

Your rural lending partner since 1917.

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Athens Branch

Counties Served: Jackson, Limestone and Madison Phone: (256) 232-0344 Toll Free: (888) 305-0091

Cullman Branch

Counties Served: Blount, Cullman, Jefferson, Morgan, Walker and Winston Phone: (256) 734-0132

Toll Free: (888) 305-0074

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Counties Served: Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair and Talladega Phone: (256) 362-0507 Toll Free: (888) 305-0098

Tuscumbia Branch

Counties Served: Colbert, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence and Marion

Phone: (256) 381-5512 Toll Free: (888) 305-0081

Part of the Farm Credit System



www.AlabamaFarmCredit.com

Committed to Agriculture, Proud to Be Different



At Alabama Farm Credit, we often talk about how Farm Credit supports rural communities and agriculture. It's our mission, and we're proud to fulfill it every day. But what does that really mean?

As a cooperative, we're owned by you and our many other stockholders. Our board members are borrowers themselves, who are voted into office by their fellow borrowers. They provide important direction and ensure the safety and soundness of our finances. Your board of directors is committed to returning value to you as stockholders.

When we have a good year, our customer-owners benefit. Our net income is used in only two ways: It's retained as capital by our

association to build financial strength that ensures continued lending, and in successful years it's passed on to you as patronage dividends that effectively lower your cost of borrowing.

Based on the cooperative's solid performance in 2017, we distributed a record \$9 million cash patronage payment to our stockholders this March. We were pleased to share our earnings with our borrowers by returning 61.3 percent of last year's net income. Alabama Farm Credit has returned more than \$64 million in patronage to stockholders since 1999.

Those aren't the only things that make Alabama Farm Credit different. Our staff is willing to go the extra mile — or 100 miles, if necessary — to help you out. We'll come to your farm or business to touch base, talk about your operation and see if we can provide additional support. What's more, our deep understanding of agriculture is genuine. Most of us grew up in rural areas, and some of us still have a hand in farming or ranching, so we personally understand the business decisions you face.

We try to make a difference in your life and your ag business by offering specialized services and loan products. Some of these include financing programs for young, beginning and small farmers. We offer financing for farmland and production loans for ag needs, such as equipment and cattle.

Ultimately, however, what makes the Farm Credit difference is personal relationships — such as relationships that are formed when you become a customer-owner of the co-op or when our loan officers literally take their expertise to your farm or business. We are truly committed to rural America and supporting the men and women who produce our food, fiber and fuel.

Thank you for choosing Alabama Farm Credit as your lending partner.

K. Ben Gore

Chief Executive Officer



Please "like us" on Facebook, follow us on Instagram and connect with us on LinkedIn!

ring Museu Couple to Share Historic Farmstead With Students To visit the Corbin Homestead in Joppa, Ala., is to take a stewards of step back in time and glimpse life on a late 19th century all creatures farm. And soon that's exactly what students will be able to and their do when this living museum opens its doors and property environment to educate them about history and conservation. "Alabama "I want to help youngsters celebrate our culture and natural Farm Credit heritage and appreciate and understand our past and is honored Randy and Susie how it has shaped our lives," says Randy Humphries, who to assist represents the fifth generation on the farm, which was desthis multi-**Humphries** ignated as a significant landmark in 1999 by the Alabama generational Historical Association. In the Beginning In 1894, Randy's great-grandfather Tom Corbin and Walls, branch manager in Cullman. his wife, Ella, came to this northeast corner of Cullman "Alabama Farm Credit helped us purchase additional County and purchased an 80-acre tract, where Tom constructed the farmhouse that still stands today. Tom grew says Randy. cotton, corn, peanuts, peas and sorghum cane; maintained a large peach and apple orchard; and raised cattle, mules, **A Great Many Plans** hogs and yard chickens. He also was a self-taught veterinarian who practiced medicine from 1902 to 1950. He succeeded in providing six of his 10 children with a college education — quite an accomplishment for a small farmer in the early 20th century, and perhaps a harbinger of Randy's later commitment to education. studying botany, geology and ecology. Randy and Susie also are eager to teach youngsters the A Working Farm and a Place to Teach Four generations later, the now 120-acre historic farmstead continues to be a working farm, with a herd of cattle and a hay operation. Randy also owns Humphries Farm Turf

Supply Inc., which specializes in farm and garden machinery. His wife, Susie, teaches biology and chemistry at Snead State Community College.

In 1990, Randy and Susie established the Humphries Foundation to educate and inspire young people and instill the principles of conservation of our lands and the creatures that inhabit them. Its goals are to encourage students to discover their skills, talents and interests; think critically, build relationships, practice leadership and develop concern for their community and the world; and be good

farming operation, which strives to preserve the lands and the ways of the old, while encouraging future generations of farmers through education and history," says Barrett

farmland, and they have been good partners to work with,"

The couple wants visitors to see all their artifacts, periodera furnishings and buildings, including a barn buggy shed, corn crib, cotton house, well shed, outhouse, hen house and rock fence. Additional plans include developing educational programs involving nature trails on the property for

history and chemical processes used by the Corbins back in the day, when, for example, they made lye soap, smoked pork in the smoke house, and canned vegetables that they harvested from the garden.

