUPPORT RURAL VETERANS BY SPONSORING ANNUAL WILDERNESS EXPEDITIONS IN COLORADO'S ROCKY MOUNTAINS.



# CORPORATE GIVING

**“NO BARRIERS HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU’RE NOT THE ONLY PERSON THAT’S STRUGGLING. AND YOU DON’T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE.”**

As a mission-based cooperative lender, CoBank believes in giving back to the communities where our customers and associates live and work. In 2021, the bank made a total of \$16.7 million in charitable contributions, including commitments for future years.

**Corporate giving at CoBank takes many forms, including:**

## **SHARING SUCCESS**

CoBank’s Sharing Success program doubles the impact of our customer-owners by matching their charitable contributions. Since 2012, combined Sharing Success contributions have totaled nearly \$66 million. In 2021 alone, Sharing Success generated a record \$10.8 million in donations to more than 1,400 organizations.

## **SUPPORT FOR RURAL VETERANS**

Since 2016, CoBank has partnered with No Barriers USA to support rural veterans. CoBank and its customers help bring veterans with disabilities to the Rocky Mountains. The vets hike, climb, raft and connect. Surrounded by others with similar experiences, they find a sense of comfort and belonging.

Approximately 300 veterans have participated in CoBank-sponsored No Barriers expeditions or taken part in an online curriculum. The experience has changed lives.

*“No Barriers helps you understand that you’re not the only person that’s struggling. And you don’t have to do it alone.”*

—Robert Philips, U.S. Army  
2021 Warriors Expedition Member

## **BOARD AND ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS**

CoBank’s Board of Directors plays an important role in the bank’s efforts to deepen its commitment to the communities it serves. Each year, board members designate \$25,000 in contributions to nonprofit organizations that are consistent with the bank’s business and charitable philosophies.

In addition, CoBank associates are able to direct a \$500 contribution annually to the charity of their choice. The Associate Directed Contribution program supports thousands of charitable and civic organizations, reflecting the wide array of interests and priorities of CoBank associates.

In 2021, donations made through board- and associate-directed contribution programs totaled more than \$1 million.

CoBank associates can also designate a portion of each paycheck to the United Way, a national nonprofit focusing on education, health and financial stability. In 2021, associates donated more than \$211,000 through our workplace-giving program.

Additionally, CoBank encourages associates to contribute their time and expertise by offering an annual paid volunteer day and by honoring those who demonstrate outstanding community service with our annual Volunteer Service Award (VSA). Each VSA winner receives a \$5,000 contribution from the bank to the charity they support.

## **SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Each year, CoBank considers special contributions based on requests from customers and other stakeholders, or in response to external events. In 2021, the bank joined Land O’Lakes and others to support the launch of Lead for America’s American Connection Corps (ACC), the nation’s largest fellowship program focused on broadband development and digital inclusion. The 50 ACC fellows are collaborating with local communities to address a variety of issues as they work toward their vision of a connected country: one where each inhabitant—regardless of their geography or income level—will have the ability to reach new educational, health and economic opportunities.



*During the Stock Show, the CoBank Livestock Auction Arena will host the iconic Junior Livestock Auction.*

## NATIONAL WESTERN CENTER

**“AS PART OF ITS ONGOING INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE, COBANK HAS COMMITTED \$5 MILLION TO THE NATIONAL WESTERN CENTER.”**

More than 100 years ago, Denver, Colorado, hosted the first Western Live Stock Show, showing more than 350 cattle, sheep and hogs and providing demonstrations of the latest in breeding and feeding techniques for local stockmen. From these humble roots grew the iconic National Western Stock Show, now recognized as the premier livestock, rodeo and horse show in the nation, drawing more than 700,000 attendees each January. And while 100 years of stock show history is certainly remarkable, it is the next 100 years that have captured the imaginations of farmers, ranchers, civic leaders, businesspeople and educators.

The complex that houses the stock show is currently being transformed into the new National Western Center. The project, which has been called one of the nation’s most ambitious urban renewal projects, represents a nearly \$1 billion public investment in the future of agriculture in the West.

In addition to hosting the annual stock show, more than 2.2 million square feet of indoor and outdoor space will feature year-round educational and entertainment programming.

As part of its ongoing investment in the future of agriculture and our nation’s rural communities, CoBank has committed \$5 million to the National Western Center, securing naming rights to two facilities: the CoBank Livestock Arena and the CoBank Livestock Auction Arena.

“The CoBank and Farm Credit missions align directly with the vision for the new National Western Center, which will become a world-class hub for agriculture, education and innovation,” said Thomas Halverson, CoBank’s president and CEO. “We are delighted to be a part of this effort, which will introduce the vitality and possibilities of agriculture to new audiences and new generations.”





The 146,000-square-foot CoBank Livestock Arena will be the centerpiece of the new Livestock Center. With seating for up to 5,000, the space will be one of the most vital and heavily trafficked locations on the National Western Center campus during the National Western Stock Show and throughout the year. During the stock show, the 700-seat, 10,000-square-foot CoBank Livestock Auction Arena (the second CoBank-sponsored facility) will showcase one of the show's most prestigious and iconic events: The Junior Livestock Auction.

With winning bids that have reached as high as \$160,000, the auction not only provides financial rewards for all the hard work that goes into raising a championship animal, it also supports education, with 10 percent of all sales supporting the National Western Scholarship Fund. "The entire Farm Credit System is committed to encouraging today's youth to seek a future in agriculture, and the Junior Livestock Auction does just that," Halverson said.

Construction on the National Western Center began in 2018. Once finished, the center will offer a unique opportunity to connect the rural and urban economies. State-of-the-art spaces will play host to concerts and festivals, farmers' markets, sporting events, trade shows, cultural and family events and conventions, and provide space for offices, business incubators, classes, public art, shops and more. Completion of the CoBank-sponsored arenas and the full National Western Center is expected in 2025.



CoBank presented \$5 million to National Western's "Honoring the Legacy" committee.



CoBank President & CEO Tom Halverson and Pete Coors, chairman of National Western's "Honoring the Legacy" fundraising campaign.

Photo credit: Jensen Sutta



*CEO David Briggs is proud of WESTCO's support of FFA programs throughout the cooperative's territory.*

## SHARING SUCCESS: MORRILL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION COMPLEX

**"WESTCO AND COBANK'S INVESTMENT INSPIRED OTHER AG COMPANIES IN THE REGION TO STEP UP AND DO MORE."**

Located in the western panhandle of Nebraska, the Morrill Public School serves approximately 450 pre-elementary, elementary and high school students. Agriculture is the primary industry and vocation in Morrill and, unsurprisingly, the school offers a strong ag education program.

Since 2010, Morrill has been exploring ways to expand its ag education and to offer more hands-on learning to participants. In 2020, the effort gained new life when the city of Morrill donated 10 acres from a disused baseball complex.

"Agriculture is incredibly important to our community and for more than 10 years we've been exploring ways to bring our ag education programs out of the classroom and offer hands-on learning opportunities to our students," said Joe Sherwood, superintendent of Morrill Public Schools.

"With the donation of the brownfield baseball complex, we finally had the space we needed, but we still needed to raise significant funding for construction."

Plans were developed for a \$700,000, 4,800-square-foot facility that would support plant and animal sciences and ag business education. The school system received funding from the State Department of Education and federal stimulus programs. It also reached out to the local business community for help.

"We received tremendous support from our local bank, John Deere, our Farm Credit association, the Rotary Club and others," continued Sherwood. "We'd gotten to approximately \$600,000, but then our fundraising stalled out. We launched another round of requests to local businesses and that's when I reached out to WESTCO."





Western Cooperative Company (WESTCO) is a producers' cooperative based out of Alliance, Nebraska, and has an agronomy location in Morrill. WESTCO's CEO, David Briggs, grew up just 15 miles from Morrill and has always felt a strong connection to the community.

