

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Farm Credit supports rural communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services, today and tomorrow.

## **DEEP ROOTS IN RURAL AMERICA**

Farm Credit is a nationwide network of customer-owned financial institutions that provides loans and related financial services to U.S. farmers and ranchers, farmer-owned cooperatives, rural homebuyers, agribusinesses and rural infrastructure providers.

As customer-owned cooperatives, Farm Credit institutions are governed by the customers they serve and have a specific mission to support rural communities and agriculture – in good times and bad. Farm Credit loans help U.S. agricultural producers feed the world, rural businesses grow and the rural economy thrive. Our infrastructure lending helps bring clean water to rural families, modern telecommunications to help rural businesses compete and reliable energy to rural communities.

Farm Credit's mission remains just as vital today as it was when we made our first loan more than 100 years ago. For more information about Farm Credit and how we support rural communities and agriculture, please visit **www.farmcredit.com**.

## SUPPORT

Make loans to more than 500,000 customers, including farmers, ranchers, farmer-owned co-ops and agribusinesses in every state. Also finance exports of U.S. agriculture products.

## **CREDIT & FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Make loans for agriculture real estate and home mortgages, farm operations, equipment purchases, agribusiness operations, U.S. agricultural exports and infrastructure construction and operations. Provide financial services, including, crop insurance, credit life insurance and more.

### **RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Support development of rural infrastructure, including water, telecommunications, electricity and transportation across the country.

## **RELIABLE & CONSISTENT**

Provide a steady source of capital needed to support customers through good times and bad.

## AGRICULTURE

ONE MANY MISSION VOICES

Serve approximately 40 percent of the agriculture sector's credit needs.

## **TODAY & TOMORROW**

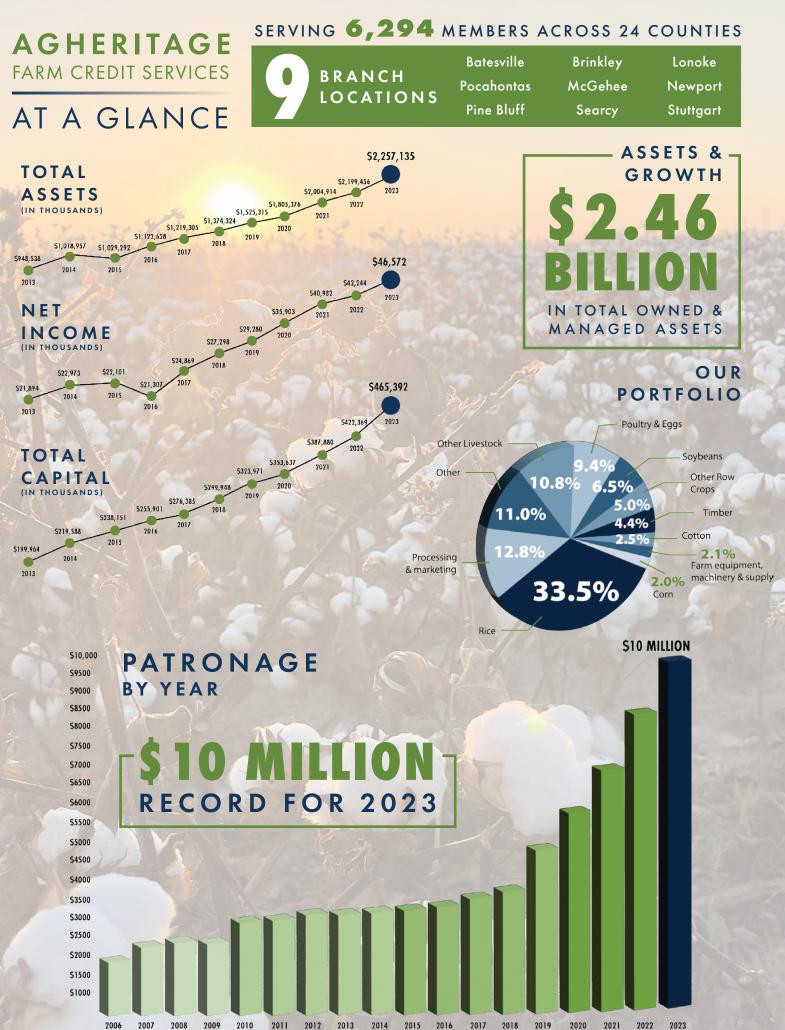
Lead the way in providing credit to young, beginning and small farmers and ranchers.

#### **BIO-STAR:**

Was designed to portray Farm Credit as a strong, unified national network ready to meet the challenges of a changing and competitive financial industry.



The BioStar is a symbol of progress and commitment consisting of five visual elements: three leaves, a root system and a star. The leaves represent the three types of lending done by the Farm Credit System – long-term real estate, short-term operating and cooperative financing. The roots represent our member-borrowers, and the star represents light and direction. The prefix "Bio" describes life, while the suffix "Star" captures the strong energetic shape within the symbol.



2012 2013 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Learn more about our Board of Directors on our website!



Jerry Burkett Southern Region Chairman



**Jeff Rutledge** Northern Region Vice Chairman



Russell Bonner Central Region



**Dow Brantley** Central Region



Jesse Briggs Southern Region



**Chuck Culver** Outside Director



Derek Haigwood Northern Region



Mark Isbell Central Region



Brandon Martin Central Region



Sandra Morgan Outside Director



**Rhonda Stone** Northern Region



**Scott Young** Southern Region

# EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



Learn more about our Executive Leadership team on our website!



## Top row, left to right:

- Drew Taylor Senior Vice President & Chief Business Officer
   Greg Cole President & Chief Executive Officer
- 3. Blake Swindle Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

## Bottom row, left to right:

- 4. Ken Sumner Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
- 5. Leslie Brown Senior Vice President & Chief Human Capital Officer
- 6. Drue Ford Executive Vice President & Chief Credit Officer



# \$10 MILLION

BACK IN YOUR HANDS THIS YEAR.

# **OUR CUSTOMERS SHARE IN OUR PROFITS**

At AgHeritage, we are owned by the customers we serve.

We believe in cooperative ownership, which makes us different from other lenders in Arkansas. When we succeed, you succeed — and as we grow, you win.

This year, we returned a record \$10 millon to our customer-owners.



## CUSTOMER OWNED. CUSTOMER FOCUSED.



Batesville 800-572-8165Brinkley 800-689-1304Lonoke 800-689-1309McGehee 800-689-6978Newport 800-698-5867Pine Bluff 833-313-6877Pocahontas 800-689-6976Searcy 800-689-6977Stuttgart 800-689-1307

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# The Holman Family Farm

Shannon and Merritt Holman start their year with snapdragons and zinnias and end it with Black Cats and Cinderellas.

The Holmans, who live in Lonoke County near Lonoke, operate Arkansas Crop Technologies, a pumpkin and decorative gourd-growing operation and Sweetgum Flower Farm, which specializes in fresh-cut flowers for display and special events.

Arkansas Crop Technologies was born 17 years ago when the Holmans began growing pumpkins on seven acres of land to raise money for their children's' college educations.

"A few years after we got married, Merritt wanted to work on his own and began a crop consulting business," Shannon said. "Merritt had a friend, Dickie Edmond, who was growing a few acres of pumpkins as a side job to raise money for his daughter's college education. One day he asked Merritt if we wanted to partner in the pumpkin business, because it is a lot of work. And now we are up to 100 acres."

"We plant the pumpkins starting in late May," Merritt said. "I actually have four different plantings timed out to the end of June, so I have some pumpkins ready early. It kind of varies the time that they flower, and you never know how the summer's going to be weather-wise and temperature-wise. But if we space the planting we'll have product to sell all the way through November."

Planting 100 acres of pumpkins is a laborious process. "There was a time when we planted 20 acres like this: my daughter Savannah would make a hole, my son Hayden would drop the seed," Merritt said. "I would cover it, Shannon would pat it down and we would just keep moving through the field." Now the Holmans have a regular team of H-2A workers to assist, they use a tractor rigged up for planting, and added another small partnership with Walter Ellis, who helps with harvest and delivery. "I have a big crew at planting," Merritt said. "It takes a lot of time. It's very slow and labor intensive to get 100 acres planted, but that's the only way that we can do it and have so much variety."

Arkansas Crop Technologies doesn't operate a pick-yourown pumpkin patch, but instead wholesales pumpkins and decorative gourds to nurseries, garden shops, farmers markets and specialty shops around the area. "We work non-stop for six weeks in peak pumpkin season...I barely sleep," laughed Shannon. "We supply all the major nurseries



and a lot of the pumpkin patches in Central Arkansas. We have been really fortunate...it's a big thing. We've got a lot of people who depend on us."

The Holmans grow more than 40 different varieties of squash and gourds. The most popular variety is Cinderella, a large, flattish, stackable pumpkin, along with little pie pumpkins and decorative gourds. A new pumpkin this year is Black Cat, a dark greenish-black variety.

"Some of the small gourds are such vivid colors, most people can't believe that I didn't hand paint them," Merritt said. "They always make me smile. I'll take a handful of those and set them on our kitchen counter and they'll last almost all year."

The Holmans added Sweetgum Flower Farm just a few years ago, named after the trees which surround the property. "My kids were grown and had left home, and I had three or four months in the spring where I wasn't as busy," Shannon said. "Merritt is always busy with crop research and consulting, so he's not super involved in the flower part of the operation. I just decided to try growing flowers commercially. I had enough room, and we had equipment, and I decided, 'let's just do it."

Shannon had originally planned to start selling flowers in 2020. "When COVID-19 hit I practiced for a year growing for myself, and started selling in 2021. It's really taken off... Next year will be my fourth year selling flowers."

A specialty of Sweetgum Flower Farm is its subscription service. "A person can buy or gift a 5-week subscription of a fresh bouquet a week for \$130," Shannon said. The farm also offers 5-gallon floral buckets of 100 assorted stems, supplies local florists and offers wedding floral packages by appointment. It's important to the Holmans to give back to their community. Merritt served on the Board of Directors for Open Arms Shelter, a 24-bed shelter in Lonoke which provides emergency and long-term safe housing for children up to age 18. Shannon helps direct the shelter's annual fundraiser, the Great 5K Pumpkin Run, Pumpkin Patch and 1M Turkey Trot, of which AgHeritage is a sponsor. This year, the race drew over 400 runners ranging in age from 6 to 84.

The Holmans also give back through Sweetgum's "Faith Flowers" program. "Our goal is to bless others with flowers," Shannon said. "Only God sees the process from beginning to end. He knows who needs flowers and will orchestrate the chain of events necessary for the flowers to show up at the right place at the right time. So, we have teamed up with contacts in nursing homes, churches, children's and women's shelters, and will deliver Faith Flowers to those contacts who, in turn, will decide who is in need of the flowers. We try to give away as many Faith Flowers each year as we possibly can." The Holmans have been working with AgHeritage since the very beginning. "Farm Credit is a great organization," Merritt said. "I started with AgHeritage as soon as I started consulting. I knew I had a very different agriculture business model from other farmers. It's primarily about personal relationships and it's just continued to grow from there."

"Our daughter received a scholarship from AgHeritage for college," added Shannon, "And the Lonoke Branch buys a flower subscription every year so they have fresh flowers in their office."

"That's the best part about AgHeritage," concluded Merritt." They really take care of their customers. We've done really well with AgHeritage, and if I'm doing good, they're doing good."

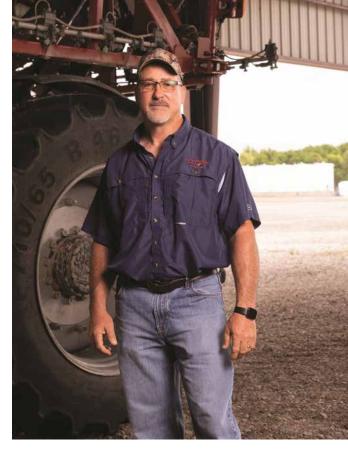


# Trey Hare

The secret to success is to find a need and fill it, as the saying goes. Trey Hare Custom Spraying, Inc. provides third-party custom application for farmers and fertilizer companies in the Arkansas Delta, the bootheel of Missouri, and some areas of Kentucky and Illinois because Newport native Trey Hare saw a need. Hare has grown the operation from a single rig in the mid-1990s to a fleet of 56 sprayer and fertilizer rigs and 60 employees serving ag operations in four states.

Hare grew up on his family's farm at Newport, and from a young age felt an affinity for the profession. "I grew up on a family farm, and I always saw myself farming after school," said Hare. "I wanted to be on the farm and pursue a career in agriculture, so after a few years of college I went to work on the farm with my dad." In 1996, while still in his twenties, Hare had the opportunity to purchase his first spray rig from a local cropduster and Trey Hare Custom Spraying was born.

"It was just a side business at first, to help supplement income for my family. But it grew, and I began to really enjoy that business," Hare said. "My first sprayer, we were just working for individual farmers. At that time, the majority



of the chemical and fertilizer dealerships had their own machines and would do their own application. I saw a need for someone to specialize in that part, take care of the maintenance and take care of the personnel, so the fertilizer company could concentrate on selling their product. It took me several years to successfully pitch that, because it was definitely new to those companies to do things that way."

As Hare continued to pitch the idea, it caught on. "Once we had the opportunity to do application for those companies, they realized that having someone who specializes in that aspect of it was a good idea. It kind of took off from there... the more we did, the more opportunity there was to expand."



Five years ago Hare saw the opportunity to make custom spraying his full-time job. "I thought we could make it something special. So, I decided to quit farming and took the spraying operation full-time, and here we are today."

Hare met his wife, Candy, in 1989, three years after graduating high school. "We met here locally," said Hare. "She's not from Newport, but from a neighboring town, Newark, in Independence County. We dated a short 9 months and I was convinced she was the one. She took a little convincing" – here Hare laughs – "but we got married in 1990, had two children, a daughter and a son, and have been here ever since. She is a big part of this business and a big part of my success."

As Trey Hare Custom Spraying grew, Hare knew that he would be using AgHeritage as his lender. "My family had a relationship with AgHeritage through our farm, so it was just a natural fit to use them for our lending needs. It's really nice to work with a company that understands agriculture, really understands the good days and the bad days of agriculture. When we do have those bad days, they work with us to develop a plan to fix those problems. It's just good to be able to sit down and talk to someone who understands the ups and the downs of the industry and can talk directly about what we need, and understand those needs. AgHeritage understands my business and what we're trying to accomplish, and they work with us to get that done."

Hare appreciates that AgHeritage, which has a branch office in Newport, offers a personal touch to lending. "Josh Bean and Todd Hulett come by and check on us, to make sure everything is like we need it to be. They visit often. That's the difference from a local bank, where the sign changes every two years, and the people change. Having consistency is a big, big part of why we finance with AgHeritage."

Hare considers his upbringing in ag to be one of his greatest assets. "Coming from a farm background, I understood what the farmer needs from an application standpoint with attention to detail and timeliness," he said.





As with almost everything over the last few decades, advances in technology have changed the business.

"We still apply a lot of the herbicides and fertilizers as we did 20 years ago, but the technology changes every year," said Hare. "When we started, we would manually drive the machine through the field, laying soap foam as a guidance tool. Today we use auto-steer and satellite GPS to know where we are in the field. We can variable-rate apply fertilizers – The consultants do grid sampling and write an actual prescription for the fertilizer so each acre gets just the amount of fertilizer it needs. This saves the farmer money and it helps in conservation by not over-applying fertilizers."

Like many AgHeritage customer-owners, Hare is a big fan of the Patronage Program. "Yeah, I'm gonna smile!" Hare said at the mention of the program. "AgHeritage is a cooperative, and the Patronage check is an appreciation of my business. All these equipment dealers have their own financing companies, but working directly with AgHeritage and being able to take advantage of that Patronage surely comes into play in our decision making as to where we finance."

Hare looks to the future with family in mind. "My son Christopher graduated from Arkansas State University and has been working here since. My son-in-law Brandon also graduated from ASU. This was his first job after college. They both have taken on really major roles here at Trey Hare Custom Spraying. I foresee in the future this being their operation."

The future also looks bright from a technological standpoint. "There's companies looking at fully autonomous application machinery, drone applications, those types of things," he said. "I think it's going to continue to evolve, just like agriculture in general."

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear AgHeritage Farm Credit Services Customer-Owners,

We are pleased to report AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (AgHeritage FCS) experienced robust business performance and generated strong financial ratios in terms of capital, efficiency ratio, asset growth, credit quality, and earnings. The Association also continues to achieve excellent customer satisfaction survey results. Your cooperative has grown to \$2.26 billion in assets and enjoys a strong market share position confirming we are achieving our vision of being the agricultural lender of choice in our local marketplace.

The Association paid \$10.0 million in patronage based on 2023 earnings to eligible customer-owners in February 2024. The Board of Directors remains committed to our customer-owners in sharing the success of your cooperative. The \$10.0 million payout allows retention of a portion of earnings to provide for future growth and capital stability. Your cooperative has distributed a portion of its annual earnings to its customer-owners for eighteen consecutive years. AgHeritage has distributed \$76.45 million to customer-owners and plans to continue patronage distributions well into the future.

We experienced good growing conditions and favorable harvest weather for the 2023 crop and generally had above average yields for crops grown in our area. Commodity prices have trended lower, but input costs have trended lower as well. Given these conditions, we expect most row crop customers to realize positive cash flows. With strong balance sheets going into the 2024 crop, we expect credit quality to remain strong. Land values in our area are stable to slightly higher as compared to the prior year.

Last year, we made significant investments in human capital and staff development, and new technology systems. These investments allow us to continue to grow our business model, enhance customer service, improve efficiencies, and improve risk management and succession.

The Annual Report provides detailed documentation supporting the financial results of the Association. We encourage you to review it carefully, and if you have questions, contact our corporate office or any branch location.

AgHeritage FCS is proud to be your lending cooperative providing both customer and stockholder value to our customer-owners. We want to thank you for allowing us to serve your credit and financial services needs today and tomorrow. We also want to thank our staff for their dedication and hard work. Serving agriculture and rural America is not just our mission; it's our passion.

Sincerely,

Gregory W. Cole President and Chief Executive Officer AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

## CONSOLIDATED FIVE-YEAR SUMMARY OF SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

(dollars	in	thousands)
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As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Condensed Statement of Condition Data					
Loans	\$ 2,125,055	\$ 2,103,328	\$ 1,927,312	\$ 1,739,013	\$ 1,459,978
Allowance for credit losses on loans	5,925	11,295	9,823	10,919	7,693
Net loans	2,119,130	2,092,033	1,917,489	1,728,094	1,452,285
Investment in AgriBank, FCB	77,478	58,535	46,626	38,276	32,968
Investment securities	50	65	315	590	982
Other assets	60,477	48,823	40,484	38,416	39,080
Total assets	\$ 2,257,135	\$ 2,199,456	\$ 2,004,914	\$ 1,805,376	\$ 1,525,315
Obligations with maturities of one year or less	\$ 36,880	\$ 31,943	\$ 21,229	\$ 18,138	\$ 19,403
Obligations with maturities greater than one year	1,754,863	1,745,144	1,595,805	1,433,565	1,181,941
Total liabilities	1,791,743	1,777,087	1,617,034	1,451,703	1,201,344
Protected members' equity					1
Capital stock and participation certificates	3,632	3,514	3,324	3,093	2,943
Unallocated surplus	462,378	419,681	385,814	351,796	321,852
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(618)	(826)	(1,258)	(1,216)	(825
Total members' equity	465,392	422,369	387,880	353,673	323,971
Total liabilities and members' equity	\$ 2,257,135	\$ 2,199,456	\$ 2,004,914	\$ 1,805,376	\$ 1,525,315
For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Condensed Statement of Income Data					
Net interest income	\$ 62,710	\$ 55,461	\$ 49,256	\$ 45,175	\$ 40,294
Provision for credit losses	2,614	1,593	(70)	4,031	3,248
Other expenses, net	13,524	11,624	8,344	5,241	7,766
Net income	\$ 46,572	\$ 42,244	\$ 40,982	\$ 35,903	\$ 29,280
Key Financial Ratios					
For the Year					
Return on average assets	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.0%
Return on average members' equity	10.4%	10.4%	11.1%	10.6%	9.4%
Net interest income as a percentage of average earning assets	2.9%	2.7%	2.6%	2.8%	2.8%
Net charge-offs (recoveries) as a percentage of average loans	0.0%	(0.0%)	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
At Year End					
Members' equity as a percentage of total assets	20.6%	19.2%	19.3%	19.6%	21.2%
Allowance for credit losses on loans as a percentage of loans	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
Common equity tier 1 ratio	16.1%	15.5%	16.2%	16.8%	18.0%
Tier 1 capital ratio	16.1%	15.5%	16.2%	16.8%	18.0%
Total capital ratio	16.4%	16.0%	16.7%	17.3%	18.4%
Permanent capital ratio	16.2%	15.6%	16.3%	16.9%	18.1%
Tier 1 leverage ratio	17.6%	16.8%	17.5%	18.1%	19.5%
Net Income Distributed					
For the Year					
Patronage distributions:					
Cash	\$ 8.475	\$ 6,928	\$ 5,964	\$ 4,959	\$ 3,911

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

The following commentary reviews the consolidated financial condition and consolidated results of operations of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (the Association) and its subsidiaries, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, FLCA and AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, PCA, and provides additional specific information. The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements also contain important information about our financial condition and results of operations.

