



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Farm Credit Marks 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by Celebrating Farmers and Ranchers** *Online Program 'Producing Excellence' Introduces America to Our Nation's Hardworking Farmers and Ranchers*

**DENVER, July 21, 2011** – Today, [Farm Credit](#) is kicking-off a year-long 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and recognizing the agricultural producers it serves through the launch of the [Producing Excellence](#) program, which highlights the strength, ingenuity and integrity of our nation's successful farmers and ranchers.

Farm Credit is a national network of cooperatively-owned lenders offering financing and related services to agricultural producers and agribusinesses. The Farm Credit System was established by President Woodrow Wilson on July 17, 1916 to fill the need for long-term agricultural credit, and today, serves nearly 500,000 borrower-owners with more than \$175 billion in loans and financial services in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

### **Producing Excellence**

During its 95th anniversary year, Farm Credit will publish a series of customer profiles online at [FarmCredit.com/ProducingExcellence](http://FarmCredit.com/ProducingExcellence) that celebrate agribusiness leaders and entrepreneurs in American agriculture. Additionally, users can learn more about Farm Credit's 95-year legacy through an [interactive historic timeline](#).

"After 95 years of supporting agriculture and rural America, Farm Credit is proud to introduce America's hardworking farmers and ranchers to consumers as we celebrate this important milestone", said Joy Upchurch, a Farm Credit System employee for more than 30 years and vice president at AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, one of the wholesale banks within the Farm Credit System.

Farmers, ranchers and agribusiness leaders have developed new, more efficient and sustainable ways to thrive in the business of agriculture, all while bringing safe, high-

quality products to market. Each Producing Excellence profile highlights the individuals who have dedicated their lives to agriculture; examples include:

- [Steve and David Gill](#), owners of Gills Onions in Oxnard, Calif., who process 80 million pounds of onions per year and run a groundbreaking waste-to-energy system.
- [Lisa and Gerry Kasberg](#), owners of Birome Gin Company in Birome, Texas, who are turning trash into cash through an innovative cotton composting operation.
- [Edrick Grier](#), owner of Grier Farms in Hemingway, S.C., who has grown his family farm from 15 to 2,000 acres over five decades, and is working with three generations of his family to build a lasting legacy for future generations.

Farm Credit is planning additional 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary initiatives throughout the coming year including activities around its partnership with [America's Heartland](#), a PBS television program featuring American farmers and ranchers who share a passion for hard work and excellent products, as well as a commitment to food safety, sustainability, environmental stewardship and animal welfare.

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***Tags: Farm Credit; 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary; America's Heartland; Producing Excellence; farmers and ranchers; farming; farm; agriculture; rural; America***

#### **About Farm Credit: Lending Support to Rural America**

Farm Credit is a provider of credit and related services to rural America through a nationwide network of borrower-owned lending institutions and specialized service organizations. Created by Congress in 1916, the Farm Credit system provides more than \$175 billion in loans and leases to farmers, ranchers, rural homeowners, aquatic producers, timber harvesters, agribusinesses, and agricultural and rural utility cooperatives. For more information about the Farm Credit System, please visit [www.farmcredit.com](http://www.farmcredit.com).