"WESTCO works hard to do our best by our members and our communities and one of the ways we do that is by supporting FFA," said Briggs. "Morrill is a really important location for us and they have a great ag education and FFA program. Many of the young people who attend school in Morrill will choose to work in agriculture and, even if they don't, it's important to educate them about where their food comes from."

WESTCO, a CoBank customer for more than 10 years, donated \$10,000 to the Morrill Ag Education Complex and then reached out to CoBank in the hopes of doubling its own contribution through a Sharing Success matching grant.

"We've had a strong relationship with CoBank for years and have taken advantage of the Sharing Success program before," continued Briggs. "We try to take advantage of every opportunity to bring money into our communities and we're thankful that CoBank recognizes this and is willing to help. We like the idea of the matching program, too. It makes us think about what projects we really want to support and allows us to provide meaningful dollars."

CoBank matched WESTCO's donation dollar for dollar, bringing the total combined gift to \$20,000.

"The donation from WESTCO and CoBank was huge for us," said Superintendent Sherwood. "It was \$20,000—a significant amount—but it was more than that. WESTCO and CoBank's investment inspired other ag companies in the region to donate their own funds, or to increase donations they had already planned. They really spurred others to step up and do more."

Completion of the Morrill Ag Education Complex is expected in April 2022 and the school plans to offer year-round programming beginning later in the year.

"We're so excited to take our ag education out of the classroom and the textbook and offer real hands-on learning to our students," said Sherwood. "Thanks to so many partners and donors like WESTCO and CoBank, we'll be able to do a much better job of preparing our students for real life experiences."



*Joe Sherwood, superintendent of Morrill Public Schools, joins teacher Shane Buchholz and the students of Morrill's "Intro to Agriculture" class.*



*The Morrill Ag Education Complex will take students out of the classroom and offer hands-on learning in subjects such as animal husbandry.*



ROSE HILL FARM STOP OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, RECEIVED A LOW-COST EQUIPMENT LOAN THROUGH THE CO-OP START PROGRAM. THE CO-OP'S 41 VENDORS SELL FARM AND ARTISANAL PRODUCTS INCLUDING FRESH PRODUCE, MEAT, DAIRY, EGGS, HONEY, SAUCES AND SOAPS.





# SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOODS

**“COBANK INVESTS IN COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT; YOUNG, BEGINNING AND SMALL (YBS) FARMING PROGRAMS; AND LOCAL AND URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS.”**

As one of the nation’s largest agricultural lenders, CoBank plays a vital role supporting the U.S. farm economy. CoBank provides farmer-owned cooperatives and other agribusinesses with loans, lines of credit, export financing and other financial services. Our customers are a key part of the value chain in every ag sector, as are CoBank’s affiliated Farm Credit Associations, which serve farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states across the country.

CoBank’s support of agriculture goes beyond traditional financial services to include investments in local cooperative development; Young, Beginning and Small (YBS) farming programs; and local and urban food systems.

**Examples of programs receiving CoBank funding include:**

## **CO-OP START:**

A program that helps emerging and existing small agricultural cooperatives through innovative financing, business mentorship and training. In addition to the loans and leases offered through Co-op Start, the bank also established a grant program that invests in start-up organizations with the potential to provide significant economic benefits to producers and rural communities.

Through the Co-op Start Equity Match program, start-up organizations that have raised up to \$50,000 in equity, and are sponsored by a Cooperative Development Center, may apply for a grant to assist with activities such as feasibility studies, technical services and marketing. Preference for this competitive grant program is given to farmer-owned cooperatives, but the program is open to other businesses that demonstrate a positive impact on rural America.

In 2021, grantees received a total of \$225,000 through the program. Since its inception, Co-op Start has provided approximately \$3 million in loans, leases and grants to 26 start-up companies and four cooperative development centers.

## **FARMSTART:**

A program conducted in partnership with Farm Credit East, one of CoBank’s affiliated associations. FarmStart supports individuals looking to launch businesses in agriculture, forest products and commercial fishing in the northeastern United States. Since its inception, the program has made more than 340 investments totaling nearly \$16 million. Recent investments include funding for Grassroots Farm, a regenerative animal grazing operation located in Kingston, New York, and SunRunner Farm, a heritage grain operation based in Red Hook, New York.

## **D.C. CENTRAL KITCHEN (DCCK):**

A nonprofit “social enterprise” in Washington, D.C., that uses food as a tool to develop and operate social ventures that break the cycle of hunger and poverty. DCCK prepares adults with high barriers to employment for culinary careers and creates good, living-wage jobs for its program graduates. DCCK also prepares healthy school meals for low-income schoolchildren, sourcing fresh produce from local farmers in the area. Over the two years of the pandemic, the \$3.5 million in locally sourced vegetables purchased by DCCK has been credited by numerous small farms for keeping their longtime family farms operating.





*In the 2020-2021 school year, FoodCorps placed 225 trained AmeriCorps service members in schools across the nation.*

## FOODCORPS

**“FOODCORPS SERVES COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, OFFERING 130,000+ SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN HANDS-ON EDUCATION ABOUT FOOD AND NUTRITION IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN THE GARDEN.”**

Since 2019, CoBank has provided financial support to FoodCorps, a national nonprofit that partners with communities to connect kids to healthy food in school so that every child gets the nourishment they need to thrive. The partnership, which has helped to increase the impact of FoodCorps’ program in 13 states (including Arkansas, California, Connecticut, DC Metro, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Oregon) and Washington, D.C., not only bolsters nutrition education and healthy school meals, it also provides opportunities to strengthen farm to school connections.

FoodCorps serves communities across the country, offering 130,000+ school-aged children hands-on education about food and nutrition in the classroom and in the garden.

Overall, 14 percent of schools served by FoodCorps are located in rural America. In states with large rural populations, that percentage increases significantly. For example, rural communities comprise 27 percent of schools served by FoodCorps in North Carolina and 35 percent in Arkansas.

FoodCorps works closely with local farmers, schools and communities to deliver programming that integrates the rich food and farming traditions of the local community. Together they collaborate to create nutritious and appealing school meals and to foster a school-wide culture of health. Nearly 73 percent of FoodCorps schools have measurably healthier school food environments by the end of the school year. For example, in schools with more of FoodCorps’ hands-on learning activities, children are eating up to three times as many fruits and vegetables.



“Our partnership with FoodCorps and our farm to school efforts in general, help to ensure that children in rural America have access to the fresh, nutritional produce that is grown right in their own communities,” said Brian Cavey, senior vice president, Corporate Communications and Government Affairs for CoBank. “At the same time, we are creating connections that help to establish new markets and increase demand for local farmers. It’s a win-win proposition for everyone involved and one that will, hopefully, create healthy eating habits that last a lifetime.”

In response to the pandemic, FoodCorps service members adapted their programming to accommodate each community’s unique circumstances. Where schools were forced to move to remote learning, FoodCorps teams stepped in to assist with efforts to make sure children still received meals. They provided lesson plans and materials to parents and guardians to ensure students could continue to learn about healthy eating at home. In addition, FoodCorps service members worked to maintain local school gardens to provide additional food access.

In communities where in-person learning continued, FoodCorps volunteers expanded their school garden programming.

“Garden education is so essential and so important,” said Kim Doughty McCannon, FoodCorps partner and owner of Bell Urban Farm in Conway, Arkansas. “It introduces kids to how you grow food and the benefits of eating healthy, whole food at a young age so they can carry that with them.”

The message about the benefits of healthy eating and the connection to local farmers is certainly resonating with children participating in FoodCorps programming.

“Farmers are really important,” said Evolette, a 5th grader at Cedarville Elementary School, Cedarville, AR. “They help us with veggies and flowers and plants to give to people and make them happy and smile.”