The Farm Credit System (System) is a federally chartered network of borrower-owned lending institutions comprised of cooperatives and related service organizations, established by Congress to meet the credit needs of American agriculture. As of January 1, 2024, the System consisted of three Farm Credit Banks, one Agricultural Credit Bank, and 56 borrower-owned cooperative lending institutions (associations). The System serves all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. This network of financial cooperatives is owned and governed by the customers the System serves.

The AgriBank Farm Credit District (AgriBank District or the District) is primarily comprised of AgriBank, FCB (AgriBank), a System Farm Credit Bank, and its District associations. We are an association in the District.

The Farm Credit Administration (FCA) is authorized by Congress to regulate the System. The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (FCSIC) administers the Farm Credit Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund). The Insurance Fund is used to ensure the timely payment of principal and interest on Systemwide debt obligations, to ensure the retirement of protected borrower capital at par or stated value, and for other specified purposes.

Due to the nature of our financial relationship with AgriBank, the financial condition and results of operations of AgriBank materially impact our members' investment. To request free copies of AgriBank financial reports, contact us at:

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA 119 East Third Street, Suite 200 Little Rock, AR 72201 (800) 299-2290 www.agheritagefcs.com AgriBank, FCB 30 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1600 St. Paul, MN 55101 (651) 282-8800 www.AgriBank.com FinancialReporting@AgriBank.com

Our Annual Report is available on our website no later than 75 days after the end of the calendar year and members are provided a copy of such report no later than 90 days after the end of the calendar year. The Quarterly Reports are available on our website no later than 40 days after the end of each calendar quarter. To request free copies of our Annual or Quarterly Reports, contact us as stated above.

#### FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This Annual Report includes forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties, and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Words such as "anticipate", "believe", "estimate", "may", "expect", "intend", "outlook", and similar expressions are used to identify such forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events. However, actual results may differ materially from our expectations due to a number of risks and uncertainties which may be beyond our control. The information in this report is based on current knowledge and is subject to many risks and uncertainties including, but not limited to:

- Political (including trade policies, environmental policies, and civil unrest), legal, regulatory, financial markets, and economic conditions, or other conditions and developments in the United States (U.S.) and abroad
- Economic fluctuations, including inflationary indicators, in the agricultural, international, rural, and farm-related business sectors
- Weather-related, disease, and other adverse climatic or biological conditions that periodically occur and can impact agricultural productivity and income
- Changes in U.S. government support of the agricultural industry (including government support payments) and the System as a governmentsponsored enterprise, as well as investor and rating agency reactions to events involving the U.S. government, other government-sponsored enterprises, and other financial institutions
- Actions taken by the Federal Reserve and U.S. Treasury in implementing monetary policy
- Cybersecurity risks, including a failure or breach of our operational or security systems or infrastructure, or those of our third-party vendors or other service providers
- Credit, interest rate, and liquidity risks inherent in our lending activities
- Disruptive technologies impacting the banking and financial services industries or implemented by our competitors which negatively impact our ability to compete in the marketplace
- Length and severity of an epidemic or pandemic
- · Changes in our assumptions for determining the allowance for credit losses and fair value measurements
- Industry outlooks for agricultural conditions

#### AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

We experienced good growing conditions and favorable harvest weather for the 2023 crop and generally had above average yields for crops grown in our area. Commodity prices have trended lower, but input costs have trended lower as well. Given these conditions, we expect most row crop customers to realize positive cash flows. With strong balance sheets going into the 2024 crop, we expect credit quality to remain strong. Land values in our area are stable to slightly higher as compared to the prior year.

#### LOAN PORTFOLIO

#### Loan Portfolio

Total loans were \$2.1 billion at December 31, 2023, an increase of \$21.7 million from December 31, 2022.

Components of Loans			
(in thousands)			
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Accrual loans:			
Real estate mortgage	\$ 1,095,028	\$ 1,150,340	\$ 1,093,732
Production and intermediate-term	463,545	510,391	477,644
Agribusiness	458,038	350,626	286,442
Other	99,453	86,566	65,782
Nonaccrual loans	 8,991	5,405	3,712
Total loans	\$ 2,125,055	\$ 2,103,328	\$ 1,927,312

The other category is primarily composed of rural infrastructure and rural residential real estate loans.

The Association participates in asset pool programs to effectively leverage District capital and other cooperative benefits, as well as manage concentration risk and portfolio growth. In the past, we sold AgriBank participation interests primarily in real estate loans as part of asset pool programs. During the fourth quarter of 2023, we purchased the loans totaling \$9.2 million from these prior asset pool programs back from AgriBank. Additionally, during the fourth quarter of 2023 we sold AgriBank participations of \$210.3 million, representing a participation interest across the majority of our loan portfolio. The total outstanding participation interests in loans sold to AgriBank as part of asset pool programs were \$202.2 million, \$10.3 million, and \$11.8 million at December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively.

Typically, our production and intermediate-term loan portfolio exhibits some seasonality relating to patterns of operating loans made to crop producers. These loans are normally at their lowest levels following the harvest and then increase in the spring and throughout the rest of the year as borrowers fund operating needs. In addition to typical seasonality, growth in the production and intermediate-term loan portfolio was more than offset by the asset pool participations sold to AgriBank during 2023.

We offer variable, fixed, capped, indexed, and adjustable interest rate loan programs to our borrowers. We determine interest margins charged on each lending program based on cost of funds, credit risk, market conditions, and the need to generate sufficient earnings.

ICE Benchmark Administration (the entity responsible for calculating the London Inter-bank Offer Rate (LIBOR)) ceased the publication of all USD LIBOR settings after June 30, 2023. As anticipated, the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) published by the CME Group has generally been the fallback to LIBOR. We have transitioned from the use of LIBOR to SOFR, which did not have a material impact on us and as of December 31, 2023, we have no exposure to LIBOR.

#### **Portfolio Distribution**

We are chartered to serve certain counties in Arkansas. Approximately 30.9% of our total loan portfolio was in Lonoke, Lawrence, Arkansas, Pulaski, and Randolph counties at December 31, 2023.

Agricultural Concentrations			
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Rice	33.5%	36.3%	37.2%
Processing and marketing	12.8%	10.2%	9.1%
Other livestock	10.8%	9.8%	9.8%
Poultry and eggs	9.4%	10.5%	10.0%
Soybeans	6.5%	6.8%	6.9%
Other row crops	5.0%	5.0%	5.2%
Timber	4.4%	3.2%	3.4%
Cotton	2.5%	2.6%	2.3%
Farm equipment, machinery, and supply	2.1%	2.5%	1.7%
Corn	2.0%	2.3%	2.5%
Other	11.0%	10.8%	11.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Commodities are based on the borrower's primary intended commodity at the time of loan origination and may change due to borrower business decisions as a result of changes in weather, prices, input costs, and other circumstances.

#### **Portfolio Credit Quality**

The credit quality of our portfolio declined from December 31, 2022. Adversely classified loans increased to 1.5% of the portfolio at December 31, 2023, from 0.7% of the portfolio at December 31, 2022. Adversely classified loans are loans we have identified as showing some credit weakness according to our credit standards. We have considered portfolio credit quality in assessing the reasonableness of our allowance for credit losses on loans. Additional credit quality information is included in Note 3 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

In certain circumstances, government agency guarantee programs are used to reduce the risk of loss. At December 31, 2023, \$25.4 million of our loans were substantially guaranteed under these government programs.

#### **Nonperforming Assets**

Effective January 1, 2023, we adopted Accounting Standards Update 2016-13 "Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments." This guidance established a single allowance framework for all financial assets measured at amortized cost and certain offbalance sheet credit exposures, and replaced the incurred loss guidance. This framework requires that management's estimate reflects credit losses over the asset's remaining expected life and considers expected future changes in macroeconomic conditions and is referred to as the Current Expected Credit Loss (CECL) model. The allowance for credit losses comprises the allowance for credit losses on loans, unfunded commitments, and investment securities.

#### **Components of Nonperforming Assets**

(dollars in thousands)			
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Loans:			
Nonaccrual	\$ 8,991 \$	5,405 \$	3,712
Accruing loans 90 days or more past due	 255		
Total nonperforming loans	9,246	5,405	3,712
Other property owned			
Total nonperforming assets	\$ 9,246 \$	5,405 \$	3,712
Total nonperforming loans as a percentage of total loans <sup>1</sup>	 0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Nonaccrual loans as a percentage of total loans	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Current nonaccrual loans as a percentage of total nonaccrual loans	89.1%	94.1%	59.0%
Total delinquencies as a percentage of total loans <sup>2</sup>	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%

<sup>1</sup>Prior years' ratios have been updated to conform to the current year's presentation.

<sup>2</sup>Total delinquencies include accrual and nonaccrual loans 30 days or more past due.

Note: Prior to the adoption of CECL, which was effective January 1, 2023, accruing loans included accrued interest receivable.

Our nonperforming assets have increased from December 31, 2022, but remained at acceptable levels. Despite the increase in nonperforming assets, total nonperforming loans as a percentage of total loans were well within our established risk management guidelines.

The increase in nonaccrual loans was primarily due to several production and intermediate-term and real estate mortgage loans transferring to nonaccrual during the year ended December 31, 2023. This increase was partially offset by one nonaccrual agribusiness relationship that paid down during the year ended December 31, 2023. Nonaccrual loans remained at an acceptable level at December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021.

Our accounting policy requires loans past due 90 days or more to be transferred into nonaccrual status unless adequately secured and in the process of collection. Based on our analysis, accruing loans 90 days or more past due were eligible to remain in accruing status.

#### Allowance for Credit Losses on Loans

Allowance for Credit Losses on Loans Coverage Ratios			
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Allowance for credit losses on loans as a percentage of:			
Loans	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Nonaccrual loans	65.9%	209.0%	264.6%
Total nonperforming loans <sup>1</sup>	64.1%	209.0%	264.6%
Net charge-offs (recoveries) as a percentage of average loans	0.0%	(0.0%)	0.1%
Adverse assets to capital and allowance for credit losses on loans	7.0%	3.6%	8.3%

<sup>1</sup>Prior years' ratios have been updated to conform to the current year's presentation.

Effective January 1, 2023, the allowance for credit losses on loans is an estimate of expected credit losses in our portfolio. We determine the appropriate level of allowance for credit losses on loans based on a disciplined process and methodology that incorporates expected probabilities of default and loss given default based on historical portfolio performance, forecasts of future economic conditions, and management's judgment with respect to unique aspects of current and expected conditions that may not be contemplated in historical loss experience or forecasted economic conditions. Prior to January 1, 2023, the allowance for loan losses was an estimate of losses incurred on loans in our portfolio that were probable and estimable as of December 31, 2022, and 2021.

Total allowance for credit losses on loans was \$5.9 million, \$11.3 million, and \$9.8 million at December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively. The decrease from December 31, 2022, was primarily related to the cumulative effect adjustment recorded as a result of the adoption of CECL, partially offset by the provision for credit losses for the year ended December 31, 2023. As a result of adoption of the CECL guidance, the cumulative effect adjustment recorded decreased allowance for loan losses by \$6.8 million and was largely due to the requirement of CECL to estimate losses to the assets' contractual maturities, resulting in a decrease of allowances attributable to our long-term real estate and short-term loan portfolios. Additional information regarding the CECL adoption is included in Note 2. The decrease in allowance for credit losses on loans as a percentage of nonaccrual and total nonperforming loans was due to the decrease in allowance for credit losses on loans and the increase in nonaccrual loans previously discussed. The increase in adverse assets to capital and allowance for credit losses on loans was due to the decline in credit quality previously discussed.

Additional loan information is included in Notes 3, 9, 10, and 11 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Profitability Information			
(dollars in thousands)			
For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Net income	\$ 46,572	\$ 42,244	\$ 40,982
Return on average assets	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%
Return on average members' equity	10.4%	10.4%	11.1%

Changes presented in the profitability information chart relate directly to:

- Changes in net income discussed in this section
- Changes in assets discussed in the Loan Portfolio section
- Changes in capital discussed in the Capital Adequacy section

#### Changes in Significant Components of Net Income

	For the year ended December 31,							Increase (decrease) in net income				
(in thousands)	 2023		2022		2021	20	23 vs 2022		2022 vs 2021			
Net interest income	\$ 62,710	\$	55,461	\$	49,256	\$	7,249	\$	6,205			
Provision for credit losses	2,614		1,593		(70)		(1,021)		(1,663)			
Non-interest income	15,294		13,014		13,837		2,280		(823)			
Non-interest expense	27,422		23,822		21,027		(3,600)		(2,795)			
Provision for income taxes	 1,396		816		1,154		(580)		338			
Net income	\$ 46,572	\$	42,244	\$	40,982	\$	4,328	\$	1,262			

#### Net Interest Income

#### Changes in Net Interest Income

(in thousands)						
For the year ended December 31,	202	3 vs 2022	2022 vs 202			
Changes in volume	\$	2,706	\$	5,421		
Changes in interest rates		4,917		1,219		
Changes in nonaccrual interest income and other		(374)		(435)		
Net change	\$	7,249	\$	6,205		

Net interest income included income on nonaccrual loans that totaled \$130 thousand, \$504 thousand, and \$938 thousand in 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively. Nonaccrual interest income is recognized when received in cash, collection of the recorded investment is fully expected, and prior charge-offs have been recovered.

Net interest margin (net interest income as a percentage of average earning assets) was 2.9%, 2.7%, and 2.6% in 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively. Our net interest margin is sensitive to interest rate changes and competition.

#### **Provision for Credit Losses**

The "Provision for credit losses" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income includes a provision for credit losses on loans as well as a provision for credit losses on unfunded commitments. The provision for credit losses was related to our estimate of losses in our portfolio for the applicable years. In particular, specific reserves were established for certain loans in our capital markets portfolio. Additionally, a change to a pessimistic outlook in the forecast net farm income in the livestock sector, primarily within the poultry industry, contributed to the provision for credit losses on loans during the year ended December 31, 2023. Additional information is included in Note 3 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### Non-Interest Income

The change in non-interest income was primarily due to an increase in fee and patronage income.

Fee Income: The increase in fee income was primarily due to an increase in participation servicing fees and undisbursed commitment fees related to participations across the AgriBank District within our capital markets portfolio.

Patronage Income: We may receive patronage from AgriBank and other Farm Credit institutions. Patronage distributions from AgriBank and other Farm Credit institutions are declared solely at the discretion of each institution's Board of Directors. AgriBank may distribute patronage in the form of cash or stock. All other patronage from other Farm Credit institutions is typically distributed in cash.

Patronage Income			
(in thousands) For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Patronage from AgriBank Other patronage	\$ 10,405 101	\$ 9,331 83	\$ 9,513 92
Total patronage income	\$ 10,506	\$ 9,414	\$ 9,605
Form of patronage distributions: Cash Stock	\$ 7,700 2,806	\$ 2,608 6,806	\$ 8,302 1,303
Total patronage income	\$ 10,506	\$ 9,414	\$ 9,605

Patronage from AgriBank primarily includes wholesale patronage and asset pool program patronage. See the Relationship with AgriBank section for further discussion on patronage income. The increase in patronage income from AgriBank was primarily due to additional asset pool program patronage received due to increased asset pool participation during the year ended December 31, 2023.

#### **Non-Interest Expense**

#### Components of Non-Interest Expense

(dollars in thousands)			0004
For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 12,634	\$ 11,673	\$ 10,635
Other operating expense:			
Purchased and vendor services	4,158	2,773	2,897
Communications	281	366	339
Occupancy and equipment	1,659	1,413	1,156
Advertising and promotion	672	682	567
Examination	667	609	559
Farm Credit System insurance	3,276	3,422	2,481
Other	3,703	2,844	2,302
Other non-interest expense	 372	40	91
Total non-interest expense	\$ 27,422	\$ 23,822	\$ 21,027
Operating rate	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%

The change in non-interest expense was primarily related to an increase in purchased and vendor services, salaries and employee benefits, and other operating expenses.

The increase in purchased and vendor services expense was primarily due to increased participation in technology collaboration with certain other AgriBank District associations.

Salaries and employee benefits expense increased primarily due to higher employee counts and their incurred salaries and benefits costs.

The increase in other operating expense was primarily due to an increase in loan servicing costs related to capital market fees.

#### Provision for Income Taxes

The change in provision for income taxes was primarily related to our estimate of taxes based on taxable income. Patronage distributions to members reduced our tax liability in 2023, 2022, and 2021. Additional disclosure is included in Note 7 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### FUNDING AND LIQUIDITY

We borrow from AgriBank, under a note payable, in the form of a line of credit, as described in Note 5 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements. This line of credit is our primary source of liquidity and is used to fund operations and meet current obligations. At December 31, 2023, we had \$828.6 million available under our line of credit. We generally apply excess cash to this line of credit. Due to the cooperative structure of the Farm Credit System and as we are a stockholder of AgriBank, we expect this borrowing relationship to continue into the foreseeable future. Our other source of lendable funds is from equity.

Note Payable Information			
(dollars in thousands)			
For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Average balance	\$ 1,819,701	\$ 1,722,870	\$ 1,540,489
Average interest rate	3.4%	2.1%	1.4%

Our average cost of funds is variable and may fluctuate based on the current interest rate environment.

The repricing attributes of our line of credit generally correspond to the repricing attributes of our loan portfolio, which significantly reduces our market interest rate risk. However, we maintain some exposure to interest rates, primarily from loans to customers which may not have a component of our line of credit with an exact repricing attribute.

In August 2023, Fitch Ratings lowered the U.S. sovereign's long-term Issuer Default Rating and the long-term debt rating for the Farm Credit System to AA+ from AAA, the F1+ short-term ratings were affirmed, and the outlooks on the long-term debt ratings were revised to stable. As a government-sponsored entity, the Farm Credit System benefits from the implicit government support and, therefore, the ratings are directly linked to the U.S. sovereign rating. Additionally, Fitch Ratings lowered the long-term debt rating for the Farm Credit Banks, including AgriBank, to A+ from AA-, the F1+ short-term rating was affirmed, and the outlook on the long-term debt rating was revised to stable. The reduction in the credit rating by Fitch Ratings for the Farm Credit Banks, including AgriBank, could result in higher funding costs which could impact our costs and, ultimately, retail rates. However, to date we have noticed no significant impact as a result of this rating change.

#### CAPITAL ADEQUACY

Total members' equity was \$465.4 million, \$422.4 million, and \$387.9 million at December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively. Total members' equity increased \$43.0 million from December 31, 2022, primarily due to net income for the year and the cumulative effect of the change in accounting principle, partially offset by patronage distribution accruals. The cumulative effect change of accounting principle was a result of the adoption of CECL effective January 1, 2023. Refer to Note 2 for additional information regarding the CECL adoption.

The FCA Regulations require us to maintain minimums for our common equity tier 1, tier 1 capital, total capital, and permanent capital risk-based capital ratios. In addition, the FCA requires us to maintain minimums for our non-risk-adjusted ratios of tier 1 leverage and unallocated retained earnings and equivalents leverage. Effective January 1, 2022, the FCA Regulations slightly modified the calculation of the unallocated retained earnings and equivalents leverage ratio to include certain additional deductions. The modification did not have a material impact on this ratio.

#### **Regulatory Capital Requirements and Ratios**

				Capital	
			Regulatory	Conservation	
2023	2022	2021	Minimums	Buffer	Total
16.1%	15.5%	16.2%	4.5%	2.5%	7.0%
16.1%	15.5%	16.2%	6.0%	2.5%	8.5%
16.4%	16.0%	16.7%	8.0%	2.5%	10.5%
16.2%	15.6%	16.3%	7.0%	N/A	7.0%
17.6%	16.8%	17.5%	4.0%	1.0%	5.0%
17.5%	16.7%	18.6%	1.5%	N/A	1.5%
	16.1% 16.1% 16.4% 16.2% 17.6%	16.1%         15.5%           16.1%         15.5%           16.4%         16.0%           16.2%         15.6%           17.6%         16.8%	16.1%         15.5%         16.2%           16.1%         15.5%         16.2%           16.4%         16.0%         16.7%           16.2%         15.6%         16.3%           17.6%         16.8%         17.5%	2023         2022         2021         Minimums           16.1%         15.5%         16.2%         4.5%           16.1%         15.5%         16.2%         6.0%           16.4%         16.0%         16.7%         8.0%           16.2%         15.6%         16.3%         7.0%           17.6%         16.8%         17.5%         4.0%	2023         2022         2021         Regulatory Minimums         Conservation Buffer           16.1%         15.5%         16.2%         4.5%         2.5%           16.1%         15.5%         16.2%         6.0%         2.5%           16.4%         16.0%         16.7%         8.0%         2.5%           16.2%         15.6%         16.3%         7.0%         N/A           17.6%         16.8%         17.5%         4.0%         1.0%

Our capital plan is designed to maintain an adequate amount of surplus and allowance for credit losses which represents our reserve for adversity prior to impairment of stock. We manage our capital to allow us to meet member needs and protect member interests, both now and in the future.

