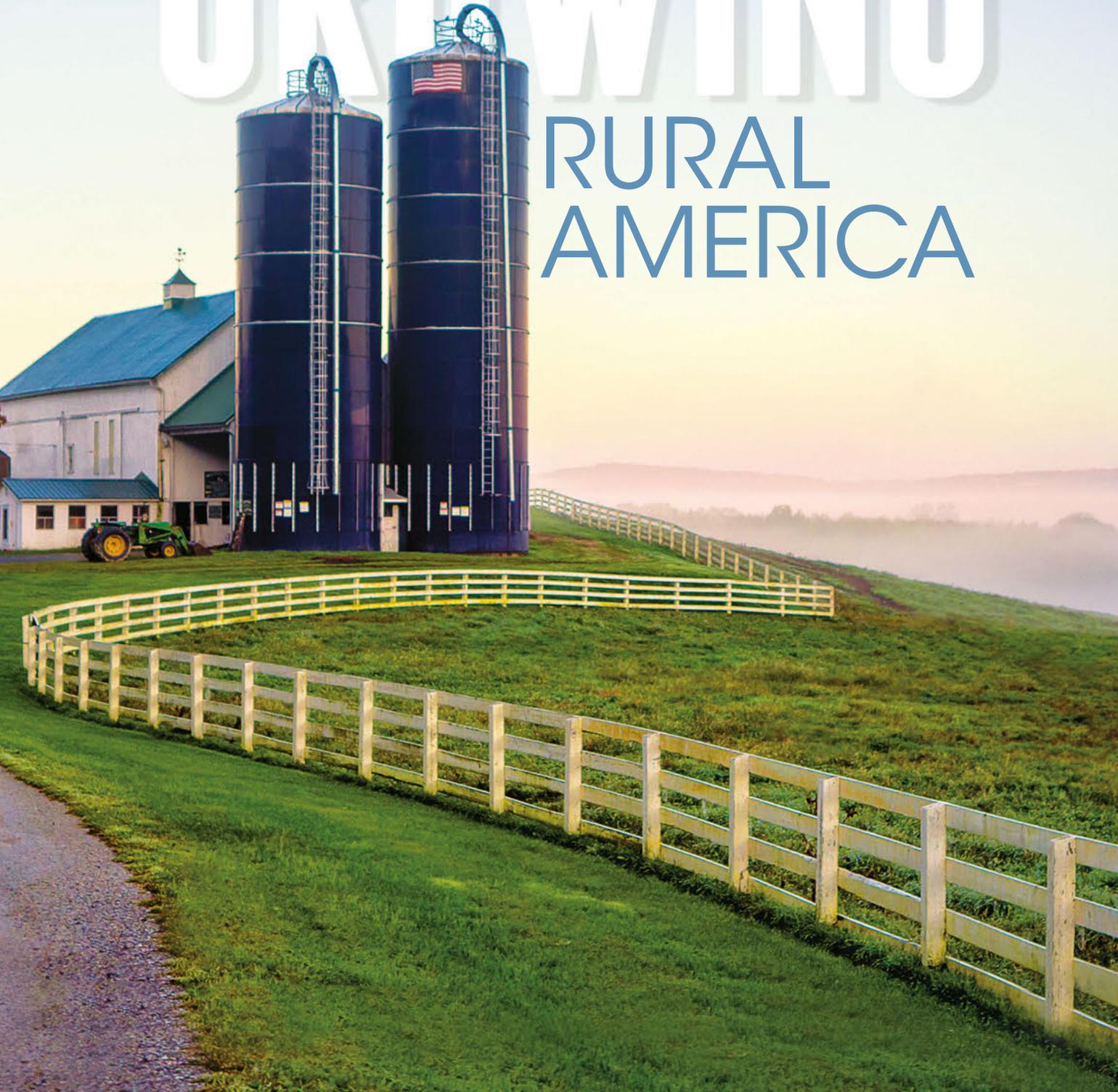




2016 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT

GROWING

RURAL AMERICA



KEY FACTS



HEADQUARTERS

Greenwood Village,
Colorado

\$126
BILLION

ASSETS

CoBank is one of the largest private providers of credit to the U.S. rural economy



15

BANKING CENTERS

CoBank operates 15 banking centers across the country



953

EMPLOYEES

CoBank employed 953 associates as of 12/31/2016



RECOGNITION

CoBank has been named to Global Finance magazine's list of the 50 safest banks in the world six years in a row

OVERVIEW

As a mission-based cooperative lender and member of the Farm Credit System, CoBank is committed to serving as a good corporate citizen. The bank is an active supporter of causes and programs that support people and communities in need, as well as the industries we serve across rural America.

2-7

SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE & LOCAL FOODS

- **\$74.6 billion** retail and wholesale agribusiness portfolio
- More than **\$3 million** contributed to local food and urban agriculture programs over the past four years

8-13

CORPORATE GIVING

- **\$8.3 million** in charitable contributions in 2016, including commitments for future years
- Ninety-eight percent of CoBank associates report that the bank's charitable contributions increase their job satisfaction and engagement

14-17

COOPERATIVE ADVOCACY & INDUSTRY SUPPORT

- **\$3 million** to support cooperative advocacy and industry organizations across the U.S. in 2016

18-23

RESEARCH & HIGHER EDUCATION

- Multi-year grants to land grant and other universities around the country focused on agricultural research and education
- Financial support for university centers focused on the study and advancement of cooperatives

24-27

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Major investments in rural equity funds and public-private partnerships designed to bolster investment and job growth in rural communities

28-31

SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMENT

- **\$2.8 billion** renewable energy portfolio
- One of the nation's leading financiers of renewable energy projects



TO OUR CUSTOMERS & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

CoBank's customer-owners rightly look at our financial results as the primary gauge of business performance for their bank. By that measure, CoBank had another strong year in 2016, with record loan volume and earnings, continued solid capital and credit quality, and patronage distributions that reached an all-time high.

However, we believe that CoBank's performance must be measured in other ways as well. For instance, we strive to be an employer of choice and pride ourselves on the passion and engagement of our work force. A recent Gallup survey ranked the bank in the 85th percentile of companies in terms of employee engagement.

Finally, we believe that one of the most important measures of our performance is our track record in the area of corporate social responsibility. As a member of the government-chartered Farm Credit System, CoBank has an obligation to support local charities, to promote rural economic development and to be a passionate advocate for the industries we serve. Just as farmers are stewards of the land, our mission entails a large measure of stewardship on behalf of communities across rural America.

To that end, we are pleased to provide our customers, partners, investors, employees and other stakeholders with our 2016 "Growing Rural America" report. The pages that follow detail our activities and programs in a variety of areas, including:

- Support for agriculture and local food systems
- Corporate giving
- Cooperative advocacy and industry support
- Higher education
- Rural community development
- Sustainability and the environment

We're very proud of these programs and hope that you find this information both useful and inspiring. We look forward to our continued partnership with you, in the best cooperative tradition, as we continue our mission of service to rural America.