“No matter who you are or where you are from, you deserve access to healthy, top-quality food at school. Building a strong relationship between local farms and our schools, and ensuring they are sourcing locally strengthens the local economy and provides for our students and families,” said Curt Ellis, CEO and Co-Founder of FoodCorps. “We are proud of our partnership with CoBank and look forward to continuing this critical work as we invest in our farm to school programs.”



*FoodCorps works with the entire school community—from teachers to cafeteria workers to parents—to get kids excited to try new, healthy foods.*



*A recent survey showed that 42% of students tried new vegetables for the first time during FoodCorps lessons.*





**COBANK IS PROUD TO SUPPORT TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® COOPERATIVES,  
WHICH STANDS AS A SOURCE OF POWER AND INFORMATION TO ITS 30 MILLION  
COOPERATIVE MEMBER-OWNERS EVERY DAY.**

*PHOTO COURTESY OF TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® COOPERATIVES.*





# COOPERATIVE ADVOCACY AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT

**COBANK IS AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTE THE PUBLIC POLICY INTERESTS OF COOPERATIVES AND INDUSTRY SECTORS SERVED BY THE BANK.**

## **COOPERATIVE INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY COBANK**

### **NATIONAL**

Association of Cooperative Educators  
Cooperation Works  
Cooperative Communicators Association  
Cooperative Development Foundation  
Farm Credit Council  
International Co-operative Alliance  
National Cable Television Cooperative (NCTC)  
National Cooperative Business Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Renewables Cooperative Organization  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives  
NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association  
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives  
U.S.A. Cooperative Youth Council

### **REGIONAL AND LOCAL**

Agricultural Council of California  
Alabama Council of Cooperatives  
Alabama Rural Electric Association  
Alaska Power Association  
Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives  
Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives  
Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives  
California Center for Cooperative Development  
Central Minnesota Managers Association  
Colorado Rural Electric Association

Cooperative Council of North Carolina  
Cooperative Network  
Eastern North Dakota Cooperative Managers' Association  
Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas  
Electric Power Association of Mississippi  
Florida Electric Cooperatives Association  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives  
Florida Council of Cooperatives  
Georgia Rural Electric Managers Association  
Golden State Power Cooperative  
Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association  
Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association  
Illinois Cooperative Council  
Illinois Grain and Feed Association  
Indiana Cooperative Development Center  
Indiana Electric Cooperatives  
Iowa Association of Bookkeepers for Cooperatives  
Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives  
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives  
Kansas Cooperative Council  
Kansas Electric Cooperatives  
Kansas Livestock Association  
Kansas Rural Electric Cooperative Accountant's Club  
Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives  
Kentucky Council of Cooperatives  
Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
Michigan Electric Cooperative Association  
Mid-America Cooperative Council  
Minnesota Rural Electric Association  
Minnesota State Managers Association

## COOPERATIVE ADVOCACY AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Missouri Electric Cooperatives Managers Association  
Missouri Institute of Cooperatives  
Montana Agricultural Business Association  
Montana Council of Cooperatives  
Montana Electric Cooperative Association  
Nebraska Cooperative Council  
Nebraska Coop Managers Association  
Nebraska Rural Electric Association  
Neighboring Food Co-op Association  
Nevada Rural Electric Association  
New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives  
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives  
North Dakota Cooperative Managers' Association  
Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives  
Northeast Cooperative Council  
Northern Minnesota Managers' Association  
Northwest Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Northwest Cooperative Development Center  
Northwest North Dakota Cooperative Managers' Association  
NREA Suppliers Group  
Ohio Cooperative Development Center  
Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives  
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives  
Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association  
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives  
South Dakota Cooperative Managers' Association  
South Dakota Rural Electric Association  
Southern Minnesota Managers Association  
Tennessee Association of Utility Districts  
Tennessee Council of Cooperatives  
Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association  
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Texas Electric Cooperatives  
Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association  
Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
Utah Rural Electric Association  
Virginia Cooperative Council  
Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives  
Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association  
Wisconsin State Managers' Association  
Wyoming Rural Electric Association

### **OTHER INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY COBANK**

#### **NATIONAL**

Ag Export Coalition  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
AgSafe  
AIIM International  
American Agri-Women  
American Cable Association  
American Coalition for Ethanol  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Council on Renewable Energy  
American Jersey Cattle Association  
American Pistachio Growers  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
American Water Works Association  
American Wind Energy Association  
Association of Grain Regulatory Officials  
C-FARE  
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association  
Dairy Cares  
Ecological Farming Association  
Equipment Leasing and Finance Association  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Global Dairy Platform  
Global Farmer Network



Growth Energy  
Independent Alliance of Telephone Companies (INDATEL)  
International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA)  
National Association of Credit Specialists  
National Association of Insurance Commissioners  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Water Companies  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Business Economic Issues Council  
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cottonseed Products Association  
National Grain & Feed Association  
National Hmong American Farmers  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Rural Economic Developers Association  
National Rural Lenders Association  
National Rural Water Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sustainable Agriculture Association  
North American Export Grain Association  
North American Millers’ Association  
Produce Marketing Association  
Public Lands Council  
Renewable Fuels Association  
Renewable Fuels Foundation  
Rural Electric Management Development Council  
Rural LISC  
Smart Electric Power Alliance  
Solar Energy Industries Association  
Telergee Alliance  
Truth About Trade and Technology  
United Dairy Industry Association  
United Fresh Produce Association  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
U.S. Grains Council

U.S. Meat Export Federation  
U.S. Pea & Lentil Trade Association  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association  
U.S. Soybean Export Council  
U.S. Telecom Association  
Utilities Telecom Council  
Young Professionals in Agriculture  
Women in Agribusiness  
WTA—Advocates for Rural Broadband

**REGIONAL AND LOCAL**

Ag Lenders Society of California  
Agribusiness Association of Kentucky  
Agribusiness Club of Washington  
Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
Agribusiness Council of Wichita  
Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City  
Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
Alabama Cable Telecommunications Association  
Alaska Telephone Association  
Alliance for the Future of Agribusiness in Nebraska  
Alliance of Indiana Rural Water  
Almond Alliance of California  
Arkansas Rural Water Association  
Arkansas Telecommunications Association  
Association of Regional Water Organizations  
Butler County Farm Bureau Association  
CalCom  
California Association of Grower Gins  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Avocado Commission  
California Cattlemen’s Association  
California Certified Organic Farmers  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Cotton and Growers Association  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Farm Water Coalition  
California Fresh Fruit Association



## COOPERATIVE ADVOCACY AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT

California Holstein Association  
California Irrigation Institute  
California League of Food Processors  
California Rural Water Association  
California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance  
California Warehouse Association  
California Water Alliance  
California Women for Agriculture  
Carolina-Virginias Telephone Membership Association  
CFA Society of Colorado  
Citrus Research Board  
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers  
Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association  
Colorado Independent Cattle Growers Association  
Colorado Livestock Association  
Colorado Rural Water Association  
Colorado Society of CPAs  
Colorado Telecommunications Association  
Colorado Water Congress  
Connecticut Farm Bureau  
Dairy Herd Improvement Association—West Delta Council  
District 11 Agri-Women  
Dried Fruit Association of California  
Empire State Forest Products Association  
Evergreen Rural Water of Washington  
FarmHer  
Florida Association of Special Districts  
Florida Citrus Processors Association  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Florida Rural Water Association  
Food Producers of Idaho  
Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Georgia Grain and Feed Association  
Georgia Rural Water Association  
Georgia Telecommunications Association  
Governor’s Forum on Colorado Agriculture  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois  
Hawaii Rural Water Association  
Idaho Grain Producers Association  
Idaho Wine Commission  
Idaho Rural Water Association  
Illinois Telecommunications Association  
Independent Water & Sewer Companies of Texas  
Indiana Farm Bureau  
Indiana Rural Water Association  
Indiana Telecommunications Association  
Iowa Agribusiness Association  
Iowa Communications Association  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Rural Water Association  
Kentucky Agricultural Council  
Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development  
Kentucky Telephone Association  
Louisiana Member Services Association  
Louisiana Rural Water Association  
Louisiana Telecommunications Association  
Maine Forest Products Council  
Maryland Rural Water Association  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Midsouth Grain Association  
Mid-South Managers’ Association  
Mid-West Electric Consumers Association  
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council  
Minnesota Agri-Women  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Mississippi Rural Water Association  
Montana Telecommunications Association  
National Association of Water Companies,  
New England Chapter  
Nebraska Agribusiness Association  
Nebraska Ethanol Industry Coalition  
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
Nebraska Public Power District