Capital ratios are directly impacted by changes in capital, assets, and off-balance sheet commitments. Refer to the Loan Portfolio section for further discussion of the changes in assets. Additional information on regulatory ratios and members' equity information is included in Note 6 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements and information on off-balance sheet commitments is included in Note 10 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

In addition to these regulatory requirements, we establish an optimum total capital target range. This target allows us to maintain a capital base adequate for future growth and investment in new products and services. The target range is subject to revision as circumstances change. Our optimum total capital target range is 14% to 20%, as defined in our 2024 capital plan.

If the capital ratios fall below the total requirements, including the buffer amounts, capital distributions (equity redemptions, dividends, and patronage) and discretionary senior executive bonuses are restricted or prohibited without prior FCA approval. We do not foresee any events that would result in this prohibition in 2024.

#### **RELATIONSHIP WITH AGRIBANK**

#### Borrowing

We borrow from AgriBank to fund our lending operations in accordance with the Farm Credit Act. Approval from AgriBank is required for us to borrow elsewhere. A General Financing Agreement (GFA), as described in Note 5 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements, governs this lending relationship.

The components of cost of funds under the GFA include:

- A marginal cost of debt component
- A spread component, which includes cost of servicing, cost of liquidity, and bank profit
- A risk premium component, if applicable

In the periods presented, we were not subject to the risk premium component. Certain factors may impact our cost of funds, which primarily include market interest rate changes impacting marginal cost of debt as well as changes to pricing methodologies impacting the spread components described above.

The marginal cost of debt approach simulates matching the cost of underlying debt with similar terms as the anticipated terms of our loans to borrowers. This approach substantially protects us from market interest rate risk. We may occasionally engage in funding strategies that result in limited interest rate risk with approval by AgriBank's Asset/Liability Committee.

#### Investment

We are required to invest in AgriBank capital stock as a condition of borrowing. This investment may be in the form of purchased stock or stock representing distributed AgriBank surplus. As of December 31, 2023, we were required by AgriBank to maintain an investment equal to 3.0% of the average quarterly balance of our note payable. The required investment increased to 3.1% for 2024. In addition to the required investment based on the note payable, asset pool programs are typically capitalized at a higher rate that is mutually agreed upon in the asset pool program agreements.

We are also required to hold additional investment in AgriBank based on a contractual agreement under any asset pool program in which we participate.

#### Patronage

AgriBank's capital plan is intended to provide for adequate capital at AgriBank under capital regulations as well as to create a path to long-term capital optimization within the AgriBank District. The plan optimizes capital at AgriBank; distributing available AgriBank earnings in the form of patronage, either cash or AgriBank stock, which is at the sole discretion of the AgriBank Board of Directors. The plan is designed to maintain capital adequacy such that sufficient earnings will be retained in the form of unallocated retained earnings and allocated stock to meet the leverage ratio target and other regulatory or policy constraints prior to any cash patronage distributions.

#### **Purchased Services**

We purchase certain business services, primarily financial reporting, from AgriBank. Additional related party information is included in Note 9 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### Impact on Members' Investment

Due to the nature of our financial relationship with AgriBank, the financial condition and results of operations of AgriBank materially impact our members' investment.

#### OTHER RELATIONSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

#### **Relationships with Other Farm Credit Institutions**

**AgCountry Capital Markets:** We have a relationship with AgCountry Capital Markets, which involves purchasing participation interests in loans to large eligible borrowers. AgCountry Farm Credit Services, ACA is the lead lender and facilitating agent of these participations. We make an independent credit decision to purchase these loans based on our capacity and preferences.

**Capital Markets Collaboration:** We participate in the Capital Markets Collaboration (CMC) with three other AgriBank District associations, which involves purchasing participation interests in loans to eligible borrowers. GreenStone Farm Credit Services, ACA is the lead lender and facilitating agent of these participations. The CMC focuses on generating revenue and loan volume for the financial benefit of all four participating associations. Management for each association has direct decision-making authority over the loans purchased and serviced for their respective association. The business arrangement provides additional means for diversifying each participant's portfolio, helps reduce concentration risk, and positions the participants for continued growth.

**CentRic Technology Collaboration:** We participate in CentRic Technology Collaboration (CTC) with certain other AgriBank District associations. The CTC facilitates the development and maintenance of certain retail technology systems essential to providing credit and other services to our members. The CTC operations are governed by representatives of each participating association. The expenses of CTC are allocated to each of the participating associations based on an agreed upon formula. The systems developed are owned by each of the participating associations.

Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation: We have an agreement with Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation (FCL), a System service corporation, which specializes in leasing products and provides industry expertise. Leases are originated and serviced by FCL and we purchase a participation interest in the cash flows of the transaction. This arrangement provides our members with a broad selection of product offerings and enhanced lease expertise.

**CoBank, ACB:** We have a relationship with CoBank, ACB (CoBank), a System bank, which involves purchasing and selling participation interests in loans. As part of this relationship, our equity investment in CoBank was \$370 thousand at December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively.

**SunStream Business Services:** We have a relationship with SunStream Business Services (SunStream), a System service corporation, which involves purchasing financial and retail information technology, collateral, and tax reporting services. As of December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, our investment in SunStream was \$490 thousand, \$400 thousand, and \$329 thousand, respectively. Additional related party information is included in Note 9 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements. We also guarantee the amounts borrowed by SunStream on their line of credit with AgriBank, up to \$40.0 million. Refer to Note 10 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for further disclosure.

**Farm Credit Foundations:** We have a relationship with Farm Credit Foundations (Foundations), a System service corporation, which involves purchasing human resource, benefit, payroll, and workforce management services. As of December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, our investment in Foundations was \$13 thousand. Additional related party information is included in Note 9 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### Programs

Farm Cash Management: We offer Farm Cash Management to our members. Farm Cash Management links members' revolving lines of credit with an AgriBank investment bond to optimize members' use of funds.

## **REPORT OF MANAGEMENT**

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA



We prepare the Consolidated Financial Statements of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (the Association) and are responsible for their integrity and objectivity, including amounts that must necessarily be based on judgments and estimates. The Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Consolidated Financial Statements, in our opinion, fairly present the financial condition of the Association. Other financial information included in the Annual Report is consistent with that in the Consolidated Financial Statements.

To meet our responsibility for reliable financial information, we depend on accounting and internal control systems designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded and transactions are properly authorized and recorded. Costs must be reasonable in relation to the benefits derived when designing accounting and internal control systems. Financial operations audits are performed to monitor compliance. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, our independent auditors, audit the Consolidated Financial Statements. They also consider internal controls to the extent necessary to design audit procedures that comply with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. The Farm Credit Administration also performs examinations for safety and soundness as well as compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for our system of internal control and financial reporting. The Board of Directors and its Audit Committee consults regularly with us and meets periodically with the independent auditors and other auditors to review the scope and results of their work. The independent auditors have direct access to the Board of Directors, which is composed solely of directors who are not officers or employees of the Association.

The undersigned certify we have reviewed the Association's Annual Report, which has been prepared in accordance with all applicable statutory or regulatory requirements. The information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Jerry Burkett Chairperson of the Board AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

Gregory W. Cole President and Chief Executive Officer AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

Kenneth L. Sumner Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

## **REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA



The AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (the Association) principal executives and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting for the Association's Consolidated Financial Statements. For purposes of this report, "internal control over financial reporting" is defined as a process designed by, or under the supervision of the Association's principal executives and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by its Board of Directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting information and the preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and includes those policies and procedures that: (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Association, (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial information in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Association, and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention, or timely detection and correction, of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the Association's assets that could have a material effect on its Consolidated Financial Statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

The Association's management has completed an assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023. In making the assessment, management used the 2013 framework in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework*, promulgated by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, commonly referred to as the "COSO" criteria.

Based on the assessment performed, the Association concluded that as of December 31, 2023, the internal control over financial reporting was effective based upon the COSO criteria. Additionally, based on this assessment, the Association determined that there were no material weaknesses in the internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023.

Gregory W. Cole President and Chief Executive Officer AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

Kenneth L. Sumner Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

## **REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA



The Consolidated Financial Statements were prepared under the oversight of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is composed of a subset of the Board of Directors of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (the Association). The Audit Committee oversees the scope of the Association's internal audit program, the approval and independence of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) as independent auditors, the adequacy of the Association's system of internal controls and procedures, and the adequacy of management's actions with respect to recommendations arising from those auditing activities. The Audit Committee's responsibilities are described more fully in the Internal Control Policy and the Audit Committee Charter.

Management is responsible for internal controls and the preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. PwC is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and to issue their report based on their audit. The Audit Committee's responsibilities include monitoring and overseeing these processes.

In this context, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, with management. The Audit Committee also reviewed with PwC the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards AU-C 260, *The Auditor's Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, and both PwC and the internal auditor directly provided reports on any significant matters to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee had discussions with and received written disclosures from PwC confirming its independence. The Audit Committee also reviewed the non-audit services provided by PwC, if any, and concluded these services were not incompatible with maintaining PwC's independence. The Audit Committee discussed with management and PwC any other matters and received any assurances from them as the Audit Committee deemed appropriate.

Based on the foregoing review and discussions, and relying thereon, the Audit Committee recommended the audited Consolidated Financial Statements be included in the Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2023.

andra Morgan

Sandra Morgan Chairperson of the Audit Committee AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

Additional Audit Committee members: Derek Haigwood Mark Isbell Jeff Rutledge Rhonda Stone



#### **Report of Independent Auditors**

To the Board of Directors of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA:

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA and its subsidiaries (the "Association"), which comprise the consolidated statements of condition as of December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, and the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income, changes in members' equity and cash flows for the years then ended, including the related notes (collectively referred to as the "consolidated financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as of December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Association and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Association changed the manner in which it accounts for the allowance for credit losses in 2023. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Association's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the consolidated financial statements are available to be issued.

#### Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with US GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the consolidated financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with US GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and
  perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and
  disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Association's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 45 South Seventh Street, Suite 3400, Minneapolis, MN 55402

T: (612) 596 6000, F: (612) 373 7160, www.pwc.com



We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the 2023 Annual Report, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the consolidated financial statements or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota March 7, 2024

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CONDITION

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

(in thousands)

As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
ASSETS			
Loans	\$ 2,125,055	\$ 2,103,328	\$ 1,927,312
Allowance for credit losses on loans	5,925	11,295	9,823
Net loans	2,119,130	2,092,033	1,917,489
Investment in AgriBank, FCB	77,478	58,535	46,626
Investment securities	50	65	315
Accrued interest receivable	39,348	32,664	24,138
Deferred tax assets, net	47	350	66
Other assets	21,082	15,809	16,280
Total assets	\$ 2,257,135	\$ 2,199,456	\$ 2,004,914
LIABILITIES			
Note payable to AgriBank, FCB	\$ 1,754,863	\$ 1,745,144	\$ 1,595,805
Accrued interest payable	16,937	12,526	5,726
Patronage distribution payable	10,000	8,449	7,000
Other liabilities	9,943	10,968	8,503
Total liabilities	1,791,743	1,777,087	1,617,034
Contingencies and commitments (Note 10)			
MEMBERS' EQUITY			
Capital stock and participation certificates	3,632	3,514	3,324
Unallocated surplus	462,378	419,681	385,814
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(618)	(826)	(1,258)
Total members' equity	465,392	 422,369	387,880
Total liabilities and members' equity	\$ 2,257,135	\$ 2,199,456	\$ 2,004,914

## **CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (in thousands)

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For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Interest income	\$ 125,003	\$ 90,939	\$ 71,488
Interest expense	62,293	35,478	22,232
Net interest income	62,710	55,461	49,256
Provision for credit losses	2,614	1,593	(70)
Net interest income after provision for credit losses	60,096	53,868	49,326
Non-interest income			
Patronage income	10,506	9,414	9,605
Financially related services income	263	270	301
Fee income	4,147	2,987	3,777
Other non-interest income	378	343	154
Total non-interest income	15,294	13,014	13,837
Non-interest expense			
Salaries and employee benefits	12,634	11,673	10,635
Other operating expense	14,416	12,109	10,301
Other non-interest expense	372	40	91
Total non-interest expense	27,422	23,822	21,027
Income before income taxes	47,968	43,060	42,136
Provision for income taxes	1,396	816	1,154
Net income	\$ 46,572	\$ 42,244	\$ 40,982
Other comprehensive income (loss)			
Employee benefit plans activity	\$ 208	\$ 432	\$ (42)
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	208	432	(42)
Comprehensive income	\$ 46,780	\$ 42,676	\$ 40,940

## **CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' EQUITY**

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

(in thousands)

	Capital		Accumulated	
	Stock and		Other	Total
	Participation	Unallocated	Comprehensive	Members'
	Certificates	Surplus	Loss	Equity
Balance as of December 31, 2020	\$ 3,093	\$ 351,796	\$ (1,216)	\$ 353,673
Net income		40,982		40,982
Other comprehensive loss			(42)	(42)
Unallocated surplus designated for patronage distributions		(6,964)		(6,964)
Capital stock and participation certificates issued	468			468
Capital stock and participation certificates retired	(237)			(237)
Balance as of December 31, 2021	3,324	385,814	(1,258)	387,880
Net income		42,244		42,244
Other comprehensive income			432	432
Unallocated surplus designated for patronage distributions		(8,377)		(8,377)
Capital stock and participation certificates issued	410			410
Capital stock and participation certificates retired	(220)			(220)
Balance as of December 31, 2022	3,514	419,681	(826)	422,369
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		6,151		6,151
Net income		46,572		46,572
Other comprehensive income			208	208
Unallocated surplus designated for patronage distributions		(10,026)		(10,026)
Capital stock and participation certificates issued	293			293
Capital stock and participation certificates retired	(175)			(175)
Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$ 3,632	\$ 462,378	\$ (618)	\$ 465,392

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (in thousands)

For the year ended December 31,	 2023	2022	2021
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income	\$ 46,572	\$ 42,244	\$ 40,982
Depreciation on premises and equipment	778	571	515
Loss (gain) on sale of premises and equipment, net	6	(19)	(79)
Net amortization of premiums (discounts) on loans and investment securities	9	(92)	(68)
Provision for credit losses	2,614	1,593	(70)
Stock patronage received from AgriBank, FCB	(2,806)	(6,806)	(1,303)
Loss on other property owned, net			36
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Increase in accrued interest receivable	(7,416)	(8,671)	(240)
(Increase) decrease in other assets	(3,167)	1,863	(1,692)
Increase in accrued interest payable	4,411	6,800	412
(Decrease) increase in other liabilities	(1,552)	2,952	1,637
Net cash provided by operating activities	39,449	40,435	40,130
Cash flows from investing activities			
Increase in loans, net	(22,018)	(175,758)	(188,910)
Purchases of investment in AgriBank, FCB, net	(16,137)	(5,103)	(7,047)
Purchases of investment in other Farm Credit institutions, net	(90)	(71)	
Proceeds from investment securities	15	250	275
Proceeds from sales of other property owned			49
Purchases of premises and equipment, net	(2,395)	(2,212)	(689)
Net cash used in investing activities	(40,625)	(182,894)	(196,322)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Increase in note payable to AgriBank, FCB, net	9,719	149,339	162,240
Patronage distributions paid	(8,475)	(6,928)	(5,964)
Capital stock and participation certificates (retired) issued, net	(68)	48	(84)
Net cash provided by financing activities	1,176	142,459	156,192
Net change in cash			
Cash at beginning of year			
Cash at end of year	\$ 	\$ 	\$ 
Supplemental information	 		 
Interest paid	\$ 57,882	\$ 28,678	\$ 21,820
Taxes paid, net	2,050	449	673

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA

#### NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

#### Farm Credit System and District

The Farm Credit System (System) is a federally chartered network of borrower-owned lending institutions comprised of cooperatives and related service organizations, established by Congress to meet the credit needs of American agriculture. As of January 1, 2024, the System consisted of three Farm Credit Banks, one Agricultural Credit Bank, and 56 borrower-owned cooperative lending institutions (associations). The AgriBank Farm Credit District (AgriBank District or the District) is primarily comprised of AgriBank, FCB (AgriBank), a System Farm Credit Bank, and its District associations. The AgriBank District associations consist of Agricultural Credit Associations (ACA) that each have wholly-owned Federal Land Credit Association (FLCA) and Production Credit Association (PCA) subsidiaries.

FLCAs are authorized to originate long-term real estate mortgage loans. PCAs are authorized to originate short-term and intermediate-term loans. ACAs are authorized to originate long-term real estate mortgage loans and short-term and intermediate-term loans either directly or through their subsidiaries. Associations are authorized to provide lease financing options for agricultural purposes and are also authorized to purchase and hold certain types of investments. AgriBank provides funding to all associations chartered within the District.

Associations are authorized to provide, either directly or in participation with other lenders, credit and related services to eligible borrowers. Eligible borrowers may include farmers, ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, rural residents, and farm-related service businesses. In addition, associations can participate with other lenders in loans to similar entities. Similar entities are parties that are not eligible for a loan from a System lending institution, but have operations that are functionally similar to the activities of eligible borrowers.

The Farm Credit Administration (FCA) is authorized by Congress to regulate the System banks and associations. We are examined by the FCA and certain association actions are subject to the prior approval of the FCA and/or AgriBank.

The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (FCSIC) administers the Farm Credit Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund). The Insurance Fund is used to ensure the timely payment of principal and interest on Systemwide debt obligations, to ensure the retirement of protected borrower capital at par or stated value, and for other specified purposes.

At the discretion of the FCSIC, the Insurance Fund is also available to provide assistance to certain troubled System institutions and for the operating expenses of the FCSIC. Each System bank is required to pay premiums into the Insurance Fund until the assets in the Insurance Fund equal 2.0% of the aggregated insured obligations adjusted to reflect the reduced risk on loans or investments guaranteed by federal or state governments. This percentage of aggregate obligations can be changed by the FCSIC, at its sole discretion, to a percentage it determines to be actuarially sound. The basis for assessing premiums is debt outstanding with adjustments made for nonaccrual loans and impaired investment securities which are assessed a surcharge while guaranteed loans and investment securities are deductions from the premium base. AgriBank, in turn, assesses premiums to District associations each year based on similar factors.

#### Association

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (the Association) and its subsidiaries, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, FLCA and AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, PCA (subsidiaries) are lending institutions of the System. We are a borrower-owned cooperative providing credit and credit-related services to, or for the benefit of, eligible members for qualified agricultural purposes in the counties of Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Clebume, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, Sharp, Stone, White, and Woodruff in the state of Arkansas.

We borrow from AgriBank and provide financing and related services to our members. Our ACA holds all the stock of the FLCA and PCA subsidiaries.

We offer credit life, term life, credit disability, crop hail, and multi-peril crop insurance to borrowers and those eligible to borrow. We also offer fee appraisals to our members.

#### NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Accounting Principles and Reporting Policies

Our accounting and reporting policies conform to generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) and the prevailing practices within the financial services industry. Preparing financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the Consolidated Financial Statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### **Principles of Consolidation**

The Consolidated Financial Statements present the consolidated financial results of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA and its subsidiaries. All material intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

#### Significant Accounting Policies

Loans: Loans are carried at their principal amount outstanding, net of any unearned income, cumulative net charge-offs, unamortized deferred fees and costs on originated loans, and unamortized premiums or discounts on purchased loans. Loan interest is accrued and credited to interest income based upon the daily principal amount outstanding. Origination fees, net of related costs, are deferred and recognized over the life of the loan as an adjustment to net interest income. The net amount of loan fees and related origination costs are not material to the Consolidated Financial Statements taken as a whole.

A loan is considered contractually past due when any principal repayment or interest payment required by the loan instrument is not received on or before the due date. A loan remains contractually past due until certain modifications are completed or until the entire amount past due, including principal, accrued interest and penalty interest incurred as the result of past due status, is collected or otherwise discharged in full.

Generally, loans are placed in nonaccrual status when principal or interest is delinquent for 90 days or more (unless adequately secured and in the process of collection by a written agreement anticipating recovery in full) or circumstances indicate that full collection is not expected. When a loan is placed in nonaccrual status, and the interest is determined to be both uncollectible and the loss is known, we immediately reverse current year accrued interest to the extent principal plus accrued interest exceeds the net realizable value of the collateral prior to reclassification. When we deem a loan to be uncollectible, we charge the loan principal and prior year(s) accrued interest against the allowance for credit losses on loans. Subsequent recoveries, if any, are added to the allowance for credit losses on loans. Any cash received on nonaccrual loans is applied to reduce the carrying amount in the loan, except in those cases where the collection of the carrying amount is fully expected and certain other criteria are met. In these circumstances, interest is credited to income when principal and interest are current, the customer's ability to fulfill the contractual payment terms is fully expected, and, if the loan was past due when placed in nonaccrual status, the loan has evidence of sustained performance in making on-time contractual payments (typically based on payment frequency).