Beginning in the fall of 2018, Randy and Susie, through the Humphries Foundation, will be working with Extension agents and teachers to coordinate field trips and learning experiences for children. For more information, or to set up a tour, call (256) 586-8760.

Some information in this story came from the June 2017 issue of Alabama Living magazine, and was used with permission from the Alabama Rural Electric Association.



Alabama Farm Credit CEO Ben Gore, left, and Alabama Ag Credit CEO, Doug Thiessen, right, present donation to Alabama FFA.

Alabama Farm Credit Supports Alabama FFA

Alabama Farm Credit, along with Alabama Ag Credit, donated \$20,000 to the Alabama State FFA Foundation and was the title sponsor of the organization's convention held June 6-8 at the Montgomery Performing Arts Center and Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery.

This donation helps make it possible for Alabama FFA staff members to select nationally known speakers and entertainment, and to incorporate state-of-the-art staging and lighting.

Through the sponsorship, Alabama Farm Credit is also doing its part to increase participation in Career Development Events, competitions that demonstrate the connections between ag-related classroom instruction and real-life scenarios. These contests help prepare students for careers in the ag industry.





Danny Baugh and Larry McGee Re-Elected to the Board

Congratulations to directors Danny Baugh and Larry McGee on their re-election to the Alabama Farm Credit Board of Directors. The elections were held at the annual stockholders meeting on April 12. Thanks to all stockholders who attended the meeting and the nominees who ran for election.

Danny Baugh, left, and Larry McGee

Employee Service Awards

Alabama Farm Credit recently said a special thank you to the following nine employees for their dedication and years of service. Together they have 120 years of Farm Credit service!

40 YEARS: Keith Carr, senior appraiser, administration.

20 YEARS: Jason Thomas, vice president and branch manager, Athens.

15 YEARS: Karri Sumrall, executive vice president/chief financial officer, administration.

10 YEARS: Sharon Dyer, credit analyst, administration; Larissa Partlow, credit analyst, administration; and Chuck Roberts, assistant vice president/senior loan officer. Cullman.

5 YEARS: Mary Catherine Goodwin, loan officer, Albertville; Jennifer Mason, administrative assistant, Tuscumbia; and Amanda Stanton, loan officer, Cullman.



Employees receive service awards at the annual stockholders meeting on April 12. From left to right are Sharon Dyer, Jason Thomas, Larissa Partlow, Mary Catherine Goodwin, Keith Carr, Karri Sumrall, Jennifer Mason, Amanda Stanton and Chuck Roberts.

Welcome to Our New Employees



Our Albertville branch welcomes Jordan Fancher as a customer service representative. A native of Cleveland, Ala., she has a master's degree in education from Jacksonville State University. For the past seven years, Jordan worked in Blount County Schools and Gwinnett County Public Schools in Suwanee, Ga. She recently moved back to Alabama from Atlanta, Ga., with her husband, Kyle, and their labradoodle, Lola.



Shannon Graham joined the association as the customer service representative in the Athens office. She has spent the majority of her life in Huntsville, Ala., and now calls Athens, Ala., home. For the past 17 years, she has been employed in banking in North Alabama. Shannon is engaged to Wesley Sylvester.



We welcome **Hailie Ramsey** as a customer service representative in our Tuscumbia branch. Hailie is originally from Red Bay, Ala., but recently moved to the Florence area. She has a bachelor's degree in business management and is enrolled in a master's program in organizational management. Previously, she worked in the banking field for two years and served eight years in the U.S. Air Force. Hailie has been stationed in Japan, England, Korea, Turkey and Germany.



Samantha Southerland has joined the association as executive assistant to CEO Ben Gore in the administrative office. She is from Arab, Ala., and has a bachelor's degree in broadcast communications/marketing from Troy University. Most recently, Samantha was an insurance sales agent for Allstate in Arab. She and her husband, Eric, have been married for seven years and have a daughter Addison, age 6.

Promotions

Beth Kreps, cash management supervisor, Cullman

Alicia Looney, loan application supervisor, Athens

Hannah Pruitt, loan closing supervisor, Albertville

Elaine Troxtel, collateral evaluator, Albertville









Announcements

Congratulations go out to:

- Lindsey and **Eli Howard**, senior credit analyst in administration, on the adoption of their son Porter Howard, 2, on Sept. 19. Porter has a big brother, Cooper, 6, and a big sister, Evie, 4.
- Will Inman and **Monica Johnson**, assistant vice president/ senior loan officer in Tuscumbia, on their marriage on Dec. 31.
- Ashley and Chuck Roberts, assistant vice president/ senior loan officer in Cullman, on the birth of their son, Finley Grey Roberts, on Nov. 7. Finley has a big sister, Emery, 4.