EVERETT M. DOBRINSKI
Chairman


THOMAS HALVERSON
Chief Executive Officer

SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE & LOCAL FOODS

“Our customers are a key part of
the value chain in every sector of the
U.S. farm economy.”

As one of the nation’s largest agricultural lenders, CoBank plays a vital role supporting the U.S. farm economy. CoBank provides farmer-owned cooperatives and other agribusinesses with loans, lines of credit, export financing and other financial services. Our customers are a key part of the value chain in every ag sector, from grains and farm supply, to fruits, nuts and vegetables, to dairy, livestock, cotton and timber. So are CoBank’s affiliated Farm Credit associations, which serve more than 70,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

Beyond traditional financial services, CoBank supports agriculture in other ways as well. Through our corporate citizenship initiatives, we have made significant investments in local cooperative development, Young, Beginning and Small (YBS) farmer programs, and local and urban food systems.

CO-OP START is a program launched by CoBank that helps emerging and existing small agricultural cooperatives through innovative financing,

business mentorship and training. Since its inception, CoBank has approved loans or leases through the program totaling \$1.4 million in partnership with cooperative development centers throughout the country.

FARMSTART, a program conducted in partnership with Farm Credit East and Yankee Farm Credit, two of CoBank’s affiliated associations, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016. The program supports individuals looking to launch businesses in agriculture, forest products and commercial fishing in the northeastern United States. Since its inception, Farm Start has made over 200 investments totaling more than \$9.1 million.

THE NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK is supporting the efforts of communities to introduce healthy, local foods into their school systems. With support from CoBank, the organization is bringing together participating schools and local farmers to share best practices and strategies to purchase and promote local food use in school systems across the country.



THE NATIONAL FOOD HUB COLLABORATION

is working with established and fledgling food hubs across the country to provide the technical assistance, outreach and research needed to promote the use of local foods by institutional buyers such as schools and hospitals.

CoBank has supported these efforts through sponsorship of the annual National Food Hub Conference and other outreach programs.

D.C. CENTRAL KITCHEN is an innovative, Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit working to break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Funding from CoBank has enabled DCCK to expand a community partnership with Union Kitchen.

Union Kitchen is a unique partnership of more than 100 budding food businesses that work together to create value-added items featuring local ingredients, including a trail mix with Virginia peanuts and a garden salad with D.C.-grown greens. The Union Kitchen production line is staffed

by at-risk adults, and products are sold at corner stores in low-income neighborhoods.

D.C. Central Kitchen supports Union Kitchen by providing it with fresh, local produce grown by farmers in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. The produce is an important ingredient in the value-added products created and sold by Union Kitchen.

THE CAMPUS KITCHEN PROJECT is a national program that empowers student volunteers across the country to recover food that would have otherwise gone to waste and transform it into nutritious, balanced meals for food-insecure Americans. Support from CoBank created a Rural Hunger Solutions initiative that fosters the creation of new and replication of existing programs that address the root causes of rural hunger. Student leaders involved in Campus Kitchen Projects across the country are developing innovative solutions to address needs in their local communities.

— AGRICULTURE & LOCAL FOODS —

FARM START - SKY8 SHRIMP FARM



Boston-based Sky8 produces locally sourced and farmed Pacific white shrimp, raising them from the post-larval stage until they are ready to be harvested and sold to local chefs and restaurants.

Americans love their shrimp. It is the most heavily consumed seafood in the United States. But more than 90 percent of the shrimp we eat is imported from shrimp farms in Asia, Latin America and other foreign markets.

In 2012, entrepreneur James Tran saw an opportunity to leverage the popularity of shrimp along with a growing consumer preference for locally sourced food. Tran's family had run a successful shrimp farming business in Vietnam, and he dreamed of replicating that success in his home community outside Boston, Massachusetts.

Tran and business partner Tone Lovan founded Sky8, the first indoor shrimp farm in the north-eastern United States. Sky8 produces Pacific white shrimp, raising them from the post-larval stage until they are ready for harvest. Its customers are primarily local chefs and restaurants.

"When we started, we made a lot of mistakes," says Lovan. "An indoor shrimp farm was such a novel idea that there was no model of success for us to follow. We did a lot of research and consulted people from different states and even as far away as the Netherlands. But, in the beginning, our business was very much about trial and error."

By its second year of operation, Sky8 needed to dramatically expand its production capacity in order to meet the volume demands of its customers. After doing some research on various financing options, Sky8 approached Farm Credit East, one of CoBank's affiliated associations, and obtained financing through the innovative Farm Start program.

"The small size and experimental nature of our business made financing a challenge, but several of the other seafood businesses in the



"Sky8 may not be what most people think of when they imagine a farm, but that's exactly what we are," says Sky8's CFO, Kevin Ng.



Tone Lovan, operations manager for Sky8, measures the temperature and oxygen levels of Sky8's shrimp tanks. Water quality and filtration systems are tested regularly to ensure the highest-quality, best-tasting product.

area suggested that we reach out to Farm Credit," says Kevin Ng, Sky8's CFO. "Farm Credit came out to see what we were doing and was immediately on board. After all, Sky8 may not be what most people think of when they imagine a farm, but that's exactly what we are. We're just raising something different than most farmers."

"Sky8 is a perfect example of what we are trying to do with the Farm Start program," says Will Baildon, CoBank's regional vice president and a member of the Farm Start review committee. "We support startup farmers and agricultural businesses whose limited financial resources might make it difficult for them to qualify for conventional financing."

"Through Farm Start we are able to provide working capital investments and help them to overcome some of the financial challenges that might have prevented them from entering the ag industry."

Max Glebocki, a loan officer with Farm Credit East agrees. Glebocki says, "Sky8 is the definition of an innovative aquaculture business. They truly started from the ground up, and the learning process hasn't always been easy. While the business still faces some challenges, we believe in the strength of their product and their management team. They have the passion and perseverance to succeed and, through the Farm Start program, we are proud that we continue to be a financial resource they can rely on."

AGRICULTURE & LOCAL FOODS

APPALACHIAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



David Lay is a fourth-generation farmer operating a 70-acre farm in the Goshen Valley of east Tennessee.



By bringing together groups of small, local farmers, Appalachian Sustainable Development is creating a distribution system that allows participants to access larger, more profitable markets.

For generations, families in Appalachia have relied heavily on tobacco farming for their economic security. Beginning in the 1990s, declining tobacco markets and changes in other traditional industries, such as coal mining, led to significant economic challenges in a region already struggling with some of the nation's highest unemployment rates.

Today, an organization called Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD) is working hard to change those dynamics. Through investments from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and matching grants from donors like CoBank, ASD is helping residents of central Appalachia to successfully transition to a more resilient and healthy economy by introducing them to organic and conventional vegetable production.

ASD serves 15 counties in central Appalachia. The nonprofit organization's mission is to "create, promote and expand economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible opportunities to improve the lives and health of local communities." As part of this work, ASD started Appalachian Harvest, a Duffield, Virginia-based food hub that is working with local farmers to provide education, infrastructure and marketing support that will help them to aggregate products and to access large, wholesale produce markets.