Loan modifications may be granted to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty. Modifications are one or a combination of principal forgiveness, interest rate reduction, other-than-insignificant term extension, or other-than-insignificant payment deferrals. Other-than-insignificant term extensions are defined as those greater than or equal to six months. Covenant waivers and modifications of contingent acceleration clauses are not considered term extensions. Other-than-insignificant payment deferrals are defined as cumulative or individual payment delays greater than or equal to six months.

Prior to January 1, 2023, in situations where, for economic or legal reasons related to the borrower's financial difficulties, we granted a concession for other than an insignificant period of time to the borrower that we would not otherwise consider, the related loan was classified as a troubled debt restructuring (TDR), also known as a formally restructured loan for regulatory purposes. A concession was generally granted to minimize economic loss and avoid foreclosure. Concessions varied by program and borrower and may have included interest rate reductions, term extensions, payment deferrals, or an acceptance of additional collateral in lieu of payments. In limited circumstances, principal may have been forgiven. Loans classified as TDRs were considered risk loans. There may have been modifications made in the normal course of business that were not considered TDRs.

Loans that are sold as participations are transferred as entire financial assets, groups of entire financial assets, or participating interests in the loans. The transfers of such assets or participating interests are structured such that control over the transferred assets, or participating interests have been surrendered and that all the conditions have been met to be accounted for as a sale.

Allowance for Credit Losses: Effective January 1, 2023, we adopted Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-13 "Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments." This guidance established a single allowance framework for all financial assets measured at amortized cost and certain off-balance sheet credit exposures, and replaced the incurred loss guidance. This framework requires that management's estimate reflects credit losses over the asset's remaining expected life and considers expected future changes in macroeconomic conditions and is referred to as the Current Expected Credit Loss (CECL) model. The allowance for credit losses (ACL) comprises the allowance for credit losses on loans, unfunded commitments, and investment securities.

#### Allowance for Credit Losses on Loans

Beginning January 1, 2023, the allowance for credit losses on loans (ACLL) represents the estimated current expected credit losses on the loan portfolio over the remaining contractual life of the loan portfolio adjusted for expected prepayments. The ACLL takes into consideration relevant information about past events, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable macroeconomic forecasts of future conditions. The contractual term excludes expected extensions, renewals, and modifications unless the extension or renewal options are not unconditionally cancellable.

The ACLL is increased through provisions for credit losses on loans and loan recoveries and is decreased through reversals of provision for credit losses on loans and loan charge-offs. The provision activity is included as part of the "Provision for credit losses" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

Determining the appropriateness of the ACLL is complex and requires judgment by management about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. Loans are evaluated on the amortized cost basis, which includes unamortized premiums and discounts.

We employ a disciplined process and methodology to establish the ACLL that has two basic components: first, an asset-specific component involving individual loans that do not share risk characteristics with other loans and the measurement of expected credit losses for such individual loans; and second, a pooled component for estimated expected credit losses for pools of loans that share similar risk characteristics. When a loan does not share risk characteristics with other loans, expected credit loss is measured as the difference between the amortized cost basis in the loan and the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate except that, for collateral-dependent loans, credit loss is measured as the difference between the amortized cost basis in the loan and the fair value of the underlying collateral. If the calculated expected credit loss is determined to be permanent, fixed or non-recoverable, the credit loss portion of the loan will be charged-off against the ACLL. For more information see the Collateral Dependent Loans policy in the significant accounting policies section of this report.

In estimating the pooled component of the ACLL that share common risk characteristics, loans are pooled and segregated into loan classes based on loan type, commodity, and internal risk rating. For reporting purposes, the portfolio is classified by loan type. We utilize a model to calculate an expected life-of-loan loss percentage for each loan pool by considering the probability of default, based on the migration of loans from performing to loss by internal risk

rating, and the loss given default, based on historical experience. Loan borrower characteristics are also utilized and include internal risk ratings, delinquency status, and the remaining term of the loan, adjusted for expected prepayments.

In order to calculate this estimated migration of loans from performing to loss, we utilize a single economic scenario over a reasonable and supportable forecast period of three years. The economic forecasts are updated on a quarterly basis and include macroeconomic variables such as net farm income, unemployment rates, and real gross domestic product levels. Subsequent to the forecast period, our model applies a smoothed reversion to historical loss experience to estimate losses for the remaining estimated contractual life of the portfolio.

The final credit loss estimate also considers factors not reflected in the economic forecast and historical loss experience due to the unique aspects of current conditions and expectations. These factors may include, but are not limited to: lending policies and procedures, experience and depth of lending staff, credit quality and delinquency trends, individual borrower and industry concentrations, national, regional, and local economic business conditions and developments, collateral value trends, and expected performance of specific industry sectors not reflected in the economic forecast. Consideration of these factors, as well as the imprecision inherent in the process and methodology may lead to a management adjustment to the modeled ACLL results. Expected credit loss estimates also include consideration of expected cash recoveries on loans previously charged-off or expected recoveries on collateral dependent loans where recovery is expected through sale of the collateral.

Prior to January 1, 2023, the allowance for loan losses was an estimate of losses inherent in our loan portfolio as of the financial statement date. We determined the appropriate level of allowance for loan losses based on quarterly evaluation of factors such as loan loss history, estimated probability of default, estimated loss given default, portfolio quality, and current economic and environmental conditions.

#### Allowance for Credit Losses on Unfunded Commitments

Under CECL, we evaluate the need for an allowance for credit losses on unfunded commitments, which is included in "Other liabilities" in the Consolidated Statements of Condition. The related provision is included as part of the "Provision for credit losses" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. The amount of expected losses is determined by calculating a commitment usage factor over the contractual period for exposures that are not unconditionally cancellable by the Association and applying the loss factors used in the ACLL methodology to the results of the usage calculation. No allowance for credit losses is recorded for commitments that are unconditionally cancellable.

#### Allowance for Credit Losses on Investment Securities

Quarterly, we evaluate the held-to-maturity investment portfolio for credit losses. When the present value of cash flows expected to be collected from the security is less than the amortized cost basis of the security, an allowance for credit losses on investment securities is recognized and is limited to the amortized cost less the fair value. For securities that are guaranteed by the U.S. government or other governmental agencies, we have not recognized an allowance for credit losses on investment securities is based on historical losses, is zero.

**Collateral Dependent Loans:** Collateral dependent loans are loans secured by collateral, including but not limited to real estate, equipment, inventory, livestock, and income-producing property. We measure the expected credit losses based on the fair value of collateral at the reporting date when we determine that foreclosure is probable. Under the fair value practical expedient measurement approach, the expected credit losses are based on the difference between the fair value of the collateral less estimated costs to sell and the amortized cost basis of the loan.

The fair value of the collateral is adjusted for the estimated cost to sell if repayment or satisfaction of a loan is dependent on the sale (rather than only on the operation) of the collateral. In accordance with our appraisal policy, the fair value of collateral-dependent loans is based upon in-house or independent third-party appraisals or on in-house collateral valuations. When an updated appraisal or collateral valuation is received, management reassesses the need for adjustments to the loan's expected credit loss measurements and, where appropriate, records an adjustment.

Additionally, when a borrower is experiencing financial difficulty, we apply the fair value practical expedient measurement approach for loans when the repayment is expected to be provided substantially through the operation or sale of the collateral.

Accrued Interest Receivable: Accrued interest receivable is presented separately in the Consolidated Statements of Condition and includes accrued interest on loans and investment securities.

Investment in AgriBank: Our stock investment in AgriBank is on a cost plus allocated equities basis.

**Investment Securities:** We are authorized by the FCA to purchase and hold certain types of investments. As we have the positive intent and ability to hold these investments to maturity, they have been classified as held-to-maturity and are carried at amortized cost, net of allowance for credit losses on investment securities upon the adoption of CECL. Purchased premiums and discounts are amortized or accreted using the interest method over the terms of the respective securities.

We consider an investment security contractually past due when any payment of principal or interest required by the investment security is not received on or before the due date. The accrual of interest income is suspended for investments that are in default or for which the collectability of principal or interest is doubtful. When an investment security is in default and the interest is determined to be uncollectible, we immediately reverse any accrued interest.

**Premises and Equipment:** The carrying amount of premises and equipment is at cost, less accumulated depreciation and is included in "Other assets" in the Consolidated Statements of Condition. Calculation of depreciation is generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation and maintenance and repair expenses are included in "Other operating expense" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income and improvements are capitalized.

Leases: We are the lessee in operating leases. We evaluate arrangements at inception to determine if it is a lease. Leases with an initial term of 12 months or less are not recorded on the Consolidated Statements of Condition with lease expense recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term. For operating leases with terms greater than 12 months the right-of-use (ROU) assets are included in "Other assets" in the Consolidated Statements of Condition and the lease liabilities are included in "Other liabilities" in the Consolidated Statements of Condition.

The ROU assets represent our right to use an underlying asset for the lease term and lease liabilities represent our obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease. Operating lease ROU assets and liabilities are recognized based on the present value of lease payments over the lease term. As most of our leases do not provide an implicit rate, we use our incremental borrowing rate based on the information available at commencement date in determining the present value of lease payments. We use the implicit rate when readily determinable. Our lease terms may include options to extend or terminate the lease. The length of the lease term is modified to include the option when it is reasonably certain that we will exercise that option. Operating lease expense for lease payments is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**Post-Employment Benefit Plans:** The District has various post-employment benefit plans in which our employees participate. Expenses related to these plans, except for the AgriBank District Pension Restoration Plan, are included in "Salaries and employee benefits" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

Certain employees participate in the AgriBank District Retirement Plan. The plan is comprised of two benefit formulas. At their option, employees hired prior to October 1, 2001, are on the cash balance formula or on the final average pay formula. Benefit eligible employees hired between October 1, 2001, and December 31, 2006, are on the cash balance formula. Effective January 1, 2007, the AgriBank District Retirement Plan was closed to new employees. The AgriBank District Retirement Plan utilizes the "Projected Unit Credit" actuarial method for financial reporting and funding purposes.

Certain employees also participate in the AgriBank District Pension Restoration Plan. This plan restores retirement benefits to certain highly compensated eligible employees that would have been provided under the qualified plan if such benefits were not above certain Internal Revenue Code limits. The pension liability attributable to the Pension Restoration Plan at the Association and the related accumulated other comprehensive loss are included in the Consolidated Statements of Condition. The components of the net periodic cost other than the service cost component, are included in "Other operating expense" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. Service costs are included in "Salaries and employee benefits" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

We also provide certain health insurance benefits to eligible retired employees according to the terms of those benefit plans. The anticipated cost of these benefits is accrued during the employees' active service period.

The defined contribution plan allows eligible employees to save for their retirement either pre-tax, post-tax, or both, with an employer match on a percentage of the employee's contributions. We provide benefits under this plan for those employees that do not participate in the AgriBank District Retirement Plan in the form of a fixed percentage of salary contribution in addition to the employer match. Employer contributions are expensed when incurred.

Certain employees also participate in the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan. Eligible participants must meet one of the following criteria: certain salary thresholds as determined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), are either a Chief Executive Officer or President of a participating employer, or have previously elected pre-tax deferrals in 2006 under predecessor nonqualified deferred compensation plans. Under this plan the employee may defer a portion of his/her salary, bonus, and other compensation. Additionally, the plan provides for supplemental employer matching contributions related to any compensation deferred by the employee that would have been eligible for a matching contribution under the retirement savings plan if it were not for certain IRS limitations.

**Income Taxes:** The ACA and PCA accrue federal and state income taxes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for future tax consequences of temporary differences between the carrying amounts and tax basis of assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets are recorded if the deferred tax asset is more likely than not to be realized. If the realization test cannot be met, the deferred tax asset is reduced by a valuation allowance. The expected future tax consequences of uncertain income tax positions are accrued.

The FLCA is exempt from federal and other taxes to the extent provided in the Farm Credit Act.

Patronage Program: We accrue patronage distributions according to a prescribed formula approved by the Board of Directors. Generally, we pay the accrued patronage during the first quarter after year end.

**Off-Balance Sheet Credit Exposures:** Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a borrower as long as there is not a violation of any condition established in the loan contract. The commitments to extend credit generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses. Standby letters of credit are agreements to pay a beneficiary if there is a default on a contractual arrangement. We evaluate the need for an allowance for credit losses on unfunded commitments, which is included in "Other liabilities" in the Consolidated Statements of Condition. For more information see the allowance for credit losses on unfunded commitments policy in the significant accounting policies section of this report.

Cash: For purposes of reporting cash flow, cash includes cash on hand.

Fair Value Measurement: The accounting guidance describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value.

Level 1 — Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level 2 — Observable inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active so that they are traded less frequently than exchange-traded instruments, quoted prices that are not current, or principal market information that is not released publicly
- Inputs that are observable such as interest rates and yield curves, prepayment speeds, credit risks, and default rates
- Inputs derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means

Level 3 — Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities. These unobservable inputs reflect the reporting entity's own judgments about assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Level 3 assets and liabilities include financial instruments whose value is determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies, or similar techniques, as well as instruments for which the determination of fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation.

#### **Recently Issued or Adopted Accounting Pronouncements**

We have assessed the potential impact of accounting standards that have been issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and have determined the following standards to be applicable to our business. While we are a nonpublic business entity, our financial results are closely related to the performance of the combined Farm Credit System. Therefore, we typically adopt accounting pronouncements in alignment with other System institutions.

	Standard and effective date	Description	Adoption status and financial statement impact
	In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13 "Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments." The guidance was originally effective for non-U.S. Securities Exchange Commission filers for our first quarter of 2021. In November 2019, the FASB issued ASU 2019-10 which amended the mandatory effective date for this guidance for certain institutions. We qualified for the deferral of the mandatory effective date. As a result of the change, the standard was effective for our first quarter of 2023 and early adoption was permitted. Additionally, the FASB issued several updates during 2019 refining and clarifying Topic 326.	This guidance replaced the incurred loss impairment methodology with a methodology that reflects expected credit losses and requires consideration of a broader range of reasonable and supportable information to determine credit loss estimates.	We adopted the standard and related updates as of January 1, 2023. As a result of adoption of this guidance, the allowance for credit losses on loans decreased by \$6.8 million and the allowance for credit losses on unfunded commitments increased by \$140 thousand, with a cumulative-effect increase, net of tax balances, to retained earnings of \$6.2 million. The adoption of the standard did not have a material impact related to our held-to-maturity investment portfolio as all of these investments carry a full faith and credit guarantee of the U.S. government or an implicit credit guarantee from its agencies and have an immaterial risk of credit loss. No allowance for credit losses was recognized in relation to our investment portfolio upon adoption.
	In March 2022, the FASB issued ASU 2022-02 "Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326): Troubled Debt Restructurings and Vintage Disclosures." The guidance was effective at the same time that ASU 2016-13 was adopted.	This guidance eliminated the accounting guidance for troubled debt restructurings by creditors in Subtopic 310-40, Receivables - Troubled Debt Restructurings by Creditors, while enhancing disclosure requirements for certain loan refinancings and restructurings. The expanded Vintage Disclosures are not applicable to nonpublic business entities.	We adopted the standard on January 1, 2023. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on our financial statements, but modified certain disclosures beginning in 2023.
-	In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023- 09, "Income Taxes (Topic 740): Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures." This guidance is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2025.	This guidance requires more transparency about income tax information through improvements to income tax disclosures. The improvements applicable to our Association will require adding percentages and information by state jurisdiction to the rate reconciliation and income taxes paid disclosures.	We expect to adopt the standard as of January 1, 2026. The adoption of this guidance is not expected to have a material impact on our financial statements, but will modify certain disclosures.

#### NOTE 3: LOANS AND ALLOWANCE FOR CREDIT LOSSES ON LOANS

#### Loans by Type

(dollars in thousands)									
As of December 31,		2023			2022			2021	
	A	mortized Cost	%	A	mortized Cost	%	A	mortized Cost	%
Real estate mortgage	\$	1,099,108	51.7%	\$	1,150,764	54.7%	\$	1,096,717	56.9%
Production and intermediate-term		468,026	22.0%		510,439	24.3%		477,736	24.8%
Agribusiness		458,072	21.6%		355,041	16.9%		286,442	14.9%
Other		99,849	4.7%		87,084	4.1%		66,417	3.4%
Total	\$	2,125,055	100.0%	\$	2,103,328	100.0%	\$	1,927,312	100.0%

The other category is primarily composed of rural infrastructure and rural residential real estate loans.

Throughout Note 3 accrued interest receivable on loans of \$39.3 million at December 31, 2023, has been excluded from the amortized cost of loans and is presented in "Accrued interest receivable" in the Consolidated Statements of Condition.

#### **Portfolio Concentrations**

Loan concentrations exist when there are amounts loaned to multiple borrowers engaged in similar activities or within close proximity, which could cause them to be similarly impacted by economic or other conditions. We lend primarily within agricultural industries.

As of December 31, 2023, amortized cost on loans plus commitments, reduced by government guaranteed portions of loans, to our ten largest borrowers totaled an amount equal to 6.6% of total loans and commitments.

Total loans plus any unfunded commitments represent a proportionate maximum potential credit risk. However, substantial portions of our lending activities are collateralized. Accordingly, the credit risk associated with lending activities is less than the recorded loan principal. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the borrower. Collateral held varies, but may include real estate, equipment, inventory, livestock, and income-producing property. Long-term real estate loans are secured by the first liens on the underlying real property.

#### Participations

We may purchase or sell participation interests with other parties to diversify risk, manage loan volume, or comply with the limitations of the FCA Regulations or General Financing Agreement (GFA) with AgriBank.

#### Participations Purchased and Sold

	Other Farm											
		Agri	k	Credit Institutions Participations					Total Participations			
(in thousands)		Partici	ons									
As of December 31, 2023	Pur	chased		Sold	Purchased			Sold	Purchased			Sold
Real estate mortgage	\$		\$	(119,112)	\$	76,735	\$	(92,208)	\$	76,735	\$	(211,320)
Production and intermediate-term				(52,049)		46,752		(37,202)		46,752		(89,251)
Agribusiness				(60,640)		349,981		(83,402)		349,981		(144,042)
Other				(10,397)		107,136		(8,951)		107,136		(19,348)
Total	\$		\$	(242,198)	\$	580,604	\$	(221,763)	\$	580,604	\$	(463,961)

						Other	⊦ar	m				
		Agri	(	Credit Institutions Participations					Total			
		Partici	ns						Participations			
As of December 31, 2022	Pur	Purchased		Sold	Purchased		d So		Purchased			Sold
Real estate mortgage	\$		\$	(32,707)	\$	70,703	\$	(100,451)	\$	70,703	\$	(133,158)
Production and intermediate-term				(6,271)		47,088		(18,851)		47,088		(25,122)
Agribusiness				(9,098)		273,545		(48,901)		273,545		(57,999)
Other						83,535		(8,771)		83,535		(8,771)
Total	\$		\$	(48,076)	\$	474,871	\$	(176,974)	\$	474,871	\$	(225,050)

- ...

	Other Farm											
		Agri	Bank	Ξ.		Credit Ir	nstitu	itions		Тс	otal	
		Partici	patio	ns		Partici	pati	ons		Partici	patio	ons
As of December 31, 2021	Pure	Purchased			Purchased			Sold	Purchased			Sold
Real estate mortgage	\$		\$	(30,956)	\$	63,133	\$	(96,837)	\$	63,133	\$	(127,793)
Production and intermediate-term						43,602		(20,399)		43,602		(20,399)
Agribusiness				(34,644)		199,594		(122,557)		199,594		(157,201)
Other					_	54,350				54,350		
Total	\$		\$	(65,600)	\$	360,679	\$	(239,793)	\$	360,679	\$	(305,393)

#### **Credit Quality and Delinguency**

Credit risk arises from the potential inability of a borrower to meet its payment obligation and exists in our outstanding loans, letters of credit, and unfunded loan commitments. We manage credit risk associated with our lending activities through an analysis of the credit risk profile of an individual borrower based on management established underwriting standards and board approved lending policies. The evaluation of the borrower's credit risk profile may include analysis of several factors including, but not limited to, credit history, repayment capacity, financial position, and collateral. Real estate mortgage loans must be secured by first liens on the real estate. As required by the FCA regulations, each institution that makes loans on a secured basis must have collateral evaluation policies and procedures. Real estate mortgage loans may be made only in amounts up to 85% of the original appraised value of the property taken as security or up to 97% of the appraised value if guaranteed by a state, federal, or other governmental agency. The actual loan to appraised value when loans are made is generally lower than the statutory maximum percentage. Loans other than real estate mortgage may be made on a secured or unsecured basis.

We use a two-dimensional risk rating model based on an internally generated combined System risk rating guidance that incorporates a 14-point probability of default rating scale to identify and track the probability of borrower default and a separate 6-point scale addressing loss given default. Probability of default is our assumption of the probability that a borrower will experience a default during the life of the loan. The loss given default is our assumption as to the

anticipated principal loss on a specific loan assuming default occurs during the remaining life of the loan. A default is considered to have occurred if the lender believes the borrower will not be able to pay its obligation in full or the borrower or the loan is classified as nonaccrual. This credit risk rating process incorporates objective and subjective criteria to identify inherent strengths, weaknesses, and risks in a particular relationship. We review the probability of default category periodically in accordance with our policy, or when a credit action is taken.