Nebraska Telephone Association  
NESI-SES Association  
New England Farmers Union  
New Mexico Cattlegrowers' Association  
New Mexico Rural Water Association  
New York State Agricultural Society  
New York State Telecommunications Association  
New York Wine and Grape Foundation  
North Carolina Agribusiness Council  
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association  
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance  
Northeast Elevators Managers Association  
Northeastern Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
Northwest Public Power Association  
Ohio Agribusiness Association  
Ohio Rural Water Association  
Ohio Telecom Association  
Oklahoma Cotton Council  
Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association  
Oklahoma Rural Water Association  
Oklahoma Telephone Association  
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association  
Oregon Association of Water Utilities  
Oregon Telecommunications Association  
Pacific Egg & Poultry Association  
Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association  
Panhandle Grain and Feed Association  
Pennsylvania Telephone Association  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Plains Ginners Association  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
San Joaquin Valley Winegrowers Association  
South Carolina Telecommunications and Broadband Association  
South Carolina Rural Water Association  
South Dakota Agribusiness Association  
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems  
South Dakota Grain and Feed Association

South Texas Country Elevators Association  
Southeastern Grain & Feed Association  
St. Louis Agribusiness Club  
Telecommunications Association of the Southeast  
Telephone Association of New England  
Tennessee Feed and Grain Association  
Tennessee Telecommunications Association  
Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
Texas Cotton Association  
Texas Cotton Ginners Association  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
Texas Grain Sorghum Association  
Texas Rural Water Association  
TriState Telecommunications Association  
Utah Rural Telecom Association  
Virginia Council of Farmers  
Virginia Rural Water Association  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
Washington Independent Telephone Association  
Western Agricultural Processors Association  
Western District Power Accountants Association  
Western Growers Association  
Western Telecommunications Alliance  
Western United Dairies  
Wine Market Council  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association  
Wisconsin State Telecomm Association  
Wyoming Telecommunications Association



COBANK IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ARC OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH ADVOCATES FOR AND WITH PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.





# DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

**IN 2021, THE BANK MADE MORE THAN \$1 MILLION DOLLARS IN CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT SUPPORT ITS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EFFORTS.**

At CoBank, diversity and inclusion take many forms. As an employer, we strive to attract and retain talented individuals from different backgrounds, cultures and experiences and to build a workplace where all associates feel a sense of belonging and inclusion. As a member of the Farm Credit System, we support programs that promote access and inclusion in agriculture and the other vital industries we serve. As a socially responsible business, we provide financial contributions to organizations and programs that are committed to ending discrimination.

In 2021, the bank made more than \$1 million dollars in charitable contributions that support its diversity and inclusion efforts. Funded projects include:

- A pilot program with The Arc of the United States created future planning workshops for families and caregivers in rural communities. Workshops provided valuable information and resources, allowing those caring for a loved one with disabilities to develop long-term financial plans that will help ensure their continued quality of life.
- A contribution from CoBank's Asian Associate Resource Group (ARG) to Asian Americans Advancing Justice supported the organization's efforts to protect the legal and civil rights of the most vulnerable members of Asian American Pacific Islander communities.
- Support for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund provided scholarships for students studying agriculture or ag-related programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) or Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs).

CoBank's ARGs are a critical component of our diversity and inclusion efforts. ARGs allow associates to connect based on common interests, identities and goals and to share educational and allyship opportunities with their colleagues throughout the bank. Each ARG is also empowered to direct charitable contributions on behalf of the bank to organizations that reflect the goals of the ARG and CoBank's mission of service.

"Participating in CoBank's ARG program lets me meet colleagues outside of my own department and learn more about their backgrounds and perspectives," said Aileen Aviles, co-lead of CoBank's Hispanic ARG. "Even though we come from different walks of life, there is something in every person's experience that relates to my own. The ARG program has also helped me build my leadership skills. I've had opportunities to represent CoBank in the community and to get involved with new, cross-functional projects. I think that makes me a more confident person and a more valuable CoBank associate."

CoBank is committed to continually growing and developing its Diversity and Inclusion programs, building upon our legacy of stewardship and continuing to promote change for the common good.



*Team members Jason Schoch, Ted Pourier and Patricia Hammond are creating accessible garden beds for disabled Army veteran Melanie Janis.*

## SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY: PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

**A \$200,000 GRANT FROM COBANK AND FARM CREDIT SERVICES OF AMERICA IS INCREASING MICRO-FARMING OPPORTUNITIES ON ONE OF THE NATION'S POOREST NATIVE AMERICAN RESERVATIONS.**

South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation is one of the poorest areas in the United States, with few natural resources and no industry. Life expectancy on the reservation is 20 years lower than the national average and the Bureau of Indian Affairs estimates unemployment rates at greater than 80 percent. Alcoholism and drug addiction also present significant challenges.

Jason Schoch, of South Dakota State University's extension office, began working with the Lakota people of Pine Ridge more than 16 years ago. Schoch recognized that a functioning local food system and small agriculture could greatly improve mental and physical health and quality of life for the Pine Ridge community. Together with Patricia Hammond, a Lakota native, Schoch began introducing community gardens on the reservation. As interest grew, Schoch and Hammond became excited about the potential economic opportunities of small-scale farming on the

reservation, but they also recognized the importance of listening to the community.

"The majority of Lakota people we spoke with told us that large-scale commodity agriculture was almost impossible for them to get into, and frankly, it wasn't where their interests lay," said Schoch. "What they really wanted was to use agriculture to feed themselves and their families, and to begin addressing hunger issues within the community."

With help and funding from nonprofit groups like AgrAbility, Schoch and Hammond identified 30 beginning farmers with pre-existing disabilities and began building the infrastructure needed to get them growing. But the impacts of the pandemic and grant limitations slowed their progress and prevented them from working with community youth.



“AgrAbility is an amazing program, but our grant didn’t allow us to focus on youth programs, which we believe to be essential,” said Schoch. “It was also difficult for just two people to cover all of the needs at Pine Ridge. CoBank and Farm Credit Services of America stepped in with a \$200,000 grant that allowed us to hire additional staff, extend our youth programs and to put more focus on growing local, traditional foods.”

“We now have a team of seven, and six of us are Lakota natives,” said Hammond. “We’ve been able to give dependable part-time jobs to some of our youth who are building hoop houses and raised garden beds and learning about small-scale farming. One of our staff, Elizabeth Charging Crow, is learning to care for pigs and is interested in starting her own pork farm.”

With additional staff and resources, the team built handicapped-accessible garden beds for disabled Army veteran Melanie Janis. Janis used to maintain a small, in-ground garden to provide fresh produce for herself and her grandchildren. But in recent years, gardening has been difficult. With help from the staff supported by the CoBank and Farm Credit Services of America grant, the team have established enough accessible beds that Janis will be able to grow enough to feed her entire family.

The team also installed a wheelchair-accessible hoop house and drip irrigation system for Tony LaDeaux, a double-amputee who wants to grow produce and traditional plants.