Together with the ARC funding, CoBank's 2016 grant is helping ASD and Appalachian Harvest to create the Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor, a five-state, 43-county collaboration that will develop a coordinated local foods distribution network throughout central Appalachia. Once established, the corridor will act as a regional economic driver, retaining existing jobs, creating new ones and helping to establish new businesses.

"ASD and Appalachian Harvest provide the resources small farmers need to take advantage of the growing demand by grocery stores and produce brokers for fresh, healthy, local produce," says Kathryn Terry, executive director of ASD.



In addition to selling produce through farmers markets and other local channels, Appalachian Harvest is helping farmers to access large wholesale and regional markets.

“Since our doors opened, we’ve conducted a tremendous amount of outreach, helping long-time tobacco farmers to see the potential of new products and introducing young people who may never have farmed before to the economic opportunities of agriculture.”

Terry says one of the most significant challenges area farmers face is distribution. “We’ve become a good intermediary between local suppliers and regional buyers, and with the help of this grant we hope to build a distribution system that creates important connections and increases market access for all participants,” says Terry.

David Lay is a fourth-generation farmer operating a 70-acre farm in the Goshen Valley of east Tennessee. Lay understands that the life of a farmer in Appalachia is not always easy. At one point, he and his family were forced to leave Tennessee after their family farm flooded. Lay worked a variety of construction jobs and did some small-scale farming in Virginia, but his heart was still in Tennessee.

Ultimately, Lay and his wife returned to Tennessee and were introduced to Appalachian Harvest through their local agricultural extension office. With some encouragement from Appalachian Harvest, Lay decided to try his hand at organic farming, planting butternut and spaghetti squash, tomatoes and peppers. It was hard work, made harder by the need to regularly drive long distances to sell his produce. But the development of the food hub’s transportation systems and the Appalachian Food Enterprise Corridor are changing that.

“Working with Appalachian Harvest has made a real difference for me,” says Lay. “I used to spend hours and hours on the road instead of in the field. Now I can deliver everything I grow to the food hub and they take care of finding the markets. They basically keep me from having to be a truck driver. Working with Appalachian Harvest lets me do what I do best. It lets me be a farmer.”

CORPORATE GIVING

“CoBank works closely with customers, Farm Credit partners and others to increase the power of corporate giving in rural communities.”

As a mission-based cooperative lender, CoBank believes in giving back to the communities where our customers and associates live and work. In 2016, the bank made a total of \$8.3 million in charitable contributions to a wide variety of local, regional and national charitable organizations.

SHARING SUCCESS

Sharing Success is an annual \$3 million fund that matches contributions by the bank’s customers to nonprofit organizations in rural communities. A record 713 customers participated in the program in 2016, supporting more than 890 rural charities.

RURAL DISASTER RELIEF

CoBank regularly partners with its customers to contribute to rural disaster relief efforts across the country. In 2016, CoBank joined several of its customers in supporting relief efforts in North and South Carolina following Hurricane Matthew. In Louisiana, CoBank partnered with the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in the wake of catastrophic flooding that impacted thousands of homes and businesses. In Kansas, CoBank teamed with Farm Credit associations to provide nearly \$140,000 in aid following the Anderson Creek

fire, the largest wildfire in Kansas history. The bank is also a longtime supporter of the American Red Cross, which provides disaster relief to rural communities throughout the United States.

SUPPORT FOR UNITED WAY AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

CoBank’s workplace giving program enables employees to designate a portion of each paycheck to the United Way and its member agencies. These contributions are supplemented by corporate donations to each United Way chapter supported by our associates. In 2016, CoBank associates donated more than \$322,000 to United Way.

CoBank has also established strong partnerships with other nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping people in need. These organizations include Food Bank of the Rockies, Young Americans Center for Financial Education, Mount Saint Vincent Home for abused and neglected children, and Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. The bank backs these organizations with corporate contributions, board service by CoBank executives and/or employee volunteerism.



BOARD- AND ASSOCIATE-DIRECTED GIVING PROGRAMS

Every year, each member of the CoBank board of directors is able to direct \$20,000 from the bank to nonprofit organizations he or she selects. Our board includes farmers, ranchers, cooperative executives and others whose expertise helps the bank to identify and support high-quality organizations doing good work in a wide array of rural communities.

In addition, each CoBank associate is able to direct an annual contribution of \$500 from the bank to nonprofit organizations of his or her choosing. Each associate is also entitled to a paid day-off from work to volunteer in his or her community.

In 2016, contributions made by CoBank through its associate- and board-directed giving programs totaled more than \$1 million and benefited nearly 900 individual charities.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

Each year, CoBank honors employees who contribute their own time and money to

charitable organizations through its Volunteer Service Award program. Winners of the award are able to direct a \$5,000 contribution from the bank to the charities they support.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Every year, CoBank considers special, one-time contributions as a result of requests from customers and other stakeholders or in response to external events. One of the many organizations the bank supported in 2016 is the Russell Child Development Center in Garden City, Kansas. The center is a community-based nonprofit early childhood agency. Its mission is to "lay a foundation of success for all young children and families through the delivery of high-quality, inclusive services." At the request of CoBank customers Pioneer Communications and Pioneer Electric, CoBank has committed up to \$150,000 to match the contributions of its customers to the center's capital and endowment campaign over a three-year period.

CORPORATE GIVING

NO BARRIERS USA

For generations, residents of America's rural communities have made up a disproportionate percentage of the U.S. armed forces. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are 22 million veterans in the United States—and 5.3 million of those live in rural communities. Of those, more than 40 percent have service-related disabilities.

CoBank has supported a variety of veterans programs around the country for many years. In 2017, the bank is teaming with Colorado-based No Barriers USA to take veterans support to a whole new level.

No Barriers is a nonprofit organization co-founded by Erik Weihenmayer, an internationally renowned mountain climber and the only blind person in history to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. Weihenmayer has been a regular speaker at CoBank meetings and has shared with the bank's customers and employees his inspirational message about overcoming barriers and challenges to live a life rich in meaning and purpose.

The No Barriers Warriors program specifically supports veterans with disabilities, helping them to transform their lives through curriculum-based experiences in challenging environments.

"We've seen the transformation that takes place when veterans are able to overcome the mental and physical challenges involved in one of our expeditions and then apply the skills they've learned to the challenges faced in their day-to-day lives," says Weihenmayer. "We're grateful to CoBank for their partnership and the opportunity to serve even more of our nation's veterans with disabilities."

The CoBank/No Barriers program, which was announced on Veterans Day 2016, will allow up to 50 disabled veterans from rural communities to participate in a No Barriers expedition. The four CoBank-sponsored expeditions will take



No Barriers' mission to unleash the potential of the human spirit is reflected in its motto, "What's within you is stronger than what's in your way."