Each of the probability of default categories carries a distinct percentage of default probability. The probability of default rate between one and nine of the acceptable categories is very narrow and would reflect almost no default to a minimal default percentage. The probability of default rate grows more rapidly as a loan moves from acceptable to other assets especially mentioned and grows significantly as a loan moves to a substandard (viable) level. A substandard (non-viable) rating indicates that the probability of default is almost certain.

We utilize the FCA Uniform Classification System to categorize loans into five credit quality categories. The categories are:

- Acceptable loans are non-criticized loans representing the highest quality. They are expected to be fully collectible. This category is further differentiated into various probabilities of default.
- Other assets especially mentioned (Special Mention) loans are currently collectible but exhibit some potential weakness. These loans involve
  increased credit risk, but not to the point of justifying a substandard classification.
- Substandard loans exhibit some serious weakness in repayment capacity, equity, and/or collateral pledged on the loan.
- Doubtful loans exhibit similar weaknesses as substandard loans. Doubtful loans have additional weaknesses in existing factors, conditions, and
  values that make collection in full highly questionable.
- Loss loans are considered uncollectible.

We had no loans categorized as loss at December 31, 2023, 2022, or 2021.

#### Credit Quality of Loans at Amortized Cost<sup>1</sup>

			Substandard/								
(dollars in thousands)	 Acceptabl	e		Special Men	tion		Doubtful			Total	
As of December 31, 2023	 Amount	%		Amount	%		Amount	%		Amount	%
Real estate mortgage	\$ 1,071,221	97.5%	\$	17,704	1.6%	\$	10,183	0.9%	\$	1,099,108	100.0%
Production and intermediate-term	437,438	93.4%		20,376	4.4%		10,212	2.2%		468,026	100.0%
Agribusiness	432,270	94.4%		14,196	3.1%		11,606	2.5%		458,072	100.0%
Other	 82,870	83.0%		16,578	16.6%		401	0.4%		99,849	100.0%
Total	\$ 2,023,799	95.3%	\$	68,854	3.2%	\$	32,402	1.5%	\$	2,125,055	100.0%

						Substandar	d/		
	 Acceptab	le		Special Ment	ion	 Doubtful		 Total	
As of December 31, 2022	Amount	%		Amount	%	 Amount	%	 Amount	%
Real estate mortgage	\$ 1,146,433	98.2%	\$	18,718	1.6%	\$ 2,544	0.2%	\$ 1,167,695	100.0%
Production and intermediate-term	486,596	92.9%		32,228	6.2%	4,900	0.9%	523,724	100.0%
Agribusiness	340,456	95.3%		10,430	2.9%	6,367	1.8%	357,253	100.0%
Other	84,347	96.6%	1	1,325	1.5%	 1,636	1.9%	 87,308	100.0%
Total	\$ 2,057,832	96.4%	\$	62,701	2.9%	\$ 15,447	0.7%	\$ 2,135,980	100.0%

			Substandard/										
	 Acceptab	e		Special Ment	ion		Doubtful			Total			
As of December 31, 2021	 Amount	%		Amount	%		Amount	%		Amount	%		
Real estate mortgage	\$ 1,075,359	96.8%	\$	23,357	2.1%	\$	12,240	1.1%	\$	1,110,956	100.0%		
Production and intermediate-term	447,033	91.9%		26,990	5.5%		12,423	2.6%		486,446	100.0%		
Agribusiness	272,670	94.9%		7,270	2.5%		7,590	2.6%		287,530	100.0%		
Other	64,679	97.3%		1,213	1.8%		609	0.9%		66,501	100.0%		
Total	\$ 1,859,741	95.3%	\$	58,830	3.0%	\$	32,862	1.7%	\$	1,951,433	100.0%		

<sup>1</sup>Prior to the adoption of CECL, which was effective January 1, 2023, accruing loans included accrued interest receivable.

#### Aging Analysis of Loans at Amortized Cost<sup>1</sup>

	30-89	90 Days			Not Past Due		A	ccruing Loans
(in thousands)	Days	or More	Total	C	or Less Than 30			90 Days or
As of December 31, 2023	Past Due	Past Due	Past Due		Days Past Due	Total	Ν	lore Past Due
Real estate mortgage	\$ 3,157	\$ 158	\$ 3,315	\$	1,095,793	\$ 1,099,108	\$	
Production and intermediate-term	928	12	940		467,086	468,026		
Agribusiness		15	15		458,057	458,072		
Other	 311	255	566		99,283	99,849		255
Total	\$ 4,396	\$ 440	\$ 4,836	\$	2,120,219	\$ 2,125,055	\$	255

As of December 31, 2022	30-89 Days Past Due	90 Days or More Past Due	Total Past Due	Not Past Due or Less Than 30 Days Past Due	Total	1	ruing Loans 90 Days or e Past Due
Real estate mortgage Production and intermediate-term	\$ 1,710 378	\$ 244 42	\$ 1,954 420	\$ 1,165,741 523,304	\$ 1,167,695 523,724	\$	
Agribusiness Other	177 34		177 34	357,076 87,274	357,253 87,308		
Total	\$ 2,299	\$ 286	\$ 2,585	\$ 2,133,395	\$ 2,135,980	\$	
As of December 31, 2021	30-89 Days Past Due	90 Days or More Past Due	Total Past Due	Not Past Due or Less Than 30 Days Past Due	Total	1	ruing Loans 90 Days or e Past Due
Real estate mortgage Production and intermediate-term Agribusiness Other	\$ 926 2,539  186	\$ 1,358 32 	\$ 2,284 2,571  186	\$ 1,108,672 483,875 287,530 66,315	\$ 1,110,956 486,446 287,530 66,501	\$	  
Total	\$ 3,651	\$ 1,390	\$ 5,041	\$ 1,946,392	\$ 1,951,433	\$	

<sup>1</sup>Prior to the adoption of CECL, which was effective January 1, 2023, accruing loans included accrued interest receivable.

#### Nonaccrual Loans

### Nonaccrual Loans by Loan Type

(in thousands)			
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Real estate mortgage	\$ 4,080	\$ 424	\$ 2,986
Production and intermediate-term	4,481	48	91
Agribusiness	34	4,416	
Other	 396	517	635
Total	\$ 8,991	\$ 5,405	\$ 3,712

#### Additional Nonaccrual Loans Information

Aduitional Nonacciual Loans inform	ation		
		As of	For the year ended
		December 31, 2023	December 31, 2023
		Amortized Cost	Interest Income
(in thousands)		Without Allowance	Recognized
Real estate mortgage	\$	4,080	\$ 125
Production and intermediate-term		123	
Agribusiness		34	
Other		395	5
Total	\$	4,632	\$ 130

Reversals of interest income on loans that moved to nonaccrual status were not material for the year ended December 31, 2023.

#### Loan Modifications Granted to Borrowers Experiencing Financial Difficulty

Included within our loans are loan modifications; some of which are granted to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty.

#### Loan Modifications at Amortized Cost<sup>1</sup>

(dollars in thousands) For the year ended December 31, 2023	E	Term Extension	Percentage of Total Loans
Real estate mortgage	\$	272	0.0%
Production and intermediate-term		1,803	0.1%
Agribusiness		4,919	0.2%
Total	\$	6,994	0.3%

<sup>1</sup>Excludes loans that were modified during the year, but were paid off or sold prior to year end.

All loans modified for borrowers experiencing financial difficulty during the reporting period were current as to principal and interest as of December 31, 2023.

Accrued interest receivable related to loan modifications granted to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty was not material at December 31, 2023.

#### **Financial Effect of Loan Modifications**

	Weighted
	Average Term
For the year ended December 31, 2023	Extension (months)
Real estate mortgage Term extension	26
Production and intermediate-term Term extension	18
Agribusiness Term extension	22

There were no loans to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty that defaulted subsequent to the modification date during the year ended December 31, 2023.

Additional commitments to lend to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty whose loans have been modified during the period were \$3.3 million at December 31, 2023.

#### Allowance for Credit Losses

Our loan portfolio is divided into segments primarily based on loan type which are the segments used to estimate the allowance for credit losses. As our lending authorities limit the types of loans we can originate, our portfolio is concentrated in the agriculture sector. The credit risk associated with each of our portfolio segments includes a strong correlation to agricultural commodity prices and input costs. Specifically for our real estate mortgage segment, the value of agricultural land that serves as collateral is a key risk characteristic. Additionally, unemployment rates and gross domestic product levels are additional key risk characteristics attributable to our portfolio. We consider these characteristics, among others, in assigning internal risk ratings and forecasting credit losses on our loan portfolio and related unfunded commitments.

We develop our reasonable and supportable forecast by considering a multitude of macroeconomic variables. Our forecasts of U.S. net farm income, U.S. real gross domestic product, and U.S. unemployment rate represent the key macroeconomic variables that most significantly affect the estimate of the allowance for credit losses on loans and unfunded commitments.

We utilize a single macroeconomic scenario in the estimate of the allowance for credit losses on loans and unfunded commitments which represents the most probable forecasted outcome. Subsequent changes in the macroeconomic forecasts will be reflected in the provision for credit losses in future periods.

#### **Changes in Allowance for Credit Losses**

(in thousands)				
As of December 31,		2023	2022	2021
Allowance for Credit Losses on Loans				
Balance at beginning of year	\$	11,295	\$ 9,823	\$ 10,919
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		(6,784)		
Provision for credit losses on loans		2,359	1,469	(49)
Loan recoveries		12	43	5
Loan charge-offs		(957)	(40)	(1,052)
Balance at end of year	\$	5,925	\$ 11,295	\$ 9,823
Allowance for Credit Losses on Unfunded Commitment	s			
Balance at beginning of year	\$	238	\$ 114	\$ 135
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle		140		
Provision for credit losses on unfunded commitments		255	124	(21)
Balance at end of year	\$	633	\$ 238	\$ 114
Total allowance for credit losses	\$	6,558	\$ 11,533	\$ 9,937

The change in the allowance for credit losses on loans from December 31, 2022, was primarily driven by the cumulative effect adjustment recorded as a result of the adoption of CECL, partially offset by the provision for credit losses for the year ended December 31, 2023. As a result of adoption of the CECL guidance, the cumulative effect adjustment recorded decreased allowance for loan losses by \$6.8 million and was largely due to the requirement of CECL to estimate losses to the assets' contractual maturities, resulting in a decrease of allowances attributable to our long-term real estate and short-term loan portfolios. The provision for credit losses was related to our estimate of losses in our portfolio for the applicable years. In particular, specific reserves were established for certain loans in our capital markets portfolio. Additionally, a change to a pessimistic outlook in the forecast net farm income in the livestock sector, primarily within the poultry industry, contributed to the provision for credit losses on loans during the year ended December 31, 2023.

#### Changes in Allowance for Credit Losses on Loans by Loan Type

(in thousands)	R	eal Estate Mortgage	In	Production and termediate-Term	Ag	gribusiness	Other		Total	
Allowance for credit losses on loans: Balance as of December 31, 2022 Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle Provision for credit losses on loans Loan recoveries Loan charge-offs Balance as of December 21, 2022		5,377 (3,603) 559 6 (2)		2,073 (1,433) 2,497 6 (880)	\$	\$ 3,294 (1,442) (719)  (75)		\$		11,295 (6,784) 2,359 12 (957)
Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$	2,337	\$	2,263	\$	1,058	\$	267	\$	5,925
	R	eal Estate Mortgage	In	Production and termediate-Term	Ag	gribusiness		Other		Total
Allowance for credit losses on loans: Balance as of December 31, 2021 Provision for credit losses on loans Loan recoveries Loan charge-offs	\$	5,191 165 28 (7)	\$	2,043 38 15 (23)	\$	2,387 907 	\$	202 359  (10)	\$	9,823 1,469 43 (40
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$	5,377	\$	2,073	\$	3,294	\$	551	\$	11,295
	R	eal Estate Mortgage	In	Production and termediate-Term	Ag	gribusiness		Other		Total
Allowance for credit losses on loans: Balance as of December 31, 2020 Provision for credit losses on loans Loan recoveries Loan charge-offs	\$	5,181 950 1 (941)	\$	2,546 (400) 4 (107)	\$	3,021 (634) 	\$	171 35  (4)	\$	10,919 (49) 5 (1,052)
Balance as of December 31, 2021	\$	5,191	\$	2,043	\$	2,387	\$	202	\$	9,823

#### **Previously Required Disclosures**

The disclosures in this section were required prior to January 1, 2023. Upon the adoption of CECL, these disclosures are no longer required prospectively.

Risk Loans: Risk loans are loans for which it is probable that all principal and interest will not be collected according to the contractual terms.

Risk Loan Information		
(in thousands) As of December 31,	2022	2021
Nonaccrual loans:		
Current as to principal and interest	\$ 5,085	\$ 2,190
Past due	 320	1,522
Total nonaccrual loans	5,405	3,712
Accruing restructured loans		
Accruing loans 90 days or more past due	 	
Total risk loans	\$ 5,405	\$ 3,712
Volume with specific allowance	\$ 4,424	\$ 66
Volume without specific allowance	 981	3,646
Total risk loans	\$ 5,405	\$ 3,712
Total specific allowance	\$ 900	\$ 41
For the year ended December 31,	2022	2021
Income on accrual risk loans	\$ 	\$ 1
Income on nonaccrual loans	 504	938
Total income on risk loans	\$ 504	\$ 939
Average risk loans	\$ 3,549	\$ 9,104

Note: Accruing loans include accrued interest receivable.

#### Additional Impaired Loan Information by Loan Type

	As	of De	cember 31, 20	022		For the year Decembe		
	 , 10	0.00	Unpaid			 Average	- ,	Interest
	Recorded		Principal		Related	Impaired		Income
(in thousands)	Investment <sup>1</sup>		Balance <sup>2</sup>		Allowance	 Loans		Recognized
Impaired loans with a related allowance for loan losses:								
Real estate mortgage	\$ 	\$		\$		\$ 347	\$	
Production and intermediate-term						17		
Agribusiness	4,416		4,541		891	1,560		
Other	 8		22		9	 14		
Total	\$ 4,424	\$	4,563	\$	900	\$ 1,938	\$	
Impaired loans with no related allowance for loan losses:								
Real estate mortgage	\$ 424	\$	1,439	\$		\$ 1,013	\$	456
Production and intermediate-term	48		3,302			50		34
Agribusiness								
Other	 509		713			 548		14
Total	\$ 981	\$	5,454	\$		\$ 1,611	\$	504
Total impaired loans:								
Real estate mortgage	\$ 424	\$	1,439	\$		\$ 1,360	\$	456
Production and intermediate-term	48		3,302			67		34
Agribusiness	4,416		4,541		891	1,560		
Other	 517		735		9	562		14
Total	\$ 5,405	\$	10,017	\$	900	\$ 3,549	\$	504

	As of December 31, 2021					Decembe	er 31, 2021	
			Unpaid			Average		Interest
	Recorded		Principal		Related	Impaired		Income
	Investment <sup>1</sup>		Balance <sup>2</sup>		Allowance	 Loans		Recognized
Impaired loans with a related allowance for loan losses:								
Real estate mortgage	\$ 6	\$	46	\$	7	\$ 202	\$	
Production and intermediate-term	40		536		14	102		
Agribusiness								
Other	 20		32		20	 24		
Total	\$ 66	\$	614	\$	41	\$ 328	\$	
Impaired loans with no related allowance for loan losses:								
Real estate mortgage	\$ 2,980	\$	4,034	\$		\$ 7,219	\$	446
Production and intermediate-term	51		3,342			129		472
Agribusiness						777		
Other	615		817			 651		21
Total	\$ 3,646	\$	8,193	\$		\$ 8,776	\$	939
Total impaired loans:								
Real estate mortgage	\$ 2,986	\$	4,080	\$	7	\$ 7,421	\$	446
Production and intermediate-term	91		3,878		14	231		472
Agribusiness						777		
Other	 635		849		20	 675		21
Total	\$ 3,712	\$	8,807	\$	41	\$ 9,104	\$	939

<sup>1</sup>The recorded investment is the unpaid principal amount of the receivable increased or decreased by applicable accrued interest and unamortized premium, discount, finance charges, and acquisition costs and may also reflect a previous direct charge-off of the investment.

<sup>2</sup>Unpaid principal balance represents the contractual principal balance of the loan.

#### Year End Recorded Investments by Loan Type

(in thousands) As of December 31, 2022	Real Estate Mortgage	Production and Intermediate-Term	A	gribusiness	Other	Total
Allowance for loan losses						
Ending balance: individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 	\$ 	\$	891	\$ 9	\$ 900
Ending balance: collectively evaluated for impairment	\$ 5,377	\$ 2,073	\$	2,403	\$ 542	\$ 10,395
Recorded investment in loans outstanding: Ending balance	\$ 1,167,695	\$ 523,724	\$	357,253	\$ 87,308	\$ 2,135,980
Ending balance: individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 424	\$ 48	\$	4,416	\$ 517	\$ 5,405
Ending balance: collectively evaluated for impairment	\$ 1,167,271	\$ 523,676	\$	352,837	\$ 86,791	\$ 2,130,575
As of December 31, 2021	Real Estate Mortgage	Production and Intermediate-Term	A	gribusiness	Other	Total
Allowance for loan losses						
Ending balance: individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 7	\$ 14	\$		\$ 20	\$ 41
Ending balance: collectively evaluated for impairment	\$ 5,184	\$ 2,029	\$	2,387	\$ 182	\$ 9,782
Recorded investment in loans outstanding: Ending balance	\$ 1,110,956	\$ 486,446	\$	287,530	\$ 66,501	\$ 1,951,433
Ending balance: individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 2,986	\$ 91	\$		\$ 635	\$ 3,712
Ending balance: collectively evaluated for impairment	\$ 1,107,970	\$ 486,355	\$	287,530	\$ 65,866	\$ 1,947,721

**Troubled Debt Restructurings:** Prior to the adoption of CECL, a restructuring of a loan constituted a troubled debt restructuring, also known as formally restructured, if the creditor for economic or legal reasons related to the borrower's financial difficulties granted a concession to the borrower that it would not otherwise consider. Concessions varied by program and were borrower-specific and could include interest rate reductions, term extensions, payment deferrals, or the acceptance of additional collateral in lieu of payments. In limited circumstances, principal may have been forgiven.

We completed TDRs of certain real estate mortgage loans during the year ended December 31, 2021. Our recorded investment in these loans just prior to restructuring was \$47 thousand during the year ended December 31, 2021. Our recorded investment in these loans immediately following the restructuring was \$6 thousand during the year ended December 31, 2021. There were no TDRs that occurred during the year ended December 31, 2022. The recorded investment is the unpaid principal amount of the receivable increased or decreased by applicable accrued interest and unamortized premium, discount, finance charges, and acquisition costs and may also reflect a previous direct charge-off of the investment. The primary type of modification was forgiveness of principal.

There were no TDRs that defaulted during the years ended December 31, 2022, or 2021, in which the modification was within twelve months of the respective reporting period.

(in thousands)		
As of December 31,	2022	2021
Total TDRs:		
Real estate mortgage	\$ 1	\$ 6
Other	 335	370
Total TDRs	\$ 336	\$ 376

Note: Accruing loans include accrued interest receivable.

All TDRs outstanding at December 31, 2022, and 2021 were in nonaccrual status.

#### NOTE 4: INVESTMENT IN AGRIBANK

As of December 31, 2023, we were required by AgriBank to maintain an investment equal to 3.0% of the average quarterly balance of our note payable.

We are also required to hold AgriBank stock based on a contractual agreement under any asset pool program in which we participate. The required investment amount varies by asset pool program and is generally a percentage of the loan balance in the pool.

AgriBank's capital plan provides for annual retirement of AgriBank stock and optimizes capital at AgriBank by distributing all available AgriBank earnings in the form of patronage, either in cash or stock. The plan is designed to maintain capital adequacy such that sufficient earnings will be retained in the form of allocated retained earnings and allocated stock to meet the leverage ratio target and other regulatory or policy constraints prior to any cash patronage distributions.

#### NOTE 5: NOTE PAYABLE TO AGRIBANK

Our note payable to AgriBank represents borrowings, in the form of a line of credit, to fund our loan portfolio. The line of credit is at a variable rate as governed by a GFA and substantially all of our assets serve as collateral.

2021
00,000
95,805
1.4%

Our note payable was scheduled to mature on May 31, 2024. However, it was renewed early for \$2.6 billion with a maturity date of May 31, 2026. We intend to renegotiate the note payable no later than the maturity date.

The GFA provides for limitations on our ability to borrow funds based on specified factors or formulas relating primarily to outstanding balances, credit quality, and financial condition. Additionally, we have requirements to maintain an effective program of internal controls over financial reporting. At December 31, 2023, and throughout the year, we were not declared in default under any GFA covenants or provisions.

