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### Taking Agriculture to the Next Level

Agriculture is defined as raising products such as cattle, corn and cotton. For those of us who work in the agricultural sector, however, it's not just about production. Agriculture is a diverse industry that encompasses everything from research and development to processing and marketing.

Today, Legacy Ag Credit finances numerous types of crops and livestock operations. More and more Legacy customers are diversifying beyond traditional crops, adding value by processing their own raw commodities, and adopting new technologies that increase profitability, address labor shortages and better serve the changing consumer market.

Some farmers and ranchers are taking agriculture to the next level, bringing products a step closer to consumers through innovative approaches to marketing. Still others have started agribusiness operations that are creating jobs and keeping rural communities vibrant.

This issue of Landscapes spotlights a few of the many Farm Credit customers who are doing all that through ingenuity and hard work. You can read about Farm Credit members who have started vineyards and wineries, established agribusiness companies and sought out new marketing channels for their traditional crops.

Legacy Ag Credit applauds our many customers who work hard every day to produce, process and market the food and fiber our nation depends on. Thank you for allowing us to play a supporting role in your agriculture business.

Derrell Chapman

Chief Executive Officer

### **CUSTOMERS AT THE CORE OF**

egacy Ag Credit staff members, directors and customers traveled to Washington, D.C., in late July for Farm Credit Week, a gathering of 630 Farm Credit representatives from around the country. This exciting event included the launch of a national marketing campaign showcasing Farm Credit's customers — One Mission. Many Voices. — as well as meetings with elected officials about the importance of passing a strong farm bill when the current legislation expires in September 2018.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Sen. Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, welcomed the Farm Credit attendees to the nation's capital in speeches that highlighted upcoming farm policy hearings and the importance of supporting agriculture and rural communities with financing and essential infrastructure.

Association representatives then went to Capitol Hill to discuss ag policy with Rep. Mike Conaway, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Reps. Jodey Arrington and Jeb Hensarling, and Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz.

Legacy Ag Credit CEO Al Conner and board members Ron Gabriel, Bill Melton, Chairman Terry Milligan, Paul Nicklas, A.G. Sandifeer and Brandon Sides were joined on the trip by customers Whit and LeCresha Dale of Point, Texas, who were in Washington for the 2017 Farm Credit Young Leaders Program.

The signature event of the week was the Farm Credit Marketplace, a gathering of about 1,400 people at the Library of Congress Great Hall, where officials and Capitol Hill staff members sampled products made by Farm Credit customers across the nation. We're honored to support our customers' endeavors and celebrate their successes!



U.S. Rep. Jeb Hensarling, center, met with Legacy Ag Credit directors on Capitol Hill during Farm Credit Week. From left to right are Brandon Sides, Paul Nicklas, Hensarling, Chairman Terry Milligan and Ron Gabriel.



Sen. Ted Cruz, above, and Sen. John Cornyn met with about 70 Farm Credit representatives from across the state to discuss policies that are important to farmers, ranchers and rural residents.



Farm Credit hosted government officials and Capitol Hill staff at the historic Library of Congress Great Hall, where attendees took home about 15,000 samples of products made by Farm Credit customers.

### FARM CREDIT WEEK IN D.C.



Holding Farm Credit shirts are U.S. Reps. Jodey Arrington, left, and Mike Conaway, right, who met with about 45 Farm Credit representatives from Central and West Texas on July 26. Conaway is chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.



Customers Whit and LeCresha Dale, left, celebrate the completion of the 2017 Farm Credit Young Leaders Program with Stan Ray, Tenth District Farm Credit Council president.



The Dales, at left, were among the 23 young farmers and ranchers from five states who attended the Young Leaders Program in Washington, above, and New York.

# Borrowers Attend Leadership Program on Behalf of Legacy Ag Credit

egacy Ag Credit customers Whit and LeCresha Dale learned about Farm Credit's mission and unique funding mechanism when they represented the association at the 2017 Farm Credit Young Leaders Program (YLP) this summer in Washington, D.C., and New York City.

LeCresha is the USDA Farm Service Agency's county executive director for

> Hopkins, Delta, Rains and Woods counties, and Whit is a firefighter, paramedic and police officer in Highland Park. The couple also raises registered/commercial Simmental cattle in Point, Texas.

The Dales began the leadership program in Washington, where they were among 23 YLP participants who joined other Farm Credit representatives from around the country at Farm Credit Week. While there, the attendees discussed their experiences as young farmers and ranchers with key staff at the USDA, then accompanied their associations on legislative visits on Capitol Hill.

Next the YLP participants traveled to New York to visit a Wall Street brokerage firm and the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation. There the group learned how the sale of highly rated Farm Credit notes and bonds to investors provides steady funding that local lending cooperatives put to work in rural communities.

The Dales both grew up on cattle and hay operations in Northeast Texas. Their involvement in 4-H and FFA inspired them to study agriculture at Texas A&M University–Commerce, where Whit earned a bachelor's degree in animal science and LeCresha earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics. After meeting in college, they married in 2008 and moved to Rains County, where they live with their young son, Cash.

## **OUT AND ABOUT IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

#### Legacy Celebrates Local Agriculture at Farmers Market

To help kick off opening day at the Sulphur Springs Daylight Market on May 13, Legacy Ag Credit employees Kimberly Brewer, Tristan Gant and Elizabeth Echols handed out reusable bags to shoppers from 8 a.m. to noon in downtown Sulphur Springs.

The farmers market continued every Saturday morning and evening through Sept. 30 at Celebration Plaza, located next to the Hopkins County Courthouse, and featured home-grown produce, farm-fresh eggs, homemade jellies, and numerous other items grown and made by local producers.



A big Fourth of July celebration has been a tradition in Four Mile Prairie since at least 1852.

#### Customers and Employee Attend Four Mile Picnic and Fundraiser

Celebrating Independence Day at Four Mile Lutheran Church has been a tradition for generations.

Nearly 170 years after Norwegian settlers established a colony at Four Mile Prairie, about 15 miles southwest of Canton, people still come from miles around on July 4 to enjoy lunch, festivities and a service at the historic church. The event is also a fundraiser for the church cemetery, the final resting place of Norwegian families who came to Texas in the 1840s at the encouragement of Sam Houston.

Many of our customers attended this year's event along with Texas Rep. Dan Flynn, Van Zandt County Commissioner Virgil Melton and Phyllis Wise, senior loan accountant in Legacy Ag Credit's Canton branch office.

# The Ice Cream Was on the House at Dairy Festival Parade

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ICE CREAM!

On June 10, Legacy Ag Credit celebrated National Dairy Month and the 58th Hopkins County Dairy Festival by handing out ice cream sandwiches at the annual Dairy Festival Parade in Sulphur Springs.

Onlookers lined the parade route and filled Celebration Plaza to watch the parade floats, where Legacy employees handed out ice cream to participants and observers alike.



Free ice cream was part of the fun at the Dairy Festival Parade, where our employees handed out ice cream sandwiches.

### Canton Business Leaders Exchange Ideas at Mixer

This summer Legacy Ag Credit hosted the Canton Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours, a networking event that gives local business owners, employees and community figures an opportunity to share ideas and refreshments. It was a pleasure to host the event and tell fellow business leaders about our customer-owned cooperative.

Business After Hours took place July 20 at the Van Zandt Country Club.



Business After Hours is one of the ways Chamber of Commerce members learn about local business activity and connect with others in the business community. Legacy Ag Credit hosted Canton's July event at the Van Zandt Country Club.