



## Looking Forward to Sunny Days and Timely Rains

Dear Stockholder:

There's a common saying about the weather in the Texas Panhandle that also applies to the economy. If you don't like it right now, wait a while and it will change.

We're experiencing a little of that feeling right now. Last year presented Great Plains Ag Credit with some challenges, because of the worldwide financial crisis and volatile ag markets. After years of enjoying a positive lending environment, consistently solid earnings and increasing loan volume, our progress slowed somewhat last year. However, unlike some associations and lending institutions, Great Plains remains well capitalized with no loan charge-offs throughout the global downturn.

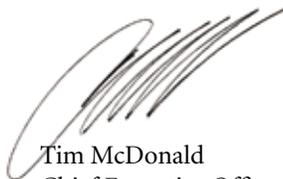
It was a good thing that, after more than 90 years in the business, we had experience weathering the ups and downs in the economy. We held steady, thanks in large part to solid, conservative guidance by our board. The cooperative business model upon which Farm Credit is founded also proved to be resilient during tough times.

We recognize that unfortunately the economic conditions created hardship for some of our customers. Thankfully, several months into 2010, the situation shows signs of improvement. Industries that rely on grain prices, such as livestock feeding operations and dairies, suffered from a tight financial squeeze caused by extremely high corn prices last year. Now, input costs have stabilized at manageable levels, and market prices have increased, bringing some much-needed relief for many producers. While corn prices have moderated, the grain markets remain at levels that offer good profit margins at today's input costs.

When good winter moisture comes to the fertile soil of the Great Plains Ag Credit territory, it's exciting to know that our stockholders will fulfill their potential and make the most of what this great land can provide. We hope that 2010 will bring each of you timely rains and sunny days for a bountiful crop and good conditions for livestock.

At Great Plains Ag Credit, we look forward to the better days ahead and the opportunity to share our success with you, our customer-stockholders. As always, we thank you for your business and will strive to meet all of your rural financing and insurance needs.

Sincerely,



Tim McDonald  
Chief Executive Officer

## Notice to Stockholders

Great Plains Ag Credit knows that transparent financial disclosure is an important part of a healthy organization. By now, all Great Plains stockholders should have received our 2009 Annual Report. The report is also available on the association website at [www.greatplainsagcredit.com/reports.htm](http://www.greatplainsagcredit.com/reports.htm).

We want you also to be aware that you can access the 2009 annual reports of the Texas Farm Credit District, of which Great Plains Ag Credit is a part, and the Farm Credit Bank of Texas, our funding bank. These annual reports can be found online at [www.farmcreditbank.com](http://www.farmcreditbank.com) under the "News and Financials" tab.



*Dear Cardiac Science,*

*I just wanted to say, "Thank you very, very much," for helping me save the life of a good, longtime friend of mine.*

*A little over four weeks ago I was playing morning basketball at Second Baptist Church, in Houston, with a group of guys that I've played with for years. One of my friends (Steve) had played a few games and was sitting down. He was talking to a few of us and suddenly passed out. He was totally unresponsive and was laboring extremely hard to breathe. Within one minute he had completely stopped breathing and did not have a pulse.*

*A security guard at Second Baptist Church had come into the gym area and was carrying your company's AED. The security guard started to administer CPR, and I took the AED and opened it. It immediately started giving me verbal instructions on how to use it. (I have no medical or CPR training, nor have I ever used an AED device.) I tore open the packet and attached the electrodes to Steve's chest.*

*After analyzing Steve's heartbeat it determined his heart was fibrillating. Within 20-30 seconds after the shock, his heart was beating at about 80 beats per minute and he had begun to breathe again. Steve woke up about seven or eight minutes later when the paramedics arrived. He was taken to the hospital immediately and underwent triple bypass the next day.*

*It turns out he has absolutely NO heart or brain damage. He was released from the hospital only six days after he arrived and is recuperating very well. His doctors are amazed, and he expects a full recovery within two to three months!*

*Steve's cardiologist told him that fewer than 5 percent of patients who have this "fatal arrhythmia" ever even survive.*

*WOW! WOW! WOW! I just wanted to say thank you again for making a difference. And thanks for helping me save my friend's life!*

*Sincerely,  
William Henderson*

One year ago, Great Plains was presented with an incredible opportunity to impact those who live in our rural communities. Together with KVII, Cardiac Science and Cardiology Center of Amarillo, Great Plains Project HeartSafe was launched with the goal of saving lives in the Texas Panhandle.

Project HeartSafe provides a low-cost option for businesses, organizations and individuals to purchase a portable automated external defibrillator (AED). First responder applicants — such as law enforcement, fire and EMS — may qualify for a grant in addition to the reduced pricing.

Since the program's inception, Great Plains Project HeartSafe has funded \$7,200 in grants on 24 AEDs to first responders in our area. In addition, more than 70 units have been purchased by a wide variety of applicants ranging from golf courses to churches, from Cal Farley's Boys Ranch to doctors' offices.

To demonstrate the importance that the Great Plains Ag Credit Board of Directors and management place on customer and employee safety, as well as on increasing the number of AEDs in our territory, a unit has been placed at each of the association's offices. In the fall of 2009, Great Plains staff members took part in CPR certification and training on use of the AEDs.

For more information about obtaining a unit for your home, your workplace or your community, go to [www.greatplainsagcredit.com](http://www.greatplainsagcredit.com) and click on the Project HeartSafe link on the left side of the screen.

## A Primer on Cardiac Arrest

### What is cardiac arrest?

Cardiac arrest is the sudden, abrupt loss of heart function. The victim may or may not have diagnosed heart disease.