“I want to grow food for myself and to give away to others,” said LaDeaux. “I’ll also grow sweet grass, which is an important part of our sacred ceremonies and medicinal teas. Getting my hands back in the dirt helps to mellow me out and connects me to the land and our traditions.”

One of the most exciting efforts in development is a new farm to school program at Little Wound School, which serves 900 K-12 Lakota students. Together with Glorianna Under-Baggage, administrator of the school’s extension program, the team is establishing a pilot program with 18 students. A new hoop house is nearing completion and students will plant and maintain the garden. Eventually, additional gardens will feature traditional and medicinal plants.

“In the next year, the farm to school program will really flower,” said Schoch. “Several young people have expressed a strong interest in agriculture or food-related businesses. And as all of our programs grow, more of the community will be able to see what is possible. For us, and for the Pine Ridge community, this is only the beginning.”



*Tony LaDeaux plans to grow fresh produce and traditional plants in the wheelchair-accessible hoop house built for him by the project team.*



*Chris and Bryce Valandra and Elizabeth Charging Crow are building raised garden beds to support the new farm to school program at Little Wound School.*





IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, COBANK HAS SUPPORTED MORE THAN 60 UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE PROGRAMS THAT ARE DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF RURAL BUSINESS LEADERS.



# RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION

## “COBANK SUPPORTS GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES WHOSE PROGRAMS ARE CONSISTENT WITH ITS CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP OBJECTIVES.”

At CoBank, we believe that research and education play a vital role in the future of rural America. The bank supports land grant universities and other institutions that are developing the next generation of American farmers, ranchers and rural business leaders. The programs we fund foster knowledge and innovation that benefit rural industries—from agriculture to energy to international trade in commodities. In addition, the bank works with university partners conducting research into the social and economic issues impacting rural communities.

Through a multi-million-dollar donor-advised fund established with the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF), CoBank supports grants to universities and colleges whose programs are consistent with its corporate citizenship programs and objectives. CoBank is proud to partner with CDF to support its commitment to higher education.

CoBank’s direct contributions and grants made through the CDF CoBank Advised Fund support:

- Scholarships that enable promising students to study agribusiness, finance, business administration and related disciplines.
- Endowments of professorships to support research and instruction in fields such as commodities and agricultural economics.
- Financial support for university centers focused on the study and advancement of cooperatives.
- Support for vocational training programs at community and technical colleges to help produce the technicians and other skilled service people who are vital to rural industries and communities.

The bank also supports programs promoting the advancement of minority students in agriculture. The CoBank Agriculture Scholarship, offered through the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, provides scholarships for students studying agriculture or ag-related programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) or Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs). And the National Migrant Scholars Internship Initiative, managed by Michigan State University, provides internship opportunities to the

children of migrant farm workers who are first-generation college students.

In the past five years, CoBank has supported more than 60 universities and colleges including, but not limited to:

- California Polytechnic University
- California State University
- Colorado State University
- Georgia State University
- Illinois State University
- Indiana University
- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- Michigan State University
- Minnesota State University
- Montana State University
- Morehouse College
- New Mexico State University
- North Carolina State University
- North Dakota State University
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Oregon State University
- Purdue University
- South Dakota State University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Tech University
- University of Alaska
- University of California
- University of Colorado
- University of Georgia
- University of Idaho
- University of Illinois
- University of Kentucky
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- University of Nebraska
- University of Tennessee
- University of Wisconsin
- Utah State University
- Washington State University



## UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### **"BEING A RURAL PRACTITIONER MEANS ENGAGING IN THE COMMUNITY BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE MEDICAL FACILITY."**

For 16 years, the University of Colorado's (CU) School of Medicine has offered the "Rural Track"—an elective option for medical students interested in living and working in rural communities. Initially the program offered a week-long rural immersion and two to three months of experience in a rural hospital or clinic. However, in 2021, a change in the medical school's curriculum and a strong record of success allowed Program Director Dr. Mark Deutchman, MD, to transition the Rural Track from an elective to a core program at CU.

"The Rural Track was founded to attract, admit and support students interested in rural practice," said Deutchman. "Most of our students have grown up in or have strong ties to rural communities, so that connection is already there. Our goal is not to convince anyone to enter rural practice, but to give those with the desire the mentoring and guidance they need to pursue rural medicine."

Admission to the program is extremely competitive. Those selected (approximately 10% of each year's medical school class) must meet rigorous academic standards and demonstrate a convincing interest in future rural life.

"Being a rural practitioner means engaging in the community beyond the walls of the medical facility," said Deutchman. "Our students see their patients in the grocery store. They work alongside them as members of rural fire departments. Through our program, they are not only getting the foundational, core clinical experience they need to practice medicine, they are also making lifelong connections and learning firsthand what professional, community and personal life is like in a rural area."

Over the years, Deutchman and the team at CU have developed strong ties to the medical community in rural Colorado. However, the transition from a short-term elective to an entire year of core curriculum required a higher level of commitment from the university's rural partners.





"We're developing the best clinical experience we can possibly get, so we need partners who are interested and willing to teach all the things we need to cover," said Deutchman. "Fortunately, our rural partners recognize the real value of these students. They can go to any agency and find a warm body who will come to their town for a year or two, but we are providing people who really want to live and work there for the long term. It's a great pipeline for recruitment."

The success of CU's Rural Program is being recognized nationally. Data shows that participants are gaining as much or more clinical experience as students who study in the city, seeing higher numbers of patients and becoming more deeply engaged in the patient care process. And while there is no requirement that graduates remain in rural communities, approximately 50% choose to stay in rural practice.

"Our long-term goal is to get as many of our graduates as possible into rural practice," said Deutchman. "But even those who don't end up in a rural community will have a much better understanding of the rural patients who come to see them in the city. They will appreciate that these patients may have driven several hours just to get to them."

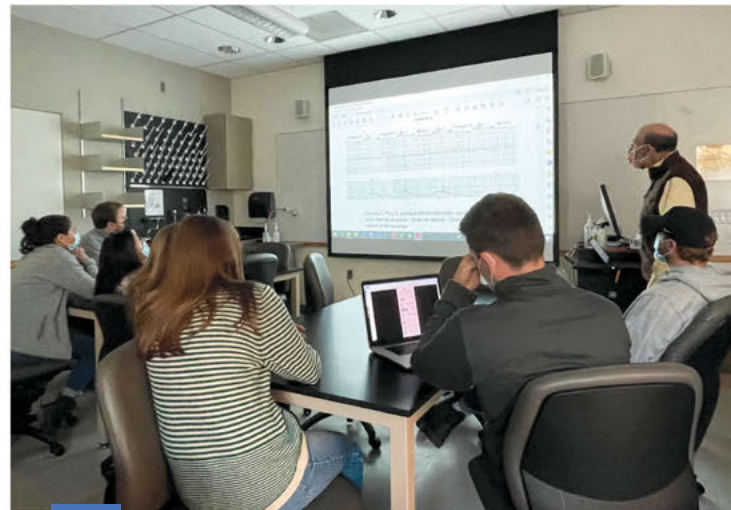
For the past five years, CoBank has been offering scholarships for students in the Rural Program. Scholarship recipient Khyla Burrows graduated in May 2021 and has been accepted into a residency program in Sacramento, but her goal is to return to rural Colorado.

"Growing up in Winter Park, Colorado, I have long known I wanted to live and serve as a physician in a rural area," said Burrows. "A deep sense of community and building longitudinal relationships with patients and their families inspires me to practice in a rural town."

"We are deeply grateful to CoBank for its support of the Rural Program," said Deutchman. "With CoBank's support our students will expand access to family medicine and specialty care to some of the most underserved regions in Colorado and across the country. It is a strong demonstration of the bank's commitment to the health and vibrancy of rural communities."