"We've seen the transformation that takes place when veterans are able to overcome the mental and physical challenges involved in one of our expeditions," says Erik Weihenmayer, co-founder of No Barriers USA.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

place in the summer and fall of 2017. All participating veterans will be nominated by CoBank customers.

"I grew up in rural America, and my father and uncles were military veterans," says Tom Halverson, CoBank's chief executive officer. "That tradition of service is a common theme across rural communities, where men and women continue to step up in large numbers to serve their country. These veterans have made significant sacrifices to ensure our safety and our freedom, and many have returned with some form of disability. They deserve our recognition, support and encouragement as they work to overcome the challenges resulting from their military service."

Halverson notes that CoBank has a strong tradition of partnering with customers to make a difference in rural communities. "With the CoBank/No Barriers program we are once again relying on our customers' strong connection to the people and places they serve," Halverson says. "CoBank can provide the resources and the infrastructure to put a program like this in place, but we don't have the expertise to go out into the community and find those who are most deserving. That's the value our customers bring to this program. Their local knowledge will enable us to identify the people who will benefit most from this program and help us to do good things for the veterans who have done so much for us."



"The local knowledge of CoBank's customers will enable us to identify the people who will benefit most from this program and help us to do good things for the veterans who have done so much for us." – Tom Halverson, CEO, CoBank

CORPORATE GIVING

SHARING SUCCESS



The Centerville, South Dakota Fire Department is staffed by 26 volunteers, many of whom have served their community for more than a decade. The department responds to fires, floods and accidents throughout the year.

To Don Truhe, CEO of Southeast Farmers Coop in Burbank, South Dakota, it's almost impossible to overstate the importance of volunteer fire departments to the wellbeing of people and businesses in the area. "Our local fire departments respond to fires, floods and accidents of any sort," Truhe says. "They are a lifeline to the community."

Unfortunately, many local departments lack adequate financial resources. That's why Truhe's co-op has taken advantage of CoBank's Sharing Success program over the last three years to contribute funds for equipment, training and other needs.

"We know how hard it is for these volunteers who repeatedly put their lives on the line, often after working a full day at their regular jobs," Truhe says. "They are already out there battling fires. They shouldn't have to fight for funding too."

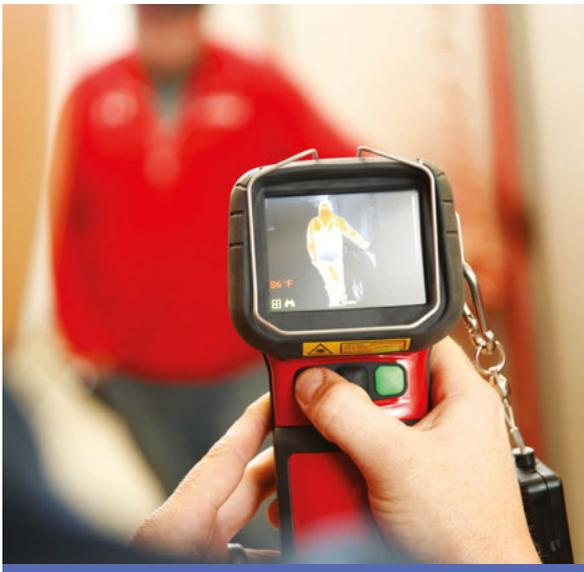
Centerville, South Dakota, population 910, is one community where Southeast Farmers Coop operates a grain elevator. The town's fire department is staffed by 26 volunteers, many of whom have served for more than a decade. More than half of the volunteers are local farmers. The department covers an area of more than 120 square miles and responds to approximately 40 calls per year. Its annual budget is just \$40,000, which has to cover diesel fuel for the fire trucks, utilities for the fire station, and a variety of other expenses. Very little is left over for purchasing new equipment.

In 2016, Southeast Farmers Coop and CoBank contributed \$10,000 to the department to fund the purchase of a thermal imaging camera that helps firefighters see through smoke and rescue people trapped in burning structures. It can also pinpoint the location of fires behind walls or ceilings.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Southeast Farmers location manager John Limoges (right) was a volunteer at the Centerville Fire Department for 15 years. He worked closely with Chief Tim Ganshow (left) to coordinate the donation by the co-op and CoBank.



The fire department used Sharing Success dollars to purchase a thermal imaging camera, an important piece of equipment that can help to save lives and keep firefighters safe.

"Imagine you're a firefighter going into a structure and you can't see two inches in front of your face because of the smoke," says department chief Tim Ganshow. "You need to very quickly determine if there are any people in the building and find the source of the fire. That's the value of a thermal imaging camera. It can literally cut through that smoke allowing us to save lives and, at the same time, helping to keep our firefighters safe."

Southeast Farmers location manager John Limoges, who lives in Centerville, was a volunteer for the department for 15 years. Limoges says he is deeply grateful for the contribution from the co-op and CoBank. "Southeast Farmers Coop doesn't just do business in these communities, we're a part of them," he says. "Centerville is my home. It's where my family lives, so it's important to me that we are able to make a real impact here and to see the difference we are making, up close and personal."

CEO Truhe agrees. "Sharing Success allows us to double the impact of our community donations," he says. "It's a wonderful program that can help so many people with a relatively small investment. As a cooperative, we honor the principle of commitment to community. At the same time, we are responsible for being good stewards of our members' funds. Our co-op has 1,000 members, so if we donate \$5,000, that's just \$5 per member and CoBank matches that donation dollar for dollar. We think that's a pretty good investment for our co-op and our community."

COOPERATIVE ADVOCACY & INDUSTRY SUPPORT

“We believe support for industry
is an important part of our
broader mission in rural America.”

In addition to its various corporate philanthropy programs, CoBank is an active supporter of organizations that promote the public policy interests of cooperatives and industry sectors served by the bank. We believe this industry support is an important part of our broader mission in rural America.

COOPERATIVE INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY COBANK

NATIONAL

Association of Cooperative Educators
Cooperation Works
Cooperative Communicators Association
Cooperative Development Foundation
Farm Credit Council
International Co-operative Alliance
National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Renewables Cooperative Organization
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives
NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
U.S.A. Cooperative Youth Council

REGIONAL AND LOCAL

Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon
Agricultural Council of California
Alabama Council of Cooperatives
Alabama Rural Electric Association
Alaska Power Association
Arkansas Electric Cooperative Accountants Association
Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives
Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives
California Center for Cooperative Development
Colorado Rural Electric Association
Cooperative Council of North Carolina
Cooperative Network
Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas
Electric Power Association of Mississippi
Florida Electric Cooperatives Association
Fruita Consumers Cooperative Association
GEMC Accounting Association
GEMC Suppliers Group
Georgia Rural Electric Managers Association
Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association
Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association
Idaho Cooperative Council
Illinois Cooperative Council