#### NOTE 6: MEMBERS' EQUITY

#### **Capitalization Requirements**

In accordance with the Farm Credit Act, each borrower is required to invest in us as a condition of obtaining a loan. As authorized by the Agricultural Credit Act and our capital bylaws, the Board of Directors has adopted a capital plan that establishes a stock purchase requirement for obtaining a loan of 2.0% of the customer's total loan(s) or one thousand dollars, whichever is less. The purchase of one participation certificate is required of all non-stockholder customers who purchase financial services. The Board of Directors may increase the amount of required investment to the extent authorized in the capital bylaws. The borrower acquires ownership of the capital stock at the time the loan is made. The aggregate par value of the stock is added to the principal amount of the related obligation. We retain a first lien on the stock or participation certificates owned by customers.

#### **Regulatory Capitalization Requirements**

#### Regulatory Capital Requirements and Ratios

				Regulatory	Capital Conservation	
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021	Minimums	Buffer	Total
Risk-adjusted:						
Common equity tier 1 ratio	16.1%	15.5%	16.2%	4.5%	2.5%	7.0%
Tier 1 capital ratio	16.1%	15.5%	16.2%	6.0%	2.5%	8.5%
Total capital ratio	16.4%	16.0%	16.7%	8.0%	2.5%	10.5%
Permanent capital ratio	16.2%	15.6%	16.3%	7.0%	N/A	7.0%
Non-risk-adjusted:						
Tier 1 leverage ratio	17.6%	16.8%	17.5%	4.0%	1.0%	5.0%
Unallocated retained earnings and equivalents leverage ratio	17.5%	16.7%	18.6%	1.5%	N/A	1.5%

Risk-adjusted assets have been defined by the FCA Regulations as the Statement of Condition assets and off-balance-sheet commitments adjusted by various percentages, depending on the level of risk inherent in the various types of assets.

Risk-adjusted assets is calculated differently for the permanent capital ratio (referred herein as PCR risk-adjusted assets) compared to the other risk-based capital ratios. The primary difference is the inclusion of the allowance for credit losses on loans as a deduction to risk-adjusted assets for the permanent capital ratio.

These ratios are based on a three-month average daily balance in accordance with the FCA Regulations and are calculated as follows (not all items below may be applicable to our Association):

- Common equity tier 1 ratio is statutory minimum purchased member stock, other required member stock held for a minimum of 7 years, allocated equities held for a minimum of 7 years or not subject to retirement, unallocated retained earnings as regulatorily prescribed, paid-in capital, less certain regulatory required deductions including the amount of allocated investments in other System institutions, and the amount of purchased investments in other System institutions under the corresponding deduction approach, divided by average risk-adjusted assets.
- Tier 1 capital ratio is common equity tier 1 plus non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, divided by average risk-adjusted assets.
- Total capital is tier 1 capital plus other required member stock held for a minimum of 5 years, allocated equities held for a minimum of 5 years, subordinated debt, and limited-life preferred stock greater than 5 years to maturity at issuance subject to certain limitations, allowance for credit losses on loans and reserve for credit losses subject to certain limitations, less certain investments in other System institutions under the corresponding deduction approach, divided by average risk-adjusted assets.

- Permanent capital ratio is all at-risk borrower stock, any allocated excess stock, unallocated retained earnings as regulatorily prescribed, paid-in
  capital, subordinated debt, and preferred stock subject to certain limitations, less certain allocated and purchased investments in other System
  institutions divided by PCR risk-adjusted assets.
- Tier 1 leverage ratio is tier 1 capital, including regulatory deductions, divided by average assets less regulatory deductions subject to tier 1 capital.
- Unallocated retained earnings and equivalents leverage ratio is unallocated retained earnings as regulatorily prescribed, paid-in capital, allocated surplus not subject to retirement less certain regulatory required deductions including the amount of allocated investments in other System institutions divided by average assets less regulatory deductions subject to tier 1 capital.

If the capital ratios fall below the total requirements, including the buffer amounts, capital distributions (equity redemptions, dividends, and patronage) and discretionary senior executive bonuses are restricted or prohibited without prior FCA approval.

#### **Description of Equities**

The following represents information regarding classes and number of shares of stock and participation certificates outstanding. All shares and participation certificates are stated at a \$5.00 par value.

	Nu	Number of Shares					
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021				
Class C common stock (at-risk)	701,103	679,454	640,840				
Participation certificates (at-risk)	25,203	23,363	23,835				

Under our bylaws, we are also authorized to issue Class B common stock and Class D common stock. Each of these classes of common stock is at-risk and nonvoting. Class B common stock has a \$5.00 par value per share and the Class D common stock has a \$1,000 par value per share. Currently, no stock of these classes has been issued.

Only holders of Class C common stock have voting rights. Our bylaws do not prohibit us from paying dividends on any classes of stock. However, no dividends have been declared to date.

Our bylaws generally permit stock and participation certificates to be retired at the discretion of our Board of Directors and in accordance with our capitalization plans, provided prescribed capital standards have been met. At December 31, 2023, we exceeded the prescribed standards. We do not anticipate any significant changes in capital that would affect the normal retirement of stock.

In the event of our liquidation or dissolution, according to our bylaws, any assets remaining after payment or retirement of all liabilities shall be distributed in the following order of priority.

- first, pro rata to holders of common stock and participation certificates
- second, any remaining assets of the Association after such distribution shall be distributed to present and former patrons on a patronage basis, to the extent practicable

Any impairment of capital stock shall be treated as impairing all shares of common stock and participations certificates pro rata.

All classes of stock are transferable to other customers who are eligible to hold such class of stock. Transfers of stock are only allowed if we meet the regulatory minimum capital requirements.

#### Patronage Distributions

We accrued patronage distributions of \$10.0 million, \$8.5 million, and \$7.0 million at December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively. The patronage distributions are paid in cash, generally during the first quarter after year end. The Board of Directors may authorize a distribution of earnings provided we meet all statutory and regulatory requirements.

#### NOTE 7: INCOME TAXES

#### **Provision for Income Taxes**

(dollars in thousands)			
For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Current:			
Federal	\$ 1,262	\$ 849	\$ 555
State	 323	251	167
Total current	\$ 1,585	\$ 1,100	\$ 722
Deferred:			
Federal	\$ (159)	\$ (250)	\$ 323
State	 (30)	(34)	109
Total deferred	 (189)	(284)	432
Provision for income taxes	\$ 1,396	\$ 816	\$ 1,154
Effective tax rate	 2.9%	1.9%	2.7%

#### Reconciliation of Taxes at Federal Statutory Rate to Provision for Income Taxes

(in thousands) For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Federal tax at statutory rates	\$ 10,073 \$	9,043 \$	8,849
State tax, net	221	176	212
Patronage distributions	(2,100)	(1,774)	(1,470)
Effect of non-taxable entity	(6,820)	(6,516)	(6,470)
Other	22	(113)	33
Provision for income taxes	\$ 1,396 \$	816 \$	1,154

Refer to the income taxes policy in Note 2 for information on exemptions related to our non-taxable entity.

#### Deferred Income Taxes

Tax laws require certain items to be included in our tax returns at different times than the items are reflected on our Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. Some of these items are temporary differences that will reverse over time. We record the tax effect of temporary differences as deferred tax assets and liabilities netted on our Consolidated Statements of Condition.

#### Deferred Tax Assets and Liabilities

(in thousands)			
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Allowance for credit losses on loans	\$ 494	\$ 801	\$ 884
Accrued incentive	168	181	190
Accrued patronage income not received	(161)		(281)
Accrued pension asset	(307)	(476)	(410)
Other assets	178	202	176
Other liabilities	 (325)	(358)	(493)
Deferred tax assets, net	\$ 47	\$ 350	\$ 66
Gross deferred tax assets	\$ 840	\$ 1,184	\$ 1,250
Gross deferred tax liabilities	\$ (793)	\$ (834)	\$ (1,184)

A valuation allowance for the deferred tax assets was not necessary at December 31, 2023, 2022, or 2021.

We have not provided for deferred income taxes on patronage allocations received from AgriBank prior to 1993. Such allocations, distributed in the form of stock, are subject to tax only upon conversion to cash. Our intent is to permanently maintain this investment in AgriBank. Our total permanent investment in AgriBank is \$9.6 million. Additionally, we have not provided deferred income taxes on accumulated FLCA earnings of \$365.5 million as it is our intent to permanently maintain this equity in the FLCA or to distribute the earnings to members in a manner that results in no additional tax liability to us.

Our income tax returns are subject to review by various United States taxing authorities. We record accruals for items that we believe may be challenged by these taxing authorities. However, we had no uncertain income tax positions at December 31, 2023. In addition, we believe we are no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2020.

#### NOTE 8: EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

#### Pension and Post-Employment Benefit Plans

Complete financial information for the pension and post-employment benefit plans may be found in the AgriBank 2023 Annual Report.

The Farm Credit Foundations Plan Sponsor and Trust Committees provide oversight of the benefit plans for which AgriBank and District associations are participating employers. These governance committees are comprised of elected or appointed representatives (senior leadership and/or Board of Director members) from the participating organizations. The Plan Sponsor Committee is responsible for employer decisions regarding all benefit plans including retirement benefits. These decisions could include plan design changes, vendor changes, determination of employer subsidies (if any), and termination of specific benefit plans. Any action to change or terminate the retirement plan can only occur at the direction of the AgriBank District participating employers. The Trust Committee is responsible for fiduciary and plan administrative functions.

Pension Plan: Certain employees participate in the AgriBank District Retirement Plan, a District-wide multi-employer defined benefit retirement plan. The Department of Labor has determined the plan to be a governmental plan; therefore, the plan is not subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). As the plan is not subject to ERISA, the plan's benefits are not insured by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. Accordingly, the amount of accumulated benefits that participants would receive in the event of the plan's termination is contingent on the sufficiency of the plan's net assets to provide benefits at that time. This plan is noncontributory and covers certain eligible District employees. The assets, liabilities, and costs of the plan are not segregated by participating entities. As such, plan assets are available for any of the participating employers' retirees at any point in time. Additionally, if a participating employer stops contributing to the plan, the unfunded obligations of the plan may be borne by the remaining participating employers. Further, if we choose to stop participating in the plan, we may be required to pay an amount based on the underfunded status of the plan. Because of the nature of the plan, any individual employer is not able to unilaterally change the provisions of the plan. If an employee transfers to another employer within the same plan, the employee benefits under the plan transfer. Benefits are based on salary and years of service. There is no collective bargaining agreement in place as part of this plan.

#### AgriBank District Retirement Plan Information

(in thousands)			
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Unfunded liability	\$ 31,065	\$ 87,688	\$ 46,421
Projected benefit obligation	1,245,052	1,204,130	1,500,238
Fair value of plan assets	1,213,987	1,116,442	1,453,817
Accumulated benefit obligation	1,140,936	1,083,610	1,384,554
For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Total plan expense	\$ 55,535	\$ 30,475	\$ 28,048
Our allocated share of plan expenses	964	530	419
Contributions by participating employers	45,000	90,385	90,000
Our allocated share of contributions	795	1,450	1,272

Note: The above chart represents the AgriBank District Retirement Plan that is a District-wide post-employment benefit plan in which our employees participate.

The unfunded liability reflects the net of the fair value of the plan assets and the projected benefit obligation at December 31. The projected benefit obligation is the actuarial present value of all benefits attributed by the pension benefit formula to employee service rendered prior to the measurement date based on assumed future compensation levels. The accumulated benefit obligation is the actuarial present value of the benefits attributed to employee service rendered before the measurement date and based on current employee service and compensation. The funding status is subject to many variables including performance of plan assets and interest rate levels. Therefore, changes in assumptions could significantly affect these estimates.

Costs are determined for each individual employer based on costs directly related to their current employees as well as an allocation of the remaining costs based proportionately on the estimated projected liability of the employer under this plan. We recognize our proportional share of expense and contribute a proportional share of funding.

Benefits paid to participants in the District were \$71.3 million in 2023. While the plan is a governmental plan and is not subject to minimum funding requirements, the employers contribute amounts necessary on an actuarial basis to provide the plan with sufficient assets to meet the benefits to be paid to participants. The amount of the total District employer contributions expected to be paid into the pension plan during 2024 is \$40.0 million. Our allocated share of these pension contributions is expected to be \$713 thousand. The amount ultimately to be contributed and the amount ultimately recognized as expense as well as the timing of those contributions and expenses, are subject to many variables including performance of plan assets and interest rate levels. These variables could result in actual contributions and expenses being greater than or less than the amounts reflected in the District financial statements.

**Nonqualified Retirement Plan:** We also participate in the District-wide nonqualified defined benefit Pension Restoration Plan. This plan restores retirement benefits to certain highly compensated eligible employees that would have been provided under the qualified plan if such benefits were not above certain Internal Revenue Code limits.

Pension Restoration Plan Informat	ion			
(in thousands)				
As of December 31,		2023	2022	2021
Our unfunded liability	\$	2,389 \$	2,265 \$	2,352

The nonqualified plan is funded as the benefits are paid; therefore, there are no assets in the plan and the unfunded liability is equal to the projected benefit obligation. The amount of the pension benefits funding status is subject to many variables including interest rate levels. Therefore, changes in assumptions could significantly affect these estimates.

Costs are determined for each individual employer based on costs directly related to their participants in the plan. The Pension Restoration Plan is unfunded. However, we have a Rabbi Trust to fund our future liability under this plan. A Rabbi Trust is a trust created for the purpose of supporting the nonqualified benefit obligation of employers to their employees. There were no benefits paid under the Pension Restoration Plan to our senior officers who were actively employed during the year.

**Retiree Medical Plans:** District employers also provide certain health insurance benefits to eligible retired employees according to the terms of the benefit plans. The anticipated costs of these benefits are accrued during the period of the employee's active status. Net periodic benefit cost is included in "Salaries and employee benefits" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income. Postretirement benefit costs related to the retiree medical plans were not considered material for any of the years presented. Our cash contributions were equal to the benefits paid.

#### **Defined Contribution Plans**

We participate in a District-wide defined contribution plan. For employees hired before January 1, 2007, employee contributions are matched dollar for dollar up to 2.0% and 50 cents on the dollar on the next 4.0% on both pre-tax and post-tax contributions. The maximum employer match is 4.0%. For employees hired after December 31, 2006, we contribute 3.0% of the employee's compensation and will match employee contributions dollar for dollar up to a maximum of 6.0% on both pre-tax and post-tax contributions. The maximum employee contributions dollar for dollar up to a maximum of 6.0% on both pre-tax and post-tax contributions. The maximum employee contributions dollar for dollar up to a maximum of 6.0% on both pre-tax and post-tax contributions. The maximum employee contribution is 9.0%.

We also participate in a District-wide Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan. Eligible participants must meet one of the following criteria: certain salary thresholds as determined by the IRS, are either a Chief Executive Officer or President of a participating employer, or have previously elected pretax deferrals in 2006 under predecessor nonqualified deferred compensation plans. Under this plan the employee may defer a portion of his/her salary, bonus, and other compensation. Additionally, the plan provides for supplemental employer matching contributions related to any compensation deferred by the employee that would have been eligible for a matching contribution under the defined contribution plan if it were not for certain IRS limitations.

Employer contribution expenses for these plans, included in "Salaries and employee benefits" in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, were \$615 thousand, \$542 thousand, and \$486 thousand in 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively. These expenses were equal to our cash contributions for each year.

#### NOTE 9: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

In the ordinary course of business, we may enter into loan transactions with our officers, directors, their immediate family members, and other organizations with which such persons may be associated. Such transactions may be subject to special approval requirements contained in the FCA Regulations and are made on the same terms, including interest rates, amortization schedules, and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons. In our opinion, none of these loans outstanding at December 31, 2023, involved more than a normal risk of collectability. There were no material related party transactions other than the loan transactions disclosed in the related party loans information chart.

#### **Related Party Loans Information**

(in thousands)			
As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Total related party loans	\$ 47,835	\$ 50,208	\$ 42,338
For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Advances to related parties	\$ 40,714	\$ 52,596	\$ 32,119
Repayments by related parties	40,964	47,420	30,350

The related parties can be different each year end primarily due to changes in the composition of the Board of Directors and the mix of organizations with which such persons may be associated. Advances and repayments on loans in the preceding chart are related to those considered related parties at each respective year end.

As described in Note 5, we borrow from AgriBank, in the form of a line of credit, to fund our loan portfolio. All interest expense as shown on the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income was paid to AgriBank.

Total patronage from AgriBank was \$10.4 million, \$9.3 million, and \$9.5 million in 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively. Patronage income for 2023, 2022, and 2021 was received in cash and AgriBank stock.

In addition, we received compensation from AgriBank for servicing loans of \$137 thousand, \$71 thousand, and \$113 thousand in 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively.

Refer to Note 3 for information on participations sold to AgriBank and Note 4 for stock investment in AgriBank information.

We purchase certain business services, primarily financial reporting, from AgriBank. We also purchase financial and retail information technology, collateral, and tax reporting services from SunStream Business Services (SunStream). In addition, we purchase human resource, benefit, payroll, and workforce management services from Farm Credit Foundations (Foundations). SunStream and Foundations are both System service corporations within the AgriBank District and the costs incurred are included in the following table in AgriBank District purchased services. In addition to the services we purchase from AgriBank, SunStream, and Foundations we also hold an investment in each of these institutions.

#### Additional Related Party Information

(in thousands) As of December 31,	2023	2022	2021
Investment in AgriBank Investment in SunStream Investment in Foundations	\$ 77,478 490 13	\$ 58,535 400 13	\$ 46,626 329 13
For the year ended December 31,	2023	2022	2021
AgriBank District purchased services	\$ 1,919	\$ 1,524	\$ 1,125

#### NOTE 10: CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS

In the normal course of business, we have various contingent liabilities and commitments outstanding, which may not be reflected in the Consolidated Financial Statements. We do not anticipate any material losses because of these contingencies or commitments.

We may be named as a defendant in certain lawsuits or legal actions in the normal course of business. At the date of these Consolidated Financial Statements, our management team was not aware of any material actions. However, management cannot ensure that such actions or other contingencies will not arise in the future.

We have commitments to extend credit and letters of credit to satisfy the financing needs of our borrowers. These financial instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit risk in excess of the amount recognized on the financial statements. Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a borrower as long as there is not a violation of any condition established in the loan contract. Standby letters of credit are agreements to pay a beneficiary if there is a default on a contractual arrangement. At December 31, 2023, we had commitments to extend credit and unexercised commitments related to standby letters of credit of \$528.2 million. Additionally, we had \$3.7 million of issued standby letters of credit as of December 31, 2023.

Commitments to extend credit and letters of credit generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and we may require payment of a fee. If commitments to extend credit and letters of credit remain unfulfilled or have not expired, they have off-balance sheet credit risk because their contractual amounts are not reflected on the balance sheet until funded or drawn upon. Many of the commitments to extend credit and letters of credit will expire without being fully drawn upon. Therefore, the total commitments do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. Certain letters of credit may have recourse provisions that would enable us to recover from third parties amounts paid under guarantees, thereby limiting our maximum potential exposure. The credit risk involved in issuing these financial instruments is essentially the same as that involved in extending loans to borrowers and we apply the same credit policies. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by us upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the borrower.

In June 2021, we signed an agreement guaranteeing the amounts borrowed by SunStream on their line of credit with AgriBank, up to \$40.0 million. The term of the line of credit is 36 months and may be extended. The guarantee is in effect until any outstanding balance is paid in full. While we are primarily liable for our pro rata portion of SunStream's indebtedness to AgriBank, we are jointly and severally liable with certain other owners of SunStream. In the event of default by SunStream, we are responsible for the prompt and full payment of amounts outstanding. However, we may seek reimbursement from the remaining owners of SunStream subject to the guarantee agreement. The outstanding balance on the SunStream line of credit at December 31, 2023, was \$16.3 million. At this time we believe it is unlikely that we will be required to make payment under this guarantee.

#### NOTE 11: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability. Accounting guidance also establishes a fair value hierarchy, with three input levels that may be used to measure fair value. Refer to Note 2 for a more complete description of the three input levels.

We did not have any assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2023, 2022, or 2021.

#### **Non-Recurring Basis**

We may be required, from time to time, to measure certain assets at fair value on a non-recurring basis.

Accests Measured at Eair Value on a Non Requiring Paolo

As of December 31, 2023		Fair ∖	alue N	leasurement	Using		_	
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3	Total	Fair Value
Loans	\$		\$		\$	3,381	\$	3,381
As of December 31, 2022	Fair Value Measurement Using							
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3	Total	Fair Value
Loans	\$		\$		\$	3,701	\$	3,701
As of December 31, 2021	Fair Value Measurement Using						_	
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3	Total	Fair Value
Loans	\$		\$		\$	27	\$	27

#### Valuation Techniques

Loans: Represents the carrying amount of loans evaluated individually for credit losses and are deemed to be collateral dependent. The carrying value amount is based on the estimated value of the underlying collateral, less costs to sell. When the fair value of the collateral, less costs to sell, is less than the amortized cost basis of the loan, a specific allowance for expected credit losses is established. Costs to sell represent transaction costs and are not included as a component of the collateral's estimated fair value. Typically, the process requires significant input based on management's knowledge of and judgment about current market conditions, specific issues relating to the collateral and other matters and, therefore, are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

#### NOTE 12: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

We have evaluated subsequent events through March 7, 2024, which is the date the Consolidated Financial Statements were available to be issued. There have been no material subsequent events that would require recognition in our 2023 Consolidated Financial Statements or disclosure in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### **DISCLOSURE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY REGULATIONS**

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (Unaudited)

#### **Description of Business**

General information regarding the business is incorporated herein by reference from Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report.