*Out of approximately 160 U.S. medical schools, only 30 have programs like the University of Colorado School of Medicine's "Rural Program".*



*"A common characteristic of rural communities is that people wear many hats," said Program Director Mark Deutchman. "It's one of the reasons so many of our graduates choose family or general medicine."*



**COBANK'S EQUITY FUND INVESTMENTS SPUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
CREATE WEALTH AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL AREAS.**



# RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## COBANK INVESTS IN EQUITY FUNDS THAT ENHANCE THE FLOW OF CAPITAL TO RURAL BUSINESSES.

CoBank supports rural community development by acting as a dependable source of credit to our customers and the vital industries they serve. But the bank is also working to support the rural economy by investing in equity funds that are enhancing the flow of capital to rural businesses. These investments are made in partnership with our customers, fellow Farm Credit members and commercial and community banks. The U.S. Department of Agriculture licenses many of the funds CoBank supports as Rural Business Investment Companies (RBICs). RBICs invest in organizations that create growth and job opportunities in rural areas.

“At CoBank, we understand that the well-being and prosperity of our farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and utility service providers is integrally tied to that of our rural communities as a whole,” said Dave Dornbirer, vice

president, Public/Private Partnerships. “Together with our Farm Credit partners and other investors, we are helping to ensure that rural America has the financial capacity to meet the changing demands of business and community—allowing them not only to grow, but to thrive.”

In addition, CoBank and its partners support bond investments in community facilities with a primary focus on rural healthcare. Since 2012, CoBank and partner Farm Credit organizations have facilitated over \$400 million of community facilities bond investments and the bank has more than \$100 million in potential investments in its pipeline. These investments provide vital debt capital to projects that likely would not receive private funds without Farm Credit participation.

CoBank’s investments include:

Fund	Fund Size (\$ in millions)	Established	Investment Focus	Target Geography
Midwest Growth Partners I	\$ 41.2	2013	Diversified Industries	Upper Midwest
Advantage Capital Agribusiness Partners	154.5	2014	Agribusiness	National
Innova Ag Innovation Fund	31.3	2016	Venture Capital AgTech	National
Open Prairie Rural Opportunities Fund	81.0	2017	Agribusiness	National
Midwest Growth Partners II	113.5	2018	Agribusiness & Infrastructure	Midwest/National
Blue Highway Growth Capital Fund	41.8	2019	Diversified Industries	Northeast/Mid-Atlantic
Pharos Capital Partners IV-A	202.0	2019	Rural Healthcare	National
Lewis & Clark RBIC Fund II	88.0	2019	Agribusiness	Midwest
Rural American Fund RBIC III	41.8	2020	Agribusiness	National
Azalea Capital RBIC Fund	76.0	2020	Diversified Industries	Southeast
AGR Partners RBIC Fund	85.8	2022	Agribusiness	National
<b>Total</b>	<b>956.9</b>			





*Bushel was founded by farmers, is allied with the agriculture ecosystem and is helping to modernize the backbone of the American food system.*

## LEWIS & CLARK RBIC FUND II

### **"BUSHEL EMPOWERS GRAIN FARMERS AND DISTRIBUTORS TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO MARKET CHANGES AND STREAMLINE THE PROCESS OF BUYING AND SELLING COMMODITIES."**

In 2019, CoBank committed \$20 million to the Lewis & Clark RBIC Fund II, an \$88 million Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC) created by Lewis & Clark AgriFood. St. Louis-based LAC AgriFood invests in companies at the forefront of food and agriculture innovation, which are poised to grow their technology to a national or global scale. One of those companies is Bushel, a software development company in Fargo, North Dakota, that is connecting the grain industry by building the digital infrastructure it needs to "survive and thrive in the modern business ecosystem." With an array of software and web services, Bushel empowers grain farmers and distributors to respond quickly to market changes and streamline the process of buying and selling commodities.

Larry Page, PhD, is a managing director of LAC AgriFood and sits on the board of Bushel.

"LAC AgriFood watched Bushel's progress as the broader digital agriculture ecosystem evolved," said Page. "Over time, Bushel differentiated itself as one of the few platforms focused on what happens to grain once it leaves the farm. Bushel has built one of the largest user bases in digital agriculture, counting more than 60,000 farmers and thousands of grain origination locations in its user base. Billions of bushels of grain flow digitally through the Bushel platform."

Bushel co-founders Jake Joraanstad and Ryan Raguse both have farming backgrounds and both describe agriculture as "part of our DNA."

"Bushel's customers are grain companies, co-ops, mills, ethanol plants: anybody who buys grain or oilseed from a farmer," said Raguse. "We wanted to help these companies be better at what they do. Agriculture is the least digitized industry in the world. So much of



the logistics of moving grain is done by telephone and paper. Putting this information in digital form helps our customers be more efficient, enabling them and our rural communities stay competitive with the rest of world."

"Bushel's tools help farmers, as well," added Joraanstad. "Farmers spend a lot of time tracking data, time they could spend farming or with their families. Our tools, which are free to them, help farmers quickly and easily track the price of grain, offer that grain for sale and track how many trucks have dropped off. So one of the benefits of Bushel is how much time we are giving back to farmers."

The team at Bushel appreciates its partnership with LAC AgriFood, which has helped to expand the company's capabilities.

"We were looking for financial partners who understood agriculture and who were aligned with our culture," continued Joraanstad. "LAC AgriFood understood the problems we were solving and the opportunity that digitization brought to ag. They also understood that things in ag don't always happen on Silicon Valley timelines. We needed a partner that would play the long game with us, and LAC AgriFood does that."

"We are proud of our investment in Bushel and believe it exemplifies the mission of the RBIC program," said LAC AgriFood's Page. "Bushel is a digital agriculture company that hires hundreds of high-quality software engineers in rural America. It was founded by farmers, is allied with the agriculture ecosystem and is helping to modernize the backbone of the American food system."

Just as its relationship with LAC AgriFood offers value to Bushel, the CoBank relationship also offers value to LAC AgriFood.

"CoBank is a major investor in the Lewis & Clark RBIC Fund II and serves on our investor advisory board," said Dave Taiclet, general partner and managing director of Lewis & Clark AgriFood. "The relationship is very important as we share ideas, exchange views on the evolving marketplace, and help each other develop strategies and implement investment plans. This is our first RBIC Fund and the beginning, we hope, of a long and mutually beneficial relationship."



*Bushel's tools are free to farmers. Its mobile app makes tracking data less time consuming, giving users more time for their farms and families.*



*Bushel co-founders Jake Joraanstad and Ryan Raguse drew the attention of LAC AgriFood by building one of the largest user bases in digital agriculture.*





LINEMEN ARE A CRITICAL PART OF THE WORKFORCE AT OUR NATION'S RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES. WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE, IT'S THE LINEMEN WHO BRAVE THE STORM TO RESTORE OUR POWER.

*PHOTO COURTESY OF TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® COOPERATIVES.*





# RURAL DISASTER RELIEF

**COBANK IS PROUD TO HAVE PROVIDED MORE THAN \$4 MILLION IN DISASTER RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.**

Extreme weather is a fact of life in rural America. Hurricanes, fires, floods, tornados and blizzards impact rural communities every year, putting individual lives and livelihoods at risk.

That's why rural disaster relief has become such an important part of CoBank's corporate citizenship efforts. CoBank partners with customers, Farm Credit associations and nonprofit organizations to support the people and businesses of rural America left reeling from the effects of natural disasters.

One of CoBank's strategic charitable partners in these efforts is the American Red Cross, a nonprofit organization established nearly 140 years ago. The mission of the Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Thanks to a wide network of volunteers, employees and donors, they are often first on the ground after a disaster, providing shelter, food, water, relief supplies and comfort. Since 2017, CoBank has contributed more than \$2 million to support the disaster relief efforts of the American Red Cross.