Indiana Cooperative Development Center
Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
Iowa Association of Bookkeepers for Cooperatives
Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Electric Cooperatives
Kansas Rural Electric Cooperative Accountants' Club
Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives
Kentucky Council of Cooperatives
Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Michigan Electric Cooperative Association
Midway Co-op Association
Minnesota Rural Electric Association
Minnesota State Managers Association
Missouri Institute of Co-ops
Montana Agricultural Business Association
Montana Council of Cooperatives
Montana Electric Cooperative Association
Nebraska Cooperative Council
Nebraska Rural Electric Association
Neighboring Food Co-op Association
Nevada Rural Electric Association
New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
North Dakota Co-op Managers Association
Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives
Northeast Cooperative Council
Northwest Cooperative Development Center
Northwest Regional Cooperative Institute
NREA Suppliers Group
Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council
Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives
Oklahoma Electric Cooperative Accountants' Association
Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association
South Dakota Rural Electric Association
Tennessee Council of Cooperatives
Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas Electric Cooperatives
Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Utah Rural Electric Association
Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives
Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association



Wisconsin State Managers Association
Wyoming Rural Electric Association
Yampa Valley Electric Association

OTHER INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY COBANK

NATIONAL

Ag Export Coalition
Agricultural Retailers Association
AllIM International
American Agri-Women
American Coalition for Ethanol
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Jersey Cattle Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
American Water Works Association
Association of Grain Regulatory Officials
C-FARE
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Growth Energy
National Association of Credit Specialists
National Association of Insurance Commissioners
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Water Companies
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Business Economic Issues Council
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Cottonseed Products Association
National Grain & Feed Association
National Hmong American Farmers
National Milk Producers Federation
National Rural Economic Developers Association
National Rural Water Association
National Sorghum Producers
North American Export Grain Association
North American Millers' Association
Produce Marketing Association
Renewable Fuels Foundation

Rural Electric Management Development Council
Smart Electric Power Alliance
Telergree Alliance
Truth About Trade and Technology
United Fresh Produce Association
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Pea & Lentil Trade Association
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
Utilities Telecom Council
Women in Agribusiness
WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband

REGIONAL AND LOCAL

Ag Lenders Society of California
Agribusiness Association of Kentucky
Agribusiness Club of Washington
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Agricultural Council of California
Alabama Cable Telecommunications Association
Alaska Telephone Association
Alliance of Indiana Rural Water
CalCom
California Association of Grower Gins
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Avocado Commission
California Cattlemen's Association
California Certified Organic Farmers
California Cotton Ginners Association
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Farm Water Coalition
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Holstein Association
California Irrigation Institute
California League of Food Processors
California Rural Water Association
California Warehouse Association
California Water Alliance
California Water Association
California Women for Agriculture
Carolina-Virginias Telephone Membership Association

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Central Minnesota Managers Association
CFA Society of Colorado
Colorado Association of Certified
Anti-Money Laundering Specialists
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Colorado Independent Cattlegrowers Association
Colorado Livestock Association
Colorado Rural Water Association
Colorado Society of CPAs
Colorado Telecommunications Association
Colorado Water Congress
Delta Council
District 11 Agri-Women
Dried Fruit Association of California
Evergreen Rural Water of Washington
Farm Grown
Florida Association of Special Districts
Florida Rural Water Association
Food Producers of Idaho
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Rural Water Association
Governors Forum on Colorado Agriculture
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Idaho Wine Commission
Idaho Rural Water Association
Illinois Telecommunications Association
Independent Water & Sewer Companies of Texas
Indiana Telecommunications Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Department of Economic Development
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Rural Water Association
Louisiana Member Services Association
Louisiana Rural Water Association
Louisiana Telecommunications Association
Maine Forest Products Council
Maryland Rural Water Association
Midsouth Grain Association
Mid-West Electric Consumers Association
Minnesota Agri-growth Council
Minnesota Food Association
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Mississippi Rural Water Association
National Association of Water Companies,
New England Chapter
Nebraska Ethanol Industry Coalition
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
Nebraska Public Power District
NESI-SES Association
New Mexico Cattle Grower's Association
New Mexico Rural Water Association
New York State Agricultural Society
New York State Telecommunications Association
New York Wine and Grape Foundation
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Northeastern Association of State Departments of Agriculture
Northwest Public Power Association
Ohio Agribusiness Association
Ohio Rural Water Association
Ohio Telecom Association
Oklahoma Cotton Council
Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association
Oklahoma Rural Water Association
Oregon Telecommunications Association
Pacific Egg & Poultry Association
Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
Plains Ginners Association
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
San Joaquin Valley Winegrowers Association
South Carolina Telecommunications and Broadband Association
South Carolina Rural Water Association
South Dakota Grain and Feed Association
South Texas Country Elevators Association
Southeastern Grain & Feed Association
Southern Minnesota Managers Association
St. Louis Agribusiness Club
Telephone Association of New England
Tennessee Feed and Grain Association
Texas Cotton Association
Texas Cotton Ginners Association
Texas Grain and Feed Association
Texas Rural Electric Women's Association
Texas Rural Water Association
Utah Rural Telecom Association
Virginia Rural Water Association
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington Independent Telephone Association (WTA)
Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western District Power Accountants Association
Western Growers Association
Western Telecommunications Alliance
Western United Dairymen
Wine Market Council
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association

RESEARCH & HIGHER EDUCATION

“At CoBank, we believe that research and education play a vital role in the health of rural America, today and in the future.”

CoBank supports many of the land-grant universities and other institutions throughout the United States that are developing the next generation of farmers, ranchers and rural business leaders. The research they conduct fosters knowledge and innovation that benefits rural industries—from agriculture to energy to international trade in commodities.

As part of its broader corporate citizenship initiative, CoBank partners with these institutions to:

- Fund scholarships that enable promising students to study agribusiness, finance, business administration and related disciplines
- Endow professorships to support research and instruction in fields such as commodities and agricultural economics
- Provide financial support for university centers focused on the study and advancement of cooperatives, including the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center at Kansas State University, the Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership at the University of Missouri, and the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives at North Dakota State University
- Support university programs that foster and promote agricultural sciences and related fields among minority students
- Support university programs that are creating best-in-class tools and curriculum to address the fundamental issue of risk management with a primary focus on agricultural markets



RESEARCH & EDUCATION
UNIVERSITIES SUPPORTED BY COBANK

NATIONAL MIGRANT SCHOLARS INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE is a partnership between Michigan State University and CoBank. The program provides paid scholarships for students participating in the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). CAMP students are first-generation college students and the children of migrant farm workers. CoBank's most recent grant enabled Michigan State to expand the internship program to an additional eight universities across the country.

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY is creating a 10-acre Heritage Farm that will educate visitors on the state's vibrant agriculture industry. The farm will feature an array of New Mexico crops, including pecans, cotton, alfalfa, hops, grapes, chile peppers, silage grasses, onions and much more. CoBank is proud to partner with Farm Credit of New Mexico to support this innovative project.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO MEDICAL SCHOOL'S RURAL TRACK is a program of specialized coursework, internships and rotations that specifically focus on the healthcare needs of rural communities. CoBank has created several multi-year scholarships for students who have indicated their intent to practice rural medicine. The ultimate goal of the program and the CoBank scholarships is an increase in the number of CU medical school graduates who eventually enter and remain in practice throughout rural America.