### What causes cardiac arrest?

The most common underlying reason for patients to die suddenly from cardiac arrest is coronary heart disease. However, other factors besides heart disease and heart attack can cause cardiac arrest.

*Left to right: Harriett Burluson and Cliff Daniel of Great Plains Ag Credit in Plainview; Investigator Doyle Ozment and Chief Jim McCaslin of the Tulia Police Department; Joyce Tyler, CP Support of Lubbock; and Laurence Saban, Cardiac Science. Great Plains Ag Credit provided \$2,400 toward eight units for the officers' patrol vehicles. Prior to this, the department did not have any AEDs for these important first responders.*



# Rural Areas

They include respiratory arrest, electrocution, drowning, choking and trauma. Cardiac arrest can also occur without any known cause — at any age. Twenty-five percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims are under the age of 18.

## How many people survive cardiac arrest?

No statistics are available on the exact number of cardiac arrests that occur each year. It's estimated that more than 95 percent of cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. In cities where defibrillation is provided within five to seven minutes, the survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest is as high as 30 to 45 percent.

## What can be done to increase the survival rate?

Early CPR and rapid defibrillation combined with early advanced care can result in high long-term survival rates for witnessed cardiac arrest. For instance, in June 1999, automated external defibrillators (AEDs) were mounted one minute apart in plain view at Chicago's O'Hare and Midway airports. In the first 10 months, 14 cardiac arrests occurred, with 12 of the 14 victims in ventricular fibrillation. Nine of the 14 victims (64 percent) were revived with an AED and had no brain damage.

If bystander CPR was initiated more consistently, if AEDs were more widely available, and if every community could achieve a 20 percent cardiac arrest survival rate, an estimated 40,000 more lives could be saved each year. Death from sudden cardiac arrest is not inevitable. If more people react quickly by calling 9-1-1 and performing CPR, more lives can be saved.

For more information about sudden cardiac arrest, go to [http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/AED\\_FAQs.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/AED_FAQs.pdf)



## Kevin and Renee Buse Participate in Farm Credit Young Leaders Program

Kevin and Renee Buse of Hereford, Texas, heard firsthand how well the Farm Credit System is faring, despite recent volatility in the financial markets, when they participated in the 2009 Farm Credit Young Leaders Program last fall. As member-borrowers of the Farm Credit System, and specifically Great Plains Ag Credit, the couple was given an opportunity to interact with decision-makers and Farm Credit System leaders and look behind the scenes at how the System operates. They were among 23 young agricultural producers selected to participate in the annual program.

Kevin and Renee have been customers of Great Plains since 2005. Renee is a registered nurse, and Kevin is part owner and general manager of Champion Feeders and Tascosa Feedyard. He also co-owns a farm in Deaf Smith County, where they run cattle and farm. They have three children, Brock, Baron and Belle.

The four-day trip included meetings with agriculture industry representatives, officials of the Farm Credit Council and congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. The group also had a briefing at the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation and toured the financial district in New York City.

“The experience of being able to understand how the Farm Credit System works, both on Wall Street and Washington, was unforgettable,” Kevin Buse said. “The Farm Credit System has very good people from top to bottom.”



*Tim McDonald, CEO of Great Plains, presents Chief Brian Frieda of the Muleshoe Police Department with a check for \$600 toward the purchase of three new AEDs. The chief said the department has had multiple saves with their existing AEDs, but the three additional units will allow more patrol cars to have them.*



Standing, left to right: Brian Park, Mitch Meyer. Seated, left to right: Paul Fridenstine, Yngrid Abudinen and Stephanie Schumacher.

## 2010 GPAC Student Board Studies Cooperative Advantage

For the third consecutive year, Great Plains Ag Credit (GPAC) has selected five students from West Texas A&M University to serve on a student board. The leadership development program and scholarship opportunity has proved to be popular among students. Once again the student board completed a case study throughout the fall and spring semesters and reported their findings to members of the Great Plains board and management. The focus of this year's students was to research other cooperatives — one local and one on a national level — and report back to Great Plains on their structure, as well as the benefits they provide to their stockholders.

During the months leading up to their presentation, staff at Great Plains presents information to the students about our cooperative. They learn about the board governance of Great Plains, as well as the fiscal and credit management. The board and management of the association place a high importance on educating others about our mission, our funding and our cooperative structure.

## Making the Most of Your Crop Insurance

Paying attention to details when it comes to crop insurance is in your best interest. Here are a few helpful hints from the Great Plains Ag Insurance Specialists:

1. Keep a permanent file with all crop insurance documents. Your agent will also maintain a file, but in the event of an audit, you may need to produce records for several years of production.
2. Be mindful of deadlines, including those for sales closing, acreage reports and production reports. If these are not met, you may be without insurance or your production history could be negatively impacted.
3. Keep a log book with plant dates and the number of acres planted. Report all acres planted to your agent, even if you do not plan to insure all crops or acres.
4. Always report the same acreage to your agent and the FSA. This information must match to ensure you are paid in full at the time of loss.
5. Inform your agent before changing intentions to your acreage. If you originally planted the crop for grain, but decide to harvest it for silage, you MUST call for an Actual Production History (APH) appraisal before the crop is chopped. If no field inspection is made, you will receive a "0" on your APH database and full premium will be due.
6. Always keep production separate (e.g., insured/uninsured acreage; by unit, etc.). If you have enterprise units or Group Risk Income Protection (GRIP), it is still necessary to maintain separate records for each unit so your APH is correct if you go back to an optional unit structure.
7. Send production to your agent immediately upon harvest, especially if you suspect a loss. RMA mandates that companies MUST deny claims reported more than 60 days after harvest.
8. Pay your premium when it is due.
9. Call Great Plains Ag Insurance's specialists if they can help you in any way with your insurance needs.



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