The bank also relies on its customers to help identify local organizations working to support rural communities facing difficult circumstances. CoBank customers are members of the communities they serve. When disasters strike, they offer unique insight into the most urgent needs and help direct the bank to organizations providing the most critical and immediate services.

Local disaster relief contributions have included funding for:

- Government disaster response programs at the city, county and state levels
- Industry-specific relief funds
- State Farm Bureau foundations
- Community foundations
- Local chapters of human services organizations such as the Salvation Army and United Way
- Local churches
- Civic organizations such as the Lions and Rotary Clubs

"Rural America is the focus of our mission," said Thomas Halverson, CoBank's president and CEO. "When rural communities face hardship, we are fortunate to have the financial resources and relationships that allow us to respond promptly and effectively to alleviate suffering. CoBank is proud to have provided more than \$4 million in disaster relief contributions in the past five years. These efforts not only provide for immediate needs such as food and shelter, they also support long-term social and economic efforts to promote recovery and to revitalize impacted communities."



*A survey conducted by the University of Houston found that 69% of Texans lost power during Winter Storm Uri and its aftermath.*

## WINTER STORM URI

**“COBANK BELIEVES IN THE COOPERATIVE COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY. THAT COMMITMENT BECOMES EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THE WAKE OF A NATURAL DISASTER.”**

In February 2021, a massive winter storm impacted much of the south and central United States. Though many felt the effects, the storm brought havoc to the state of Texas, which was hit with unprecedented ice, snow and freezing temperatures. For days, millions of people were without both power and heat. More than 14 million Texans also reported disruption to water services, as frozen pipes burst in homes and power failures affected water treatment plants. In response to the devastation, CoBank partnered with fellow cooperatives and customers CHS and Land O’Lakes to donate \$100,000 toward relief efforts.

Contributions supported the American Red Cross, which collaborated with community organizations throughout Texas to operate shelters and warming centers, providing emergency lodging, food and water, or just a place for people to get out of the cold. In the first two weeks following the storm, more than 300 Red Cross disaster

workers were mobilized to provide overnight shelter to more than 8,000 people, 111,000 meals and 24,400 emergency supply kits.

“CoBank believes in the cooperative commitment to community—supporting not only our customer-owners, but our communities in good times and in bad,” said Thomas Halverson, president and CEO of CoBank. “That commitment becomes even more important in the wake of a natural disaster. That’s why it is so gratifying to partner with organizations like CHS and Land O’ Lakes in our relief efforts. Together, we are able to multiply the impact of our philanthropic dollars and provide even greater support when it is needed most.”

In addition to their Red Cross donations, the partners provided funding to the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), which established an



emergency fund to support the needs of producers across Texas and Oklahoma. The organization began fundraising on February 18 and eventually provided nearly \$113,000 in aid to help ranchers and landowners pay bills and repair the damage inflicted by the storm.

“The winter storms had a devastating effect and many families were left struggling to meet daily needs,” said Jay Debertin, president and CEO of CHS. “Some of the most seriously impacted were farmers and ranchers who worked tirelessly to keep livestock warm, fed and watered while waiting for temperatures to improve and power to be restored. By supporting the TSCRA fund, we were able to help the rural communities and families most in need as they worked to recover.”

Hughes Abell, a rancher from Austin and president of the TSCRA Disaster Relief Fund, said, “One of the silver linings of this storm was to see how the agricultural and rural community came together to help each other. We were blown away by the generosity of our members, friends and allied industry partners like CHS, CoBank and Land O’Lakes. Because of them, we were able to make a real difference.”

Throughout the remainder of 2021, the partners came together to support a number of additional disaster relief efforts—often joining with other cooperative partners and members of the Farm Credit System. Together, the organizations provided more than \$1 million in aid to rural communities throughout the country, demonstrating what cooperatives have always known—that we are stronger together.

“As a 100-year-old, farmer-owned cooperative, we know that we do better when we help our neighbors,” said Beth Ford, president and CEO of Land O’Lakes, Inc. “Land O’Lakes is privileged to join CHS, CoBank and others in supporting the vibrant rural communities that continue to feed our country.”



*Research by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services found that ranchers not only lost livestock to the extreme cold, but much of their grazing grain was lost as well.*



*CoBank partners with its customers and Farm Credit partners to magnify its disaster relief efforts. Together, these organizations provided more than \$1 million in aid in 2021.*





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**COBANK FINANCES HYDRO PROJECTS LIKE THIS ONE IN CORDOVA, ALASKA. THIS RUN-OF-RIVER PROJECT USES THE RIVER'S NATURAL FLOW TO CAPTURE THE KINETIC ENERGY CARRIED BY WATER.**



# SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## COBANK FUNDS PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES.

At CoBank, we believe that a commitment to sustainability and the environment is an integral part of good corporate citizenship. It's about making life better now in the communities where our employees and customers live and work, while helping to ensure a better, healthier future.

Through our Sharing Success program, CoBank regularly partners with our customers to fund organizations and projects that promote sustainability and responsible stewardship of environmental resources. Recent contributions have supported:

- Preservation and enrichment of unique natural resources in Texas' Big Bend National Park.
- Research on the health and sustainability of our oceans and marine life at the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward, Alaska.

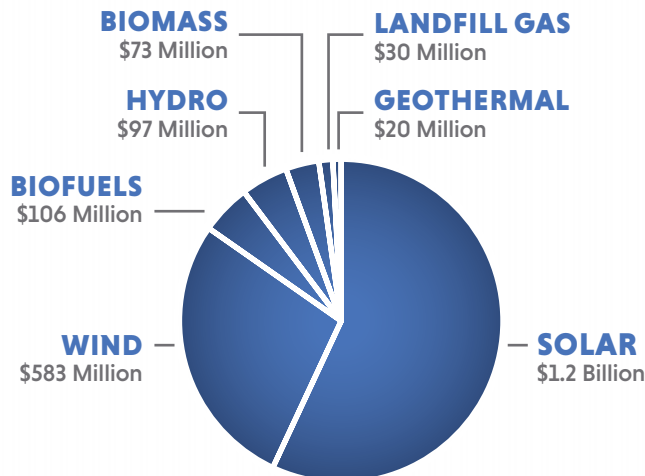
The bank also works diligently to reduce the environmental impact of our business operations. Our 11-story headquarters building is LEED Silver certified and incorporates best-in-class, environmentally-friendly features including:

- Electric vehicle charging stations.
- Photo sensors that measure daylight and automatically adjust lighting levels to save energy.
- Water-efficient systems that reduce overall water usage.
- Digitally-controlled systems that allow more efficient heating and cooling.

The bank reduces its carbon footprint through the purchase of renewable wind generation credits to power its facilities and by providing our Denver associates with Eco-passes that allow them to commute to work using city buses and light rail.

CoBank includes environmentally-friendly hybrid vehicles in its business fleet, and our Farm Credit Leasing subsidiary is making it easy and affordable for electric cooperative customers to add electric vehicles and charging stations through attractive leasing programs.

Finally, CoBank is proud to serve as the financial partner to electric cooperatives and other rural power providers across the United States that are making significant, forward-looking investments in renewable energy generation systems. Our energy portfolio includes more than \$2.1 billion in outstanding loans and leases for renewable energy projects, making us a leading underwriter of renewable energy in the country.







*Every part of the development and operation of Terra-Gen's renewable energy projects is focused on sustainability, minimizing its footprint while providing a needed commodity.*

## TERRA-GEN

### **"TERRA-GEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF WIND AND SOLAR PROJECTS LAY A FOUNDATION THAT SUPPORTS CONSUMERS' DESIRE FOR MORE CLEAN ENERGY OPTIONS FOR ALL THEIR ELECTRICITY NEEDS."**

With more than 1.2 gigawatts of wind and solar generation alongside 537 megawatt hours of utility-scale batteries owned today, New York-based Terra-Gen is an established leader in the renewable energy sector. Terra-Gen develops, owns and operates renewable power generation facilities throughout the United States, with a significant presence in California. Its customers are power utility companies and other entities that provide electricity to end users, including community choice aggregators (CCAs): local organizations that harness the collective buying power of individual customers to secure lower-cost energy supply contracts for consumers with a focus on offering "greener" generation portfolios.