In addition to its major, multi-year commitments to universities focused on agricultural research and education, CoBank has partnered with customers to make grants to several community or technical colleges that are providing vocational training to help produce the technicians and other skilled service people who are so vital to rural industries and communities.



CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 1 AUBURN UNIVERSITY**
CoBank Endowed Scholarship
in the College of Agriculture
- 2 CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY**
SAN LUIS OBISPO
Farm Credit Appraisal Chair
- 3 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FRESNO**
Farm Credit Multicultural Scholars in Agriculture
- 4 COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**
CoBank Center for Agricultural Education
- 5 CORNELL UNIVERSITY**
CoBank/Farm Credit East Sesquicentennial
Faculty Fellowship
- 6 ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY**
CoBank Fund for Agriculture
- 7 IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**
CoBank Fund for Excellence
in Cooperative Economics
- 8 KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**
Arthur Capper Cooperative Center;
CoBank Excellence Fund for
Cooperative Education and Research
- 9 MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Montana Plant Sciences Chair; Nancy Cameron
Endowed Chair in Range Beef Cattle Production
- 10 NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**
CoBank Endowed Student Leadership Fund;
NMSU Heritage Farm
- 11 NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives
and NDSU Commodity Trading Program;
Center for Risk and Trade
- 12 OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**
Center for Cooperative, Business and
Community Education and Development
- 13 OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**
National Energy Solutions Institute (NESI);
Oklahoma Farm Credit Professorship
in Agricultural Economics
- 14 OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**
CoBank Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources
and Related Sciences Endowed Scholarship Fund;
Oregon Forest Science Complex
- 15 PURDUE UNIVERSITY**
CoBank Purdue Agribusiness Impact Fund
- 16 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Trading Floor Laboratory/Curriculum Development
- 17 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**
Cooperative Excellence Fund
- 18 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**
Larry Combest Chair Endowment
for Agricultural Education
- 19 UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS**
Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
- 20 UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA**
Dean's Industry Leadership Program
- 21 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS**
Ethnic Farmer Project Fund
- 22 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**
Center for Commodities
- 23 UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO**
Barker Trading Program, Professorship in
Ag Economics and Rural Sociology
- 24 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**
James F. Evans Endowed Chair in Agricultural
Communications/Experiential Learning
- 25 UNIVERSITY OF MAINE**
Farm Credit Assistant Professorship of
Production Economics and Natural Resources
- 26 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**
Cooperative Research and Education
- 27 UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**
CoBank Endowed Scholarship Fund
- 28 UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA LINCOLN**
Agricultural Economics Commodities
Trading Room
- 29 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT**
College of Ag Food Systems
Transdisciplinary Research
- 30 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN**
UW Center for Cooperative Initiatives Fund
- 31 UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY**
CoBank Scholarship in the College of
Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 32 WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY**
Center for Transformational Learning
and Leadership

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



CoBank has partnered with Kansas State University and the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center to provide innovative educational programs for existing and emerging cooperative leaders.



K-State was the first operational land-grant university in the United States.

At Kansas State University, the roots of agricultural research and education run deep. Established in 1858, K-State was the first operational land-grant university in the United States. Today, the university's College of Agriculture serves nearly 2,700 undergraduates and more than 350 graduate students. It is also home to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC), a leader in cooperative research.

CoBank has been a strong supporter of the university and the cooperative center for more than 30 years, providing funding for scholarships, cooperative education and industry roundtables. One of the most recently funded initiatives is the CoBank Research Fellowship program, which is designed to integrate academic research more closely with the real-world needs of industry. The program is open to Kansas State faculty and staff, as well as graduate students studying agricultural economics. Applications for the extremely competitive fellowship are reviewed by an advisory council made up of cooperative leaders, academics and business people; applicants are judged on the quality of their proposals and their ability to impact industry.

"Our K-State relationship is a great demonstration of how business and industry can partner with academia to develop meaningful research with solid, practical applications," said Amy Gales, CoBank's executive vice president of agribusiness banking. "The programs we have funded and helped to develop are creating tangible results that benefit CoBank, our staff, our customers and the industry as a whole. I personally appreciate the university's ability to approach research from the perspective of the business world."

In addition to its research support, CoBank offers scholarships to outstanding students in Kansas State's agricultural programs. More



Brian Briggeman (foreground), director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, works closely with CoBank and other industry leaders to create and award scholarships to outstanding students in the university's agricultural programs. Recent scholarship recipients include (left to right) Karly Frederick, Kristin Stiebe and Lindy Bilberry.

than \$65,000 in scholarships have been awarded in the past 10 years.

KSU senior Karly Frederick was a recipient of a CoBank scholarship and interned in the bank's Wichita office.

"I grew up on a family farm, so my passion for agriculture started when I was young," says Frederick. "At K-State I am studying agricultural business with a minor in leadership. I feel that my degree is molding me to think globally and contemplate how to feed this ever-growing world, while also helping me to learn how to crunch numbers and run a business efficiently and effectively. I have truly loved my K-State experience and am extremely appreciative of CoBank's generous support."

"The impact of CoBank's giving at Kansas State is incredible," says Brian Briggeman, director of ACCC and an associate professor at the university. "It has increased our ability to meet the needs of the cooperative system by developing targeted educational programs and by helping outstanding students to achieve their educational goals. It has expanded the opportunity to conduct research by adding valuable resources to the university, the ag department and the Arthur Capper Center. We are so grateful to CoBank for their sponsorship and look forward to many more years of partnership."

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

“CoBank is making investments designed to spur job growth and economic development in rural communities.”

CoBank delivers tens of billions of dollars in debt capital each year to agribusiness, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit associations that serve farmers and ranchers throughout the country. But the bank is supporting rural community development in other ways as well.

CoBank is making investments designed to spur job growth and economic development in rural communities. It has also joined with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in a public-private partnership designed to enhance the flow of capital to infrastructure projects in rural communities, including power, water, communications and community facilities.

MIDWEST GROWTH PARTNERS FUND

CoBank has partnered with Central Iowa Power Cooperative to form Midwest Growth Partners, a \$41 million private equity fund designed to strengthen the economic fabric of Midwestern communities by making equity capital available to rural America. The fund invests in growth-oriented companies in the upper Midwest with a goal of helping these businesses to reach

their full potential and generating jobs within their communities. Co-managed by Capital Management Associates and Top Tier Holdings, the fund provides succession planning liquidity for retiring business owners along with growth capital for established businesses seeking to expand. One company that has received capital from the fund is Technical Threads, a light manufacturer and value-added distributor of industrial fasteners and fluid sealing gaskets based in Franklin, Indiana. Its products, including studs, hex bolts, nuts, washers and more, are used for heavy industrial applications.

ADVANTAGE CAPITAL AGRIBUSINESS FUND

CoBank and eight other Farm Credit institutions have joined to invest in a \$155 million equity fund formed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Business Investment Program. Administered by Advantage Capital Partners, a leading growth capital and small business finance firm, the fund focuses on investments that help rural communities and industries, with an emphasis on production agriculture, processing and marketing of agricultural products, farm supply, input suppliers and rural infrastructure providers.