The description of significant business developments, if any, is incorporated herein by reference from the Management's Discussion and Analysis section of this Annual Report.

#### Description of Property

Property Information					
Location	Description	Usage			
Little Rock	Leased	Headquarters			
Batesville	Owned	Branch			
Brinkley	Owned	Branch			
Lonoke	Owned	Branch			
McGehee	Owned	Branch			
Newport	Owned	Branch			
Pine Bluff	Leased	Branch			
Pocahontas	Owned	Branch			
Searcy	Owned	Branch			
Stuttgart	Owned	Branch			

#### Legal Proceedings

Information regarding legal proceedings is included in Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report. We were not subject to any enforcement actions as of December 31, 2023.

#### **Description of Capital Structure**

Information regarding our capital structure is included in Note 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report.

#### **Description of Liabilities**

Information regarding liabilities is included in Notes 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report. All debt and other liabilities in the financial statements are uninsured.

#### **Selected Financial Data**

The Consolidated Five-Year Summary of Selected Financial Data is presented at the beginning of this Annual Report.

#### Management's Discussion and Analysis

Information regarding any material aspects of our financial condition, changes in financial condition, and results of operations are discussed in the Management's Discussion and Analysis section of this Annual Report.

#### **Board of Directors**

Our Board of Directors is organized into the following committees to carry out Board responsibilities:

The **Audit Committee** oversees financial reporting, the adequacy of our internal control systems, the scope of the Association's internal audit program, the independence of the outside auditors and the processes for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations. The Audit Committee also oversees the adequacy of management's actions with respect to recommendations arising from auditing activities.

The **Finance Committee** monitors our financial and capital planning, asset/liability management and funding and investment activities. Committee members serve as a resource to the Board by maintaining a more in-depth knowledge of our financial activities.

The **Executive Committee** addresses issues of board governance and the Board's continuing efforts to strengthen and renew the Board, administers a process for maintaining and periodically reviewing board policies and administers a planning process focused upon achieving our mission and maintaining a viable, competitive institution. The committee is authorized to take action on behalf of the Board on matters requiring board approval between normally scheduled board meetings, when necessary. Such authorization is to be reviewed and acted upon at the next board meeting.

The Human Resources Committee oversees and provides overall direction and/or recommendations for compensation, benefits and human resource performance management programs.

The **Member Relations Committee** provides direction on the Association's agriculture public policy position at the local, state and national level. Committee members serve as a resource for maintaining high quality member relations/involvement programs, board involvement of market and customer needs and in developing programs to attract young and beginning and next generation farmers.

#### Board of Directors as of December 31, 2023, including business experience during the last five years

Name	Principal occupation and other business affiliations
Jerry Burkett Chairperson Board Service Began: 2002 Current Term Expires: April 2025	Principal occupation: Self-employed grain farmer Other business affiliations: Board member of Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie, preserves Arkansas County's heritage as a center for rice production and duck hunting Board member of Arkansas County Farm Bureau, involved in insurance and lobbying for farmers
Jeff Rutledge Vice Chairperson Board Service Began: 2017 Current Term Expires: April 2027	Principal Occupation:         Self-employed grain farmer         Other business affiliations:         Vice chairman of USA Rice Council, promotes U.S. rice industry         Board member of Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion, provides support for research and promotion programs         Board member of Arkansas Rice Council, a trade association for Arkansas's rice industry         Board member of Arkansas Rice Federation, a trade association for Arkansas's rice industry         Board member of Newport Levee Board, responsible for developing, promoting, and protecting waterborne         transportation in Arkansas         Board member of Jackson County Farm Bureau, involved in insurance and lobbying for farmers         Board member of Ag Council Arkansas Waterways Commission, responsible for developing, promoting, and protecting waterborne transportation in Arkansas         Board member of AgriBank District Farm Credit Council, a trade association representing the AgriBank District
Russell Bonner Board Service Began: 2006 Current Term Expires: April 2026	Principal occupation: Self-employed grain farmer
Dow Brantley Board Service Began: 2020 Current Term Expires: April 2024	Principal occupation: Self-employed grain and cotton farmer Grain merchant Other business affiliations: Board member of Lonoke County Farm Bureau, involved in insurance and lobbying for farmers Board member of Arkansas Rice Federation, a trade association for Arkansas's rice industry Board member of Arkansas Rice Council, a trade association for Arkansas's rice industry Board member of USA Rice Federation, promotes U.S. rice industry Board member of USA Rice International Trade Policy, promotes U.S. rice industry Board member of Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee for USDA and USTR, provides advice on trade policy matters Board member of Agricultural Council of Arkansas, an advocate of Arkansas's agricultural industry
Jesse Briggs Board Service Began: 2017 Current Term Expires: April 2024	Principal occupation: Self-employed grain farmer Other business affiliations: Board member of Farelly Lake Levee District, responsible for developing, promoting, and protecting waterborne transportation in Arkansas
Ray C. "Chuck" Culver III Outside Director Board Service Began: 1992 Current Term Expires: April 2024	Principal Occupation: Institutional Development & External Relations Director, Division of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas System Other business affiliations: Board member of Butterfield Trail Village, a non-profit life care retirement community Board member of Butterfield Trail Village Foundation, provides support for Butterfield Trail Village Lay leader of Central United Methodist Church of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Derek Haigwood Board Service Began: 2022 Current Term Expires: April 2026	Principal Occupation: Self-employed grain farmer Other business affiliations: Board member of Jackson County Farm Bureau, involved in insurance and lobbying for farmers

Name	Principal occupation and other business affiliations
Mark Isbell Board Service Began: 2020 Current Term Expires: April 2024	Principal Occupation: Self-employed grain farmer Other business affiliations: Board member of Arva Intelligence, an ag data analytics company Board member of Field to Market, uniting the supply chain to deliver sustainable outcomes for agriculture Board member of Agricultural Council of Arkansas, an advocate of Arkansas's agricultural industry
Brandon Martin Board Service Began: 2023 Current Term Expires: April 2027	Principal Occupation: Self-employed poultry, livestock, and hay farmer Other business affiliations: Board member of White County Farm Bureau, involved in insurance and lobbying for farmers Vice President of White County School Board
Sandra Morgan Outside Director Board Service Began: 2015 Current Term Expires: April 2026	<b>Principal Occupation:</b> Vice President of Accounting and Finance at Riceland Foods, Inc. from July 2023 to December 2023 Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Riceland Foods, Inc. from August 2015 to July 2023
Rhonda Stone Board Service Began: 2021 Current Term Expires: April 2025	<b>Principal Occupation:</b> Vice President of Finance and Administration at Black River Technical College Self-employed grain farmer
Scott Young Board Service Began: 2013 Current Term Expires: April 2025	Principal Occupation: Self-employed grain and timber farmer Partner in Dogwood Farms President and shareholder in Jim Young Farms, Inc. Other business affiliations: Vice chairperson of Ashley County Farm Bureau, involved in insurance and lobbying for farmers

Pursuant to our bylaws, directors are paid a reasonable amount for attendance at board meetings, committee meetings, or other special assignments. Directors are also reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with such meetings or assignments. Our Board of Directors has adopted a rate of \$750 per day and \$150 per conference call. Board members also received a \$5,000 annual retainer fee, except for the Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Audit Committee Chair, and Audit Committee members who received a retainer fee of \$9,000, \$7,500, \$7,500, and \$6,000 respectively.

Information regarding compensation paid to each director who served during 2023 follows:

	Number of Days	s Served	Compensation Paid for			
		Other	Service on			Total
	Board	Official	a Board		(	Compensation
Name	Meetings	Activities	Committee	Name of Committee		Paid in 2023
Russell Bonner	8.0	8.0 \$	\$ 1,050	Executive (\$675), Finance (\$375)	\$	18,350
Dow Brantley	8.0	3.0	525	Finance (\$375), HR (\$150)		16,325
Jesse Briggs	7.0	0.0	375	Finance (\$375)		10,925
Jerry Burkett	8.5	20.0	1,200	Executive (\$675), Finance (\$375), HR (\$150)		32,550
Ray C. "Chuck" Culver III	9.0	4.0				15,050
Derek Haigwood	9.0	8.0	1,750	Audit Retainer (\$1,000), Audit (\$750)		19,050
Mark Isbell	8.0	18.0	2,125	Audit Retainer (\$1,000), Audit (\$750), Finance (\$375)		26,925
Brandon Martin <sup>1</sup>	5.0	6.0	375	Finance (\$375)		14,375
Sandra Morgan	8.0	13.0	3,925	Audit Chair Retainer (\$2,500), Audit (\$750), Executive (\$675)		24,225
Jeff Rutledge	9.0	21.0	2,200	Audit Retainer (\$1,000), Executive (\$675), Audit (\$375), HR (\$150)		33,175
Clay Schaefer <sup>2</sup>	2.0	12.0	150	HR (\$150)		10,650
Rhonda Stone	9.0	4.5	1,375	Audit Retainer (\$1,000), Audit (\$375)		16,425
Scott Young	7.0	4.0	150	HR (\$150)		13,700
					\$	251,725

<sup>1</sup> Elected to the Board in April 2023

<sup>2</sup> Term expired in April 2023

#### **Senior Officers**

Senior Officers as of December 3	31, 2023, including business experience during the last five years
Name and Position	Business experience and other business affiliations
Gregory W. Cole	Business experience:
President/Chief Executive Officer	President/Chief Executive Officer since April 2008
Kenneth L. Sumner	Business experience:
EVP/Chief Financial Officer	EVP/Chief Financial Officer since August 2009
	Other business affiliations:
	Board Treasurer of Wade Knox Child Advocacy Center, a local charity
	Treasurer of Arkansas Waterfowl Association, a not-for-profit organization that raises funds to support local charities and to provide outdoor opportunities for children who would not have the opportunity otherwise
Drue Ford	Business experience:
EVP/Chief Credit Officer	EVP/Chief Credit Officer since October 2006
Leslie J. Brown	Business experience:
SVP/Chief Human Capital Officer	SVP/Chief Human Capital Officer since February 2015
Blake Swindle	Business experience:
EVP/Chief Operating Officer	EVP/Chief Operating Officer since May 2022
	SVP/Chief Commercial Lending Officer from March 2020 to May 2022
	VP of Agribusiness Lending from 2015 to March 2020
	Other business affiliations:
	Board member of Williams Baptist University Board of Trustees
Drew Taylor	Business experience:
SVP/Chief Business Officer	SVP/Chief Business Officer since January 2023
	VP of Lending Services from January 2002 to January 2023

#### Senior Officers as of December 31, 2023, including business experience during the last five years

#### **Senior Officer Compensation**

**Compensation Risk Management:** We believe the design and governance of our CEO, senior officer, and highly compensated individuals compensation program is consistent with the highest standards of risk management and provides total compensation that promotes our mission to ensure a safe, sound, and dependable source of credit and related services for agriculture and rural America. Our compensation philosophy aims to provide a competitive total rewards package that will enable us to attract and retain highly qualified officers with the requisite expertise and skills while achieving desired business results aligned with the best interests of our members. The design of our CEO, senior officer, and highly compensated individuals compensation program supports our risk management goals through a set of checks and balances, including (1) a balanced mix of base and variable pay, (2) a balanced use of performance measures that are risk-adjusted where appropriate, and (3) a pay-for-performance process that allocates individual awards based on both results and how those results were achieved.

**Elements of Compensation:** The CEO, senior officers, and highly compensated individuals are compensated with a mix of direct cash and long-term incentives as well as retirement plans generally available to all employees. Our Board of Directors determines the appropriate balance of short-term and long-term incentives while keeping in mind their responsibilities to our members. Base salary and short-term incentives are intended to be competitive with annual compensation for comparable positions at peer organizations.

**Base Salary:** The CEO, senior officers, and highly compensated individuals' base salaries reflect the employee's experience and level of responsibility. Compensation plans for all employees are subject to review and approval by the Human Resources Committee of our Board of Directors. Information is accumulated regarding competitive market conditions and used in assessing adequate compensation for all employees. The CEO's salary is reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

Short-term Incentives: The short-term incentive plan available only to the CEO and senior officers is paid annually based on performance criteria approved by our Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors. The criteria related to the overall Association performance include return on assets, loan volume, capital ratios, surplus, operating rate, credit quality, credit administration, adverse assets to risk funds, borrower concentration, and customer satisfaction. Additional criteria related to personal performance include attainment of personal objectives and overall performance rating. We calculate the incentives after the end of the plan year (the plan year is the calendar year) and pay out the incentives within 60 days of year-end. There were no material amendments to the plan during the last fiscal year. Highly compensated employees' short-term incentive plan is based on an adjusted pre-tax net income and the employee's individual performance. Individual performance includes a variety of objectives, including credit quality, fees, growth, and job competencies. There were no material changes to the plan during the last fiscal year.

**Other Incentives:** We have a retention incentive available to all employees, including the CEO, senior officers, and highly compensated individuals. The incentive is paid with an annual component and a long-term component, subject to the participant's employment after three years. Eligibility to participate in this incentive program includes the employee's most recent performance as well as specialized knowledge and strategic role of his/her position. Due to the retention nature of this incentive, it is reported in the compensation table, on the following page, in the period paid. In addition, we have a sales incentive plan that is available to all full-time branch employees. The incentives are paid for sales of insurance and leasing products, are paid monthly, and are subject to the cap set by the Farm Credit Administration (FCA).

**Retirement Plans:** We have various post-employment benefit plans which are generally available to all Association employees, including the CEO, senior officers, and highly compensated individuals, based on continuous dates of service with the Association or, in certain situations, with other participating District employers. These plans are not otherwise differentiated by position, unless specifically stated. Information regarding the post-employment benefit plans is included in Notes 2 and 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report.

Other Components of Compensation: Additionally, compensation associated with any company-paid vehicles, group term life insurance premiums, disability insurance premiums, or on the spot incentives, such as gift cards, may be made available to the CEO, senior officers, and highly compensated individuals based on job criteria or similar plans available to all employees.

#### Compensation to the CEO, Senior Officers, and Highly Compensated Individuals

(in thousands)							Deferred/		
Name	Year		Salary		Bonus		Perquisites	Other	Total
Gregory W. Cole, CEO	2023	\$	531 \$	\$	291	\$	9	\$ 889	\$ 1,720
Gregory W. Cole, CEO	2022		501		260		9	(94)	676
Gregory W. Cole, CEO	2021		473		238		8	343	1,062
Aggregate Number of Senior Officer	s and Highly Co	ompensat	ed Individual	ls, exc	luding CE	0			
Five <sup>1</sup>	2023	\$	954 9	\$	369	\$	32	\$ 205	\$ 1,560
Six <sup>2</sup>	2022		928		335		34	(191)	1,106
Five	2021		877		341		33	181	1,432

<sup>1</sup>In January 2023, the senior officer position of Chief Business Officer was created and an individual was promoted to this position.

<sup>2</sup>Includes compensation for one individual that resigned in February 2022.

The FCA Regulations require the disclosure of the total compensation paid during the last fiscal year to all senior officers and highly compensated individuals included in the above table be available and disclosed to our members upon request.

The amount in the "Other" category in the preceding table primarily includes:

- Employer match on defined contribution plans available to all employees.
- Changes in the value of pension benefits. The change in value of the pension benefits is defined as the change in the vested portion of the present
  value of the accumulated benefit obligation from December 31 of the prior year to December 31 of the most recent year for the District-wide
  Pension Plan and the Pension Restoration Plan, as applicable, as disclosed in Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual
  Report. This change in value does not represent cash payments made by the Association during the year, but rather is an estimate of the change
  in the Association's future obligations under the pension plans. The change in the value of the pension benefits is highly sensitive to discount rates
  used to value the plan liabilities to participants.

No tax reimbursements are made to the CEO, senior officers, or highly compensated individuals.

Generally, pension benefits increase annually as a result of an additional year of credited service and related compensation for plan participants. The value of the pension benefits can also be significantly impacted by changes in interest rates as of the measurement date.

#### Pension Benefits Attributable to the CEO and Senior Officers

(dollars in thousands)			Present Value	Payments
2023		Years of	of Accumulated	Made During the
Name	Plan	Credited Service	Benefits	Reporting Period
Gregory W. Cole, CEO	AgriBank District Retirement Plan	41.0	\$ 3,571	\$
Gregory W. Cole, CEO	AgriBank District Pension Restoration Plan	41.0	2,202	
Aggregate Number of Senior (	Dfficers, excluding CEO			
Three	AgriBank District Retirement Plan	23.9	\$ 918	\$

The change in composition of the aggregate number of senior officers can have a significant impact on the calculation of the accumulated pension benefits.

Effective January 1, 2007, the AgriBank District Retirement Plan was closed to new employees. Therefore, any employee starting employment with the AgriBank District after that date is not eligible to be in the plan.

The AgriBank District Pension Restoration Plan restores retirement benefits to certain highly compensated employees that would have been provided under the qualified plan if such benefits were not above certain Internal Revenue Code limits. Not all senior officers or highly compensated employees are eligible to participate in this plan.

#### **Transactions with Senior Officers and Directors**

Information regarding related party transactions is included in Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report.

#### Travel, Subsistence, and Other Related Expenses

Directors and senior officers are reimbursed for reasonable travel, subsistence, and other related expenses associated with business functions. A copy of our policy for reimbursing these costs is available by contacting us at:

119 East Third Street, Suite 200 Little Rock, AR 72201 (800) 299-2290 www.agheritagefcs.com

The total directors' travel, subsistence, and other related expenses were \$461 thousand, \$401 thousand, and \$305 thousand in 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively.

#### Involvement in Certain Legal Proceedings

No events occurred during the past five years that are material to evaluating the ability or integrity of any person who served as a director or senior officer on January 1, 2024, or at any time during 2023.

#### Member Privacy

The FCA Regulations protect members' nonpublic personal financial information. Our directors and employees are restricted from disclosing information about our Association or our members not normally contained in published reports or press releases.

#### **Relationship with Qualified Public Accountant**

There were no changes in the independent auditors since the last Annual Report to members and we are in agreement with the opinion expressed by the independent auditors. The total financial statement audit fees paid during 2023 were \$100 thousand. Our engagement letter commits to reimbursing the external auditor for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses as incurred for travel. We also incurred \$38 thousand for work related to our implementation of new accounting guidance, which was pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

#### **Financial Statements**

The Report of Management, Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting, Report of Audit Committee, Report of Independent Auditors, Consolidated Financial Statements, and Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are presented prior to this portion of the Consolidated Financial Statements in this Annual Report.

#### Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers and Ranchers (YBS)

Effective January 1, 2024, the annual gross sales threshold for a small farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products increased from \$250 thousand to \$350 thousand and changed from measuring gross sales to gross cash farm income. Effective February 1, 2024, the FCA amended certain YBS regulations which now require banks that fund the direct-lender associations to annually review and approve each association's YBS programs. The amended regulations also require direct-lender associations to enhance their YBS programs within their strategic plans. None of these changes impact the disclosures as of December 31, 2023.

Information regarding credit and services to young, beginning, and small farmers and ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products is included in an addendum to this Annual Report.

#### YOUNG, BEGINNING, AND SMALL FARMERS AND RANCHERS

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (Unaudited)

We have specific programs in place to serve the credit and related needs of young, beginning, and small farmers and ranchers (YBS) in our territory. The definitions of YBS as developed by the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) follow:

- Young: A farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products who is age 35 or younger as of the date the loan is originally made.
- Beginning: A farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products who has 10 years or less farming or ranching experience as of the date the loan is originally made.
- Small: A farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products who normally generates less than \$250 thousand in annual gross sales of agricultural or aquatic products at the date the loan is originally made.

#### Demographics

We have compared counts of our YBS borrowers against the 2017 Ag Census data. The census reports at a county level the age, years on farm and gross receipts. Some of the census categories are not perfect comparisons for our YBS reporting methodology. The Ag Census' Small comparison is most similar as the Ag Census counts the population of farms with sales less than \$250 thousand. The Young category is the next best comparison by reporting operations with Principal Producer less than 35 years of age, while YBS parameters include those 35 years of age or less. Finally, the Beginning category is least similar. The Ag Census does not quantify years of experience, but it does report a "New and Beginning" category with Principal Producer with Years on Any Operation into a category of Less than 11 Years. While not an exact comparison for YBS Beginning category, it is used as the best comparison available. Finally, the two disparate populations pose another analysis challenge. The census measures the total population regardless of borrowing characteristics; while we operate within a sub-group of the Ag Census based on farmers who both finance their operation and who finance with AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA.