Jeff Cast is Terra-Gen's managing director of Finance. "As a renewable energy company, sustainability is our business," said Cast. "Terra-Gen's development and operation of wind and solar projects lays a foundation that supports

consumers' desire for more clean energy options for all their electricity needs. We're also one of the largest developers of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in California, which further advances sustainability by evening out the electric generation curve to allow for use of renewable energy even when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow."

Terra-Gen's relationship with CoBank began in 2011 when the bank participated in financing for Terra-Gen's Alta Wind Energy Center, the nation's first gigawatt-scale wind energy facility. Most recently, the bank provided financing for construction of the CalWind project, a 247-megawatt wind power generation facility, located on sites near Mojave and Palm Springs, California. Completed in October 2021, the project will provide power to Shell Energy North America, CleanPower SF and a number of smaller CCAs throughout the state.





Built on the site of a wind power facility originally constructed in the 1980s, the CalWind project is an example of re-powering: replacing older, generally smaller, wind turbines with newer, larger and more efficient designs. Re-powering offers a number of environmental benefits including increased renewable energy production due to the higher capacity of new wind facilities, and reduced impact to the environment and lower installation costs through the use of existing infrastructure such as roads and substations.

“California has a limited number of available sites for the development of large-scale wind projects,” said Cast. “The CalWind project was a valuable and well-known wind resource, but it had reached the end of its useful lifespan. Re-powering the site simply made sense and it fits with Terra-Gen’s commitment to using the most efficient means for renewable energy generation.”

Giving new life to an old facility is more than just practical; it’s a demonstration of the company’s underlying belief in the importance of protecting the environment while they “build a sustainable tomorrow.”

“Terra-Gen is committed to minimizing our footprint while providing a needed commodity in the most sustainable and environmentally friendly way possible,” continued Cast. “We go above and beyond to reduce environmental impacts, siting projects to reduce impacts to important ecosystems or threatened and endangered species, avoiding impacts to wetlands and of course minimizing the impacts to our neighbors.”

Whether it is helping our cooperative generation and transmission customers to add more renewable energy to their portfolios, or working with companies like Terra-Gen, whose primary focus is developing and owning renewable projects, CoBank appreciates the opportunity to act as a dependable partner throughout the life of the projects we finance—a philosophy that aligns well with Terra-Gen’s.

“At Terra-Gen, we believe in building long-term relationships with our financial partners and appreciate the support CoBank has provided to us,” said Cast. “With a significant pipeline of additional projects to bring online over the next few years, we look forward to continuing this important relationship.”



*CoBank helped finance Terra-Gen’s CalWind project, a 247-megawatt facility located on sites near Mojave and Palm Springs, California.*



*Terra-Gen owns and operates renewable power facilities throughout the Western United States, with a focus on the California marketplace.*







# OFFICE LOCATIONS

## **COBANK NATIONAL OFFICE**

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800-542-8072

## **FARM CREDIT LEASING SERVICES CORPORATION**

1665 Utica Avenue South, Suite 400  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
952-417-7800  
800-444-2929

## **WASHINGTON, D.C., OFFICE**

50 F Street, N.W., Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-650-5860

## **U.S. REGIONAL OFFICES**

### **AMES BANKING CENTER**

2515 University Boulevard  
Suite 104  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-292-8828

### **ATLANTA BANKING CENTER\***

2300 Windy Ridge Parkway  
Suite 370S  
Atlanta, GA 30339  
770-618-3200  
800-255-7429  
FCL: 770-618-3226

### **AUSTIN BANKING CENTER**

4801 Plaza on the Lake Drive  
Austin, TX 78746  
855-738-6606

### **ENFIELD BANKING CENTER\***

240B South Road  
Enfield, CT 06082-4451  
860-814-4043  
800-876-3227  
FCL: 860-814-4049

### **FARGO BANKING CENTER**

4143 26th Avenue South  
Suite 101  
Fargo, ND 58104  
701-277-5007  
866-280-2892

### **LOUISVILLE BANKING CENTER\***

2000 High Wickham Place  
Suite 101  
Louisville, KY 40245  
502-423-5650  
800-262-6599  
FCL: 800-942-3309

### **LUBBOCK BANKING CENTER\***

5715 West 50th  
Lubbock, TX 79414  
806-788-3700  
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### **OMAHA BANKING CENTER\***

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Omaha, NE 68154  
402-492-2000  
800-346-5717

### **SACRAMENTO BANKING CENTER\***

3755 Atherton Road  
Rocklin, CA 95765  
916-380-3524  
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FCL: 800-289-7080

### **SPokane BANKING CENTER\*\***

2001 South Flint Road  
Suite 102  
Spokane, WA 99224  
509-363-8700  
800-378-5577

### **STERLING BANKING CENTER**

229 South 3rd Street  
Sterling, CO 80751  
970-521-2774

### **ST. LOUIS BANKING CENTER\***

635 Maryville Centre Drive  
Suite 130  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
314-835-4200  
800-806-4144  
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### **WICHITA BANKING CENTER\***

245 North Waco  
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Wichita, KS 67202  
316-290-2000  
800-322-3654  
FCL: 800-322-6558

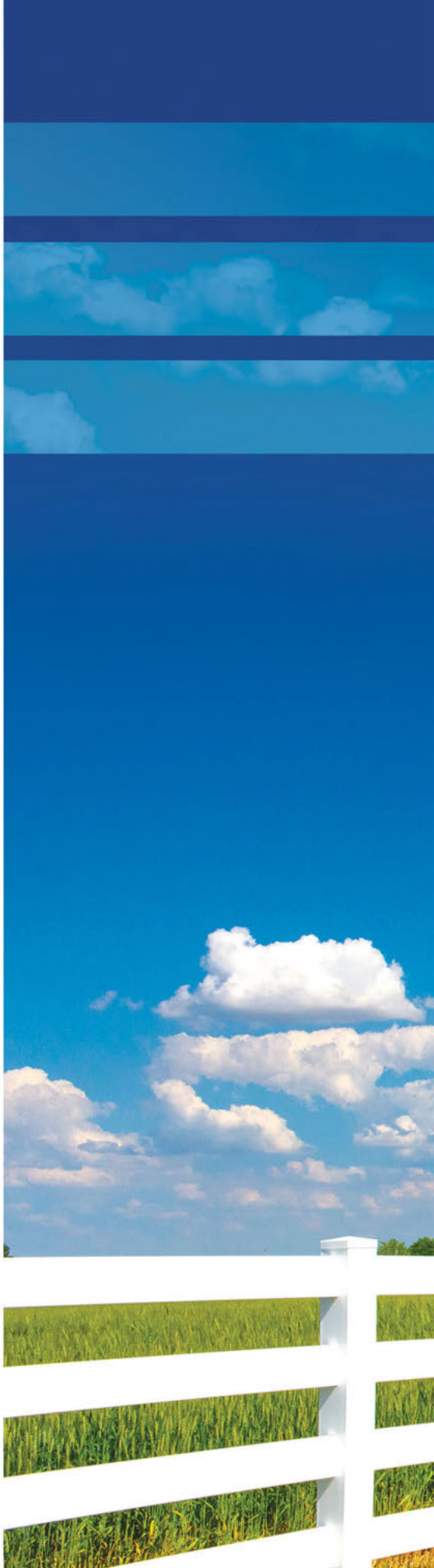
\* Farm Credit Leasing office  
within this CoBank location

\*\* Relocating in Q3 2022

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