Through December 2016, the fund had invested over \$52 million in a variety of companies, including Pacific Ag, LLC, which harvests crop residue from farmers' fields and turns it into animal feed, biofuels and other useful products.

INNOVA AG INNOVATION FUND

In December 2016, CoBank, along with seven other Farm Credit institutions, invested in a new Rural Business Investment Company that will be managed by Innova, a Memphis-based venture capital business focused on biosciences and agritech. The fund will focus on growing early-stage companies that develop advanced technology solutions for the challenges faced by farmers and agriculture-related businesses. Other Farm Credit organizations in the venture include AgriBank, AgStar Financial Services, Farm Credit Bank of Texas, Farm Credit Services of America, FCS Financial, Farm Credit Mid-America and Farm Credit Services of Western Arkansas.

U.S. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITY FUND

The U.S. Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund is a public-private partnership launched by USDA in 2014 to source private capital for rural

infrastructure projects. Target investments for this initiative include rural community facilities, water and wastewater systems, rural energy projects, rural broadband and agribusiness. CoBank provides loans alongside USDA and other private sources of financing to achieve the goals of the RIOF, subject to CoBank lending authorities and underwriting requirements.

RURAL DEBT OBLIGATIONS

CoBank partners with other Farm Credit organizations, the USDA, community banks and rural communities to support bond investments in agriculture and community facilities in rural areas, with a primary focus on rural healthcare. Over the past five years, CoBank and partner Farm Credit organizations have facilitated over \$300 million of community facility bond investments and CoBank currently has over \$150 million in potential investments in its pipeline. Local banks and Farm Credit organizations are typically part of the investment group in each project. These investments provide vital debt capital to projects that likely would not receive private funds without Farm Credit participation.

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL



Cook County North Shore Hospital and Care Center, the only critical-access hospital serving Minnesota's Cook and Lake counties, is a lifeline to the community. A renovation currently under way will modernize the facility, thanks to funding provided partly by CoBank.

Located on the shores of Lake Superior, Grand Marais, Minnesota, is a town of approximately 1,300 people. This picturesque community offers ample recreational opportunities, but just one hospital. Cook County North Shore Hospital and Care Center, with 16 beds, has been identified as a critical provider of medical services to the region's rural residents.

"We're in a beautiful part of the country, but we're very remote," says Kimber Wraalstad, administrator and CEO. "The next-closest hospital is more than 80 miles and a 90-minute drive away. That makes Cook County Hospital and the services we provide a real lifeline to this community."

The hospital offers 24-hour emergency services, inpatient care and outpatient services. The attached skilled nursing facility serves a mixed population of frail elderly, cognitively impaired, and chronically ill residents.

In 2014, the hospital began seeking funding for improvements to its facilities that would allow it to continue providing essential medical services while making modifications required by changing medical and regulatory environments.

"Medicine has evolved a lot since the hospital was built more than 50 years ago," says Wraalstad.

"We needed to alter the physical layout of our building in order to stay flexible and to meet the current needs of health care. Once completed, this project will provide the updated wiring necessary to operate our computer systems and the space we need to offer a new surgery room, separate bays in our emergency room and private rooms and bathrooms in our nursing home."

CoBank joined four local community banks and its Farm Credit partner, AgStar Financial Services, to provide the required funding for the facility's upgrades, and construction began in 2016.

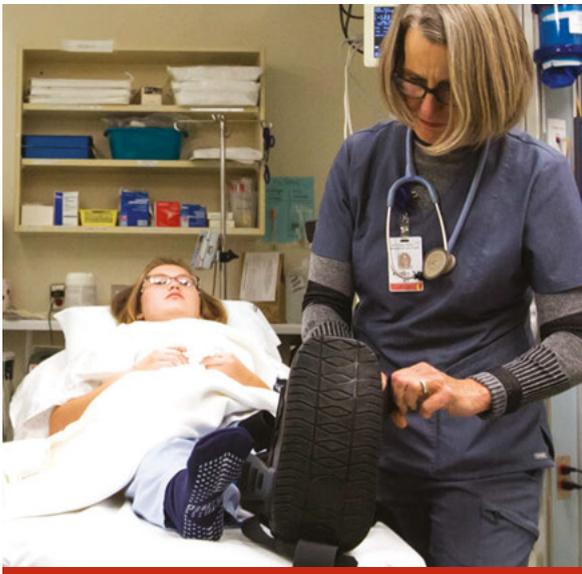


The hospital offers 24-hour emergency services, inpatient care and outpatient services.

"One of the most basic needs of rural communities is easy access to quality health care," says Hunter Hook, senior relationship manager with CoBank. "Projects like this sustain the vibrancy of these communities and ensure that they have the same access to essential services as their metropolitan counterparts."

Bob Madsen, vice president of Rural Capital Networks for AgStar, says the project is "a great example of Farm Credit working in partnership with local banks and other partners for the benefit of rural communities. Each of our partners was absolutely vital to the successful completion of this complicated transaction."

"We've had tremendous support from CoBank and Farm Credit," says Wraalstad. "And I know our local bank partners are solidly behind us. They understood from the start that the changes we are making are not about luxury. They're about necessity. They will enable us to remain compliant with government privacy regulations and will have a tremendous impact on our infection-control efforts. Ultimately, they will allow us to stay relevant and to remain a reliable resource for this community."



"We needed to alter the physical layout of our building in order to stay flexible and to meet the current needs of health care," says Kimber Wraalstad, CEO.

SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMENT

“CoBank is one of the
nation’s largest financiers
of renewable energy.”

At CoBank, we believe that a commitment to sustainability and the environment is an integral part of good corporate citizenship. It’s about making life better now in the communities where our employees and customers live and work, while helping to ensure a better, healthier future.

We are proud to serve as the financial partner of electric cooperatives and other rural power providers across the United States. With capital from CoBank, many of these progressive organizations are making forward-looking investments in renewable energy generation systems, including wind, solar, hydro, biomass and landfill gas.

Today, CoBank’s energy portfolio includes nearly \$2.8 billion in outstanding loans and leases for renewable energy projects. That makes us one of the largest underwriters of renewable energy in the country—a leadership position we’re committed to maintaining in the future.

In addition to financing renewable energy systems, CoBank has taken meaningful steps to reduce

the environmental impact of its own business operations. The bank offsets more than 50 percent of its Colorado power usage through the purchase of renewable wind generation credits; operates a bank-wide recycling program; purchases hybrid vehicles for its business fleet; and provides special passes to all Denver associates that allow them to commute to work using city buses and light rail.