The following chart compares our 2023 YBS customers to the 2017 Ag Census:

Total Farms	Census <	AgHeritage	% of Census
	10 Years	Beginning	Category
12,122	4,632	2,451	52.9%
	Census <	AgHeritage	% of Census
	35 Years	Young	Category
	1,299	1,409	108.5%
	Census	AgHeritage	% of Census
	Sales < 250k	Young	Category
	10,523	2,918	27.7%

The 2017 Ag Census total number of farms in the AgHeritage LSA (local service area) is 12,122. This declined from the 12,882 total number of farms in the 2012 Ag Census for the AgHeritage LSA. The 2012 versus 2017 Ag Census for our LSA showed increases in the Ag Census number of Young and Beginning farms and a decrease in the number of Small farms. Small farms in the 1997-2017 trend showed small annual increases over the previous Ag Census in 2002 and 2007 (7% and 3%) followed by a 13% decline in 2012 and a 4% decline in 2017. Beginning farms had increases over the previous Ag Census in 2002 and 2007 (7% and 8%), a large decline (75%) in 2012 followed by a 44% increase in 2017. For Young (New) farms, there were decreases from the prior Ag Census in 2002, 2007, and 2012 (7%, 3% and 12%) with an increase in the 2017 Ag Census of 36%.

The AgHeritage trend in Young borrowers for 2003 through 2023 was steady annual increases of 1- 20% through 2012. Starting in 2013 the number of Young borrowers began to decrease between 4-10% per year. From 2016 through 2018, the number of Young borrowers remained stable. 2019 through 2023 saw increases in Young borrowers in a range from 4.7% to 9.4% each year. Beginning borrowers also increased in most years from 2003 through 2014 with increases ranging from 1-19% annually. In 2015 through 2017, Beginning borrowers decreased in a range of 2.2 - 6.6%. In 2018 through 2023, Beginning borrowers increased in range of 1.6 to 7.7% each year. Small borrowers have been more volatile, ranging from slight decreases (< 3%) in most early years, except for a 13% decrease in 2006 but followed by a 15% increase in 2009. The period of 2013 through 2017 saw decreases ranging from 1.3% to 9.5% while 2018 through 2023 saw increases in Small borrowers ranging from 5.4% to 10.6%.

#### **Mission Statement**

Management and the Board of Directors feel that it is strategically important to support and develop YBS programs. Our YBS Farmer Program mission is to develop and implement programs to attract Young, Beginning and Small and next generation farmers and to strive to reach numeric goals for YBS customers.

#### **Quantitative Goals**

(dollars thousands)

	2023 Goals		2023 Actual Results		2024 Goals		2025 Goals		2026 Goals	
	# Loans	Volume	# Loans	Volume	# Loans	Volume	# Loans	Volume	# Loans	Volume
Young	1,120 \$	280,000	1,409	\$ 409,132	1,320	\$ 320,000	1,360 \$	340,000	1,380	\$ 360,000
Beginning	1,940	510,000	2,451	700,507	2,100	580,000	2,140	620,000	2,180	660,000
Small	2,030	265,000	2,918	433,465	2,640	360,000	2,680	390,000	2,720	420,000

#### **Qualitative Goals**

The following related services were offered to YBS farmers during 2023:

- crop insurance, both hail and multi-peril
- life insurance
- fee real estate appraisal services
- equipment and facility leasing

We made use of federal loan guarantee programs in providing loans and leases to YBS farmers. We maintain a Preferred Lender Program designation with the Farm Service Agency.

#### **Outreach Programs**

In addition to loans made to YBS and Next Generation borrowers, our annual YBS reports have consistently shown active participation in a variety of YBS outreach efforts. These efforts include both staff time and monetary sponsorship through the following:

We encourage the use of Young and Beginning farmer programs like those offered by the Farm Service Agency and the Cooperative Extension Service.

We continue to sponsor an annual scholarship program for college bound or current college students with one winner from each branch office.

We continue to sponsor and participate in the annual Arkansas State University (ASU) Ag Business Conference and the University of Arkansas (UA) – Division of Agriculture's Women in Ag Conference.

We support the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year program. We have enjoyed having members each year who are honored at the local and state level by the Farm Family of the Year program. Implicit in the Farm Family of the Year is the next generation of farming. The honored families are typically multi-generational and include members who frequently fit within our YBS and Next Generation Farmer parameters.

In 2016 AgHeritage began co-hosting a biennial Arkansas State-wide FCS Young Beginning Farmer Conference. This is a joint effort among all Arkansas Farm Credit associations. The conference was designed to provide attendees the opportunity to network with their peers and experienced professionals in finance, credit and economics. State and national expert speakers cover topics that impact YBS producers including the current economic outlook, strategic business planning and financial and risk management.

We sponsor and/or participate in a variety of other Young, Beginning and Small outreach activities including:

- AgHeritage and other Arkansas Farm Credit Associations sponsor, support and participate in various Arkansas Grown activities. Arkansas Grown is an initiative of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture including:
  - Garden Program contest for Arkansas school gardens
    - Local Conversations brings together stakeholders to improve the quality of food reaching consumers
    - o Arkansas Grown programs and scholarships
    - Farmers Market Promotion Program
  - o Minorities in Ag, Natural Resources, and Related Services events
- ASU Student Leadership Conference
- Arkansas Women in Agriculture sponsorship and attendance of conference and Annie's Project
- University Agriculture Department Scholarship Fundraisers UA and ASU
- Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Program
- Arkansas Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge
- Yearly contributions to FFA and 4-H
- Various FFA and 4-H events
- AgHeritage Next Generation Farmer Program
- AgHeritage Farm Credit Services Customer Scholarship Program / University Scholarship / Ken Shea Scholarship
- Junior Livestock Auction: State Fair Belt Buckle Sponsorship and Sale of Champions Sponsorship; Local Fair Livestock Sponsorships
- County Extension Meeting Sponsorships: Crop Production, Marketing, Beef, etc.
- Exhibit/Sponsorships/Attendance:
  - Arkansas Farm Bureau Annual Convention
  - o Arkansas Foundation for Agriculture
  - Agricultural Council of Arkansas
  - National Ag Alumni Development Association Conference

- Midsouth Gin Show 0
- Arkansas Cattlemen's Conference; Local Conference 0
- Arkansas Agricultural Aviation Association 0
- Poultry Festival 0
- USA Rice Outlook Conference 0
- Crossett Rodeo Arena Sponsorship 0
- Arkansas Soybean Association Annual Meeting 0
- 0
- Arkansas Rice Council/Producers Annual Meeting Mid-South Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers 0
- Various local county fair associations: Belt Buckle Award sponsor 0
- Various rural community sports league sponsorships 0
- Various local golf tournaments 0
- Farm appreciation lunches 0

#### Safety and Soundness of the Program

We will limit the amount of risk classified loans that meet the Next Generation Farmer and/or YBS qualifications. The amount of volume for either will not exceed 25% of the Association's risk funds. This limit is cumulative and not to be exceeded at any point.

The credit quality guidelines and quarterly monitoring ensure that credit offered to the YBS and Next Generation Farmer groups is provided in a safe and sound manner within our risk-bearing capacity.

#### FUNDS HELD PROGRAM

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (Unaudited)

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA (the Association), offers a Funds Held Program ("Funds Held") that provides for customers to make advance payments on designated real estate and intermediate-term loans. The following terms and conditions apply to all Funds Held unless the loan agreement or related documents, between the Association and customer, provide for other limitations.

Payment Application: Loan payments received by the Association before the loan has been billed will be placed into Funds Held upon request and applied against the next installment due. Loan payments received after the loan has been billed will be directly applied to the installment due on the loan and related charges, if any.

When a loan installment becomes due, amounts in Funds Held for the loan will be automatically applied toward the installment on the due date. Any accrued interest on Funds Held will be applied first. If the balance in Funds Held does not fully satisfy the entire installment, the customer must pay the difference by the installment due date.

Account Maximum: The amount in Funds Held may not exceed 50% of each eligible loan. Eligible loans do not include operating lines of credit.

Interest Rate: Interest will accrue on Funds Held at a simple rate of interest that may be changed by the Association from time to time based upon the current interest rate environment. The interest rate may never exceed the interest rate charged on the related loan. Interest rates are currently reported on each customer's loan statement. Subject to change as previously stated, the current rate of interest is equal to the Federal Funds rate of interest as determined by the Federal Open Market Committee. If the Federal Funds rate is stated as a range, the rate of interest will be set within the range.

Withdrawals: Amounts in Funds Held may be withdrawn under the following conditions, depending on the customer's loan program:

- Customers can withdraw funds without a limit as to the number of withdrawals, however the loan officer must approve the withdrawal after
  receipt of a written customer request. Withdrawals must be for an eligible purpose under the Funds Held program. The minimum withdrawal
  amount is \$100, unless the customer is withdrawing the full Funds Held balance.
- Customers required to assign income to their loan, such as poultry and dairy assignments, may withdraw amounts in excess of their next
  installment.

Association Options: In the event of default on any loan or if Funds Held exceeds the maximum limit as established above or if the Association discontinues the Funds Held program, the Association may apply funds in the account to the unpaid loan balance and other amounts due and shall return any excess funds to the customer.

**Liquidation:** Funds Held account balances are not insured. In the event of Association liquidation, all customers having balances in these uninsured accounts shall be notified according to FCA Regulations in effect at that time. Current applicable regulations state that the notice shall instruct that the funds ceased earning interest when the receivership was instituted and will be applied against the outstanding indebtedness of any loans of the customer unless, within 15 days' notice, the customer provides direction to the Association to apply the funds according to existing loan documents.

Questions: Please direct any questions regarding Funds Held to AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA.

### **Isbell Family Farms**

For more than 75 years rice has been cultivated on 3,000 acres at Isbell Family Farms near Humnoke in Lonoke County. But, when this sixth-generation farm was initially founded, no one could have foreseen that it would eventually grow into the premier producer of the finest sake rice in the United States and, indeed, much of the world.

That rice, along with sake made from that rice, was showcased at the Marketplace Reception of the 2023 Farm Credit Fly-In on November 15 in Washington, D.C., which was attended by thousands of congressional members and staff, administration officials and influential ag stakeholders.

Chris and Judy Isbell, the 2018 Arkansas Farm Family of the Year, have been farming in Lonoke County for 55 years. Partners in the operation include their son Mark and his wife Marda, their daughter Whitney and her husband Jeremy Jones and their nephew Shane Isbell and his wife Lisa. While Chris's grandfather and great-grandfather were cotton farmers, the rice operation was started in 1946 by his father, Leroy Isbell, an innovative thinker whose pioneering of zero-grade rice farming won him a spot in Class XXVII of the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame.



Zero-grade rice farming is when all the fields are leveled, like a tabletop. Because rice is typically grown on soil flooded with several inches of water, traditional rice fields have levees zigzagging down a slight slope in a field to create paddies with the necessary water depth. Leroy theorized that if the fields were level, it would lead to faster irrigation and better water control. After some experimenting he was proved right. The practice inspired the official business name for the Isbell farm partnership: Zero Grade Farms. A radical idea when Leroy helped pioneer it decades ago, it is now a common practice worldwide for farmers hoping to reduce water use and save on costs. One hundred percent of the cultivated land at Isbell Farms is zero-grade.



In addition to using groundwater more efficiently the Isbells are also committed to innovative methane emission reduction practices, energy use reduction via solar power, and the creation of carbon offsets. Because of these efforts, the Isbells received the 2016 Commitment to Quality Award from the American Carbon Registry for their sustainable rice production.

The operation still grows the familiar long-grain Arkansas rice Leroy farmed, but has made a name worldwide by cultivating sake rice for more than two decades. Chris works only with pure lines of sake varieties including authentic Yamada Nishiki, Omachi, Wataribune and Gohakumangoku.

But, before sake rice came sushi rice. Chris discovered during a rice conference in California in the late 1980s that Koshihikari, or Koshi, a premium sushi rice considered one of the best in the world for eating, was grown at the same latitude as Lonoke County. Once back home Isbell studied Koshi and its region at the local library. "There was no internet then," Chris said. "I looked at the globe and spun it. I looked at our latitude versus the latitude of Japan. And they were right on the money. I said, 'I bet I could grow it here."

He obtained some seed and planted a few acres. "Even if it never made a dollar, I was going to try it, just to see if it was possible or not. And it grew." The rice hit the market in 1992, the first time domestically grown Koshi was sold in the U.S. It soon became popular in Japanese immigrant communities across the country.

The fact that a variety of rice previously thought to be domestic only was being produced in Arkansas hit the news in Japan. Chris did more than 50 interviews with Japanese media, and Japan's public television station, NHK, produced a 90-minute documentary about Isbell Farms. Before long, buses of Japanese tourists started showing up every month or two to get a peek at Isbell's operation.

Around the late 2000s, Chris got a call from an American sake company asking about a rumor that Isbell had grown a different rice variety famous for its use in top-shelf sake.



Chris replied that he had. "Once we started with Koshi, it was just natural to try something else," Chris said. "So we tried a bunch of something elses."

He keeps five acres set aside for experimentation, and one of those experiments was Yamada Nishiki. A representative of the company came to see for himself, and Isbell Farms made a deal to provide domestic sake rice at a lower cost than importing it from Japan. Since then Isbell has become known as the premier supplier of sake rice in the country. Now sake has become another local commodity, as the first sake brewery in Arkansas, Origami Sake, opened earlier this year in Hot Springs. The proprietors hope that combining two things for which Arkansas is best known - high-quality rice and Hot Springs's historic spring water - will make the state the "Napa Valley" of sake.

The Isbells, who have utilized Farm Credit for decades, are customer-owners at the AgHeritage Lonoke Branch. "In a farming world, people have a 10-year plan," Chris said. "With the Farm Bill coming out every five years changing everything, Farm Credit has been that cushion for that unpredictability. You can follow your dream and try new things, and have it not be too expensive and not be too unpredictable."

Chris credits his success with Farm Credit to having a good loan officer. Over the years, he and Josh Cunningham, Vice President of Lending and Branch Manager, Lonoke, have become very good friends. "You've got to be on the level where you trust each other. He knows our operation like the back of his hand...a good loan officer knows what you need from him, and helps with financial decisions. Josh is really a nice guy. He's business, but he's like family. I think my wife has adopted him," Chris laughs. "He's very sharp."

No matter how well-known Isbell Farms becomes, it is still at heart a family operation. "The family part of the business is what I really enjoy the most," Chris said. "You go back to my greatgranddad and then my granddad, my father, myself... my son, my daughter, and my grandson are now working on the farm. So that's six generations."

## **2023 FARM CREDIT**

In fit

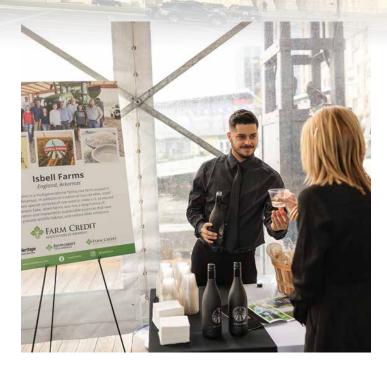
## **FLY-IN**

AgHeritage traveled to Washington D.C. November 14 and 15 for the 2023 Farm Credit Fly-In. This biannual event demonstrates Farm Credit's important role in supporting farmers, ranchers and rural infrastructure providers nationwide.

On Tuesday morning, Sen. John Boozman, Sen. Glenn Thompson and Sen. Debbie Stabenow presented an update on the Farm Bill, with Rep. David Scott participating via video.

On Wednesday, Rep. Bruce Westerman, Rep. French Hill, Rep. Rick Crawford, Rep. Steve Womack, Sen. John Boozman and Sen. Tom Cotton joined representatives from AgHeritage, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas and Farm Credit Mid-America for a breakfast to discuss issues important to Arkansas farmers and ranchers.

On the last night of the Fly-In, the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas treated 3,000 Farm Credit leaders, directors and customers, other influential ag leaders and U.S. legislators and their staff to sake brewed with Arkansas rice from AgHeritage customer-owner Isbell Farms, the premier supplier of premium sake rice for the U.S. and much of the world.





# 2023 FARM CREDIT FLY-IN (CONTINUED)













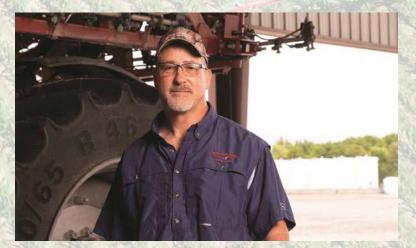
### **HERITAGE TALKS**



### Merritt & Shannon Holman



Scan to watch!



### **Trey Hare**



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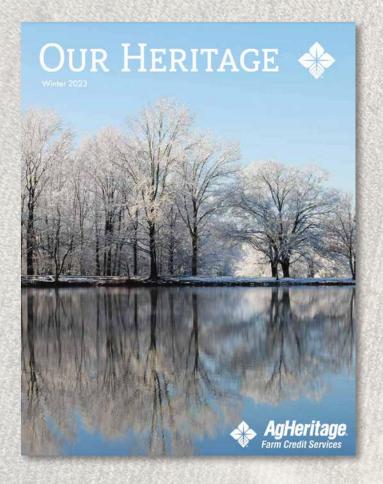
### **Isbell Farms**



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### **MY HERITAGE**

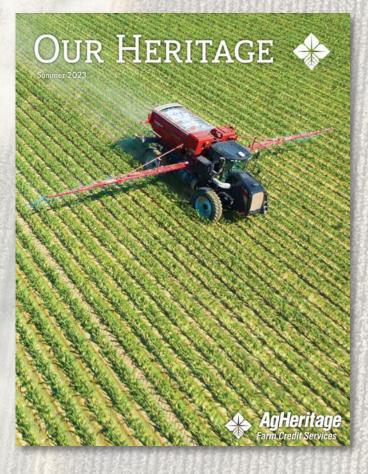
Check out our recent issues and be sure to watch for our Summer 2024 edition!



### Winter 2023



Scan to read!



### **Summer 2023**



Scan to read!

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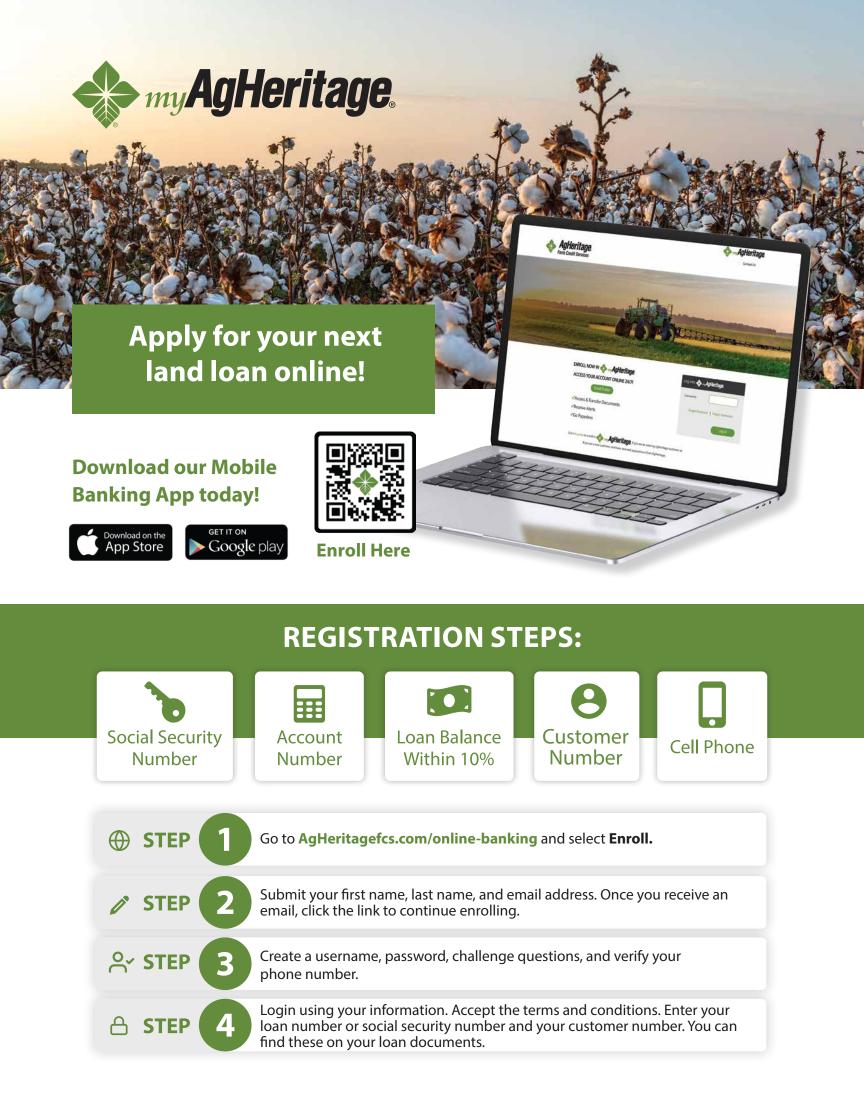


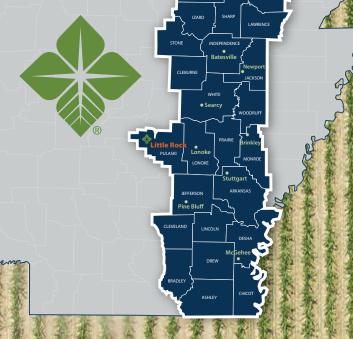
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