CoBank’s 11-story headquarters facility is LEED Silver certified in recognition of its best-in-class building strategies and practices. The building’s many environmentally friendly features include:

- Availability of electric car charging stations on the premises
- Use of photo sensors that measure daylight and activity in the building and automatically adjust lighting levels to save energy
- Installation of water-efficient systems that reduce overall water usage

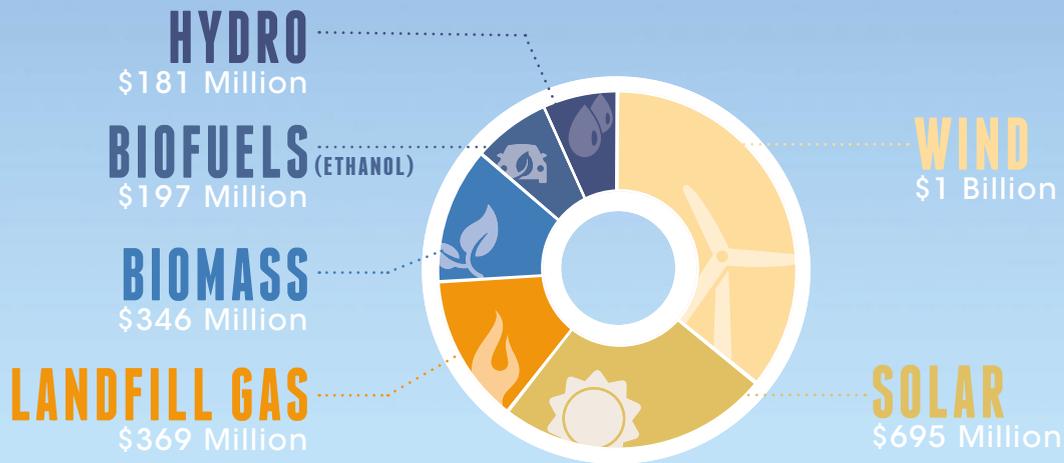


In 2016, CoBank also partnered with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives to support the development of a "sustainability field guide," which will offer practical information to complement the existing sustainability programs of member cooperatives or assist in the creation of new programs.

While there is no single accepted definition of the term, NCFC and its member organizations believe that sustainability includes not only environmental stewardship, but also a focus on economic viability and community well-being. CoBank has provided \$300,000 in funding to support the development of this innovative program.

\$2.8 BILLION

RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO



— SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMENT —

BLOCK ISLAND WIND FARM

In December 2016, CoBank customer Deepwater Wind, which is majority-owned by affiliates of D.E. Shaw & Co., completed the first offshore wind project in U.S. history. Located off the coast of Rhode Island, Block Island was the last populated island in the Northeast not connected to a mainland power grid. Instead, this rural community of approximately 1,000 year-round residents relied on diesel fuel and generators built in the 1960s to meet its power needs.

The community began considering large-scale renewable energy generation in 2007. The high cost of diesel fuel and its transportation to the island, maintenance of the aging generators and environmental issues were real concerns for residents. More than half of the land on Block Island is designated for conservation, so a focus on sustainability and the environment is very much a part of the community's culture. In addition, the state of Rhode Island had set very ambitious goals for incorporating renewables into its energy portfolio.

In 2008 the state held a competition soliciting proposals for renewable energy projects. The winner of that competition, Deepwater Wind, proposed a utility-scale project that could act as a test case for offshore wind in the United States. In addition to providing power to Block Island, Deepwater's proposal would contribute meaningfully to Rhode Island's renewable energy mandate, returning a substantial amount of energy to the mainland power grid. Planning and review for this first-of-its-kind project was extensive and construction did not begin until early 2015.

"D.E. Shaw engaged heavily with all potential stakeholders," says David Hang, chief financial officer of Deepwater Wind Block Island, LLC. "It was important to make sure everyone was on board with the project. We worked closely with Block Island community members, conservationists and regulators to address concerns related to wildlife and the environment."



Construction on the Block Island Wind Farm began in 2015 and was completed in December 2016.



Block Island residents are enthusiastic about the estimated 40 percent reduction in energy rates.

In 2015, CoBank and several other financial institutions became part of the Block Island project, providing the necessary construction financing to make it a reality.

“The Block Island Wind Farm required an extremely complicated financial transaction. It was something brand new for the U.S., so there were risk factors to consider. It was also funded without an upfront commitment from tax equity investors, which is unusual for this kind of transaction,” says Hang. “When putting together our team of financial partners, CoBank was an obvious choice. We have worked with the bank on five other projects, so we had an established relationship and felt that they truly understood our business.”

The Block Island Wind Farm was completed in December 2016. The 30-megawatt, five-turbine facility is capable of powering approximately 17,000 homes. It will meet more than 90 percent of the island’s power needs and send more back

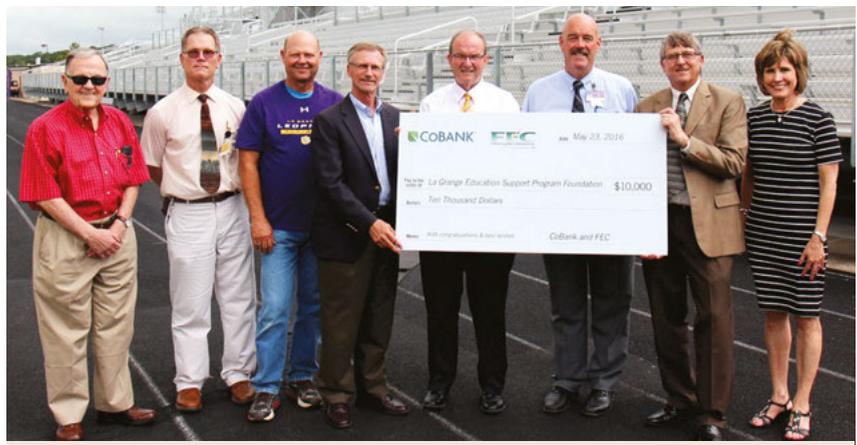
to the state’s grid. Additionally, it is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 40,000 tons per year. Initial feedback from the community has been very positive. Residents are enthusiastic about the retirement of the old diesel generators and the estimated 40 percent reduction in energy rates. While offshore wind’s full potential has yet to be realized, it represents a tremendous milestone for wind development in the United States and for renewable energy in general.

“CoBank has built one of the largest portfolios of renewable energy financing in the country,” said Brian Goldstein, sector vice president, Project Finance. “It is not only an important part of our business, but also part of our commitment to sustainability and supporting the long-term health of the communities we serve. We’re delighted to be part of the financing strategy for Block Island and to help make such an exciting project a reality.”



The 30-megawatt, five-turbine facility is capable of powering approximately 17,000 homes and will meet more than 90 percent of the island’s power needs.

GIVING BACK



OFFICE LOCATIONS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

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U.S. REGIONAL OFFICES

AMES BANKING CENTER

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ATLANTA BANKING CENTER*

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AUSTIN BANKING CENTER

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ENFIELD BANKING CENTER*

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(800) 876-3227
FCL: (860) 814-4049

FARGO BANKING CENTER

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(800) 378-5577

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* Farm Credit Leasing office within this CoBank location

** Farm Credit Leasing office only

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