

Farm Credit of the Virginias

6/10/2020 Customer Email Send (Text version)

Subject: Extending Services and Support for our Customers and Communities

To our valued customer-owners and friends,

As the Coronavirus pandemic continues to impact the daily lives of virtually all rural community members, Farm Credit of the Virginias remains agile in our approach to assist you during these trying times. We understand you may be experiencing increased financial stress, and we encourage you to keep your loan officer informed of your changing needs so that they can best respond and support you. We're continuing to leverage the flexibilities afforded by our cooperative structure, financial strength and industry expertise to serve our customer-owners negatively impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic in the following ways:

- Extending the terms of loan repayments
- Restructuring members' debt obligations
- Offering Payment Deferment for 90 or 180 days. (Note: previous Deferment Program allowed for deferments for up to 3 months. Should you wish to discuss a new or additional deferment period, please contact your loan officer for details.)
- Working with customer-owners to understand potential shifts in their situation due to COVID-19 and finding solutions that best fit their individual needs
- Providing 24/7 online access to your accounts via [AccountAccess](#) found on our website. [View our step-by-step guide for setting up your online account \[farmcreditofvirginias.com\]](#).

For several weeks, many members of the Farm Credit team have been working together to develop plans to ensure we can safely return to our offices and resume in-person customer communication. As this work progresses, the safety of our employees and customer-owners remains our highest priority.

At this time, our branches remain closed to the public, and we're continuing to limit the number of personnel inside our branch offices, while practicing social distancing as recommended by the CDC. During the month of June, we have begun to slowly bring limited staff back to our offices, and will continue to phase-in additional team members as it is safe to do so. Our lending team will begin making visits with customer-owners at their farms or businesses on a limited basis. When we do so, we will maintain the strictest adherence to safety protocols including social distancing, wearing face coverings, limiting contact, and enhanced sanitation.

Like many of you, our plan remains fluid as we continue to monitor public health conditions and we'll adapt as necessary. Please consult the [Farm Credit of the Virginias website \[farmcreditofvirginias.com\]](#) for timely updates regarding our COVID-19 responses.

USDA Announces CFAP Webinars

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced a [webinar series \[fsa.usda.gov\]](#) for producers providing more info about the [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \[farmers.gov\]](#) (CFAP). The webinars will cover CFAP program basics and the process to request support for commodities not eligible for the initial funding.

Preregistration links and more info for the following webinars will be available at the [FSA webinar page \[fsa.usda.gov\]](https://fsa.usda.gov)

- June 11, 3 p.m. ET – Outreach CFAP Webinar for Dairy & Non-Specialty Crops Producers
- June 16, 3 p.m. ET – Outreach CFAP Webinar for Non-Specialty Crops & Livestock Producers
- June 18, 3 p.m. ET – Outreach CFAP Webinar on FSA Programs in the Time of Coronavirus

June 22 is the deadline to [submit additional commodities for inclusion in CFAP \[beta.regulations.gov\]](https://beta.regulations.gov)

USDA has created a CFAP call center for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP application process. Call 877-5088364 to speak to a USDA employee directly.

Farm Credit Gives Back to Institutions Supporting our Rural Communities

In an effort to support our rural communities, particularly those individuals working in essential roles and on the front lines of the healthcare workforce, we approved funding for each of our branch locations to provide a \$250 monetary donation to a local organization of their choice or provide a meal to a local first-responder unit or institution benefiting the community in their footprint.

Some of the beneficiaries included:

- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Staunton Administrative Office
- Hampshire County Sheriff's Office, Romney Branch
- Feeding Seniors/Saving Businesses, Lewisburg Branch
- Jackson General Hospital, Ripley Branch
- Sentara RMH Medical Center, Verona Branch
- Love Outreach Food Pantry, Orange Branch
- Harvest Child Care Ministries, Gate City Branch
- Feeding America Southwest Virginia, Abingdon Branch
- Local Food Hub, Charlottesville Branch

We are so thankful for our frontline workers, *including our farmers!* As a secondary form of sharing our support for the individuals keeping our rural communities strong, our team members shared messages of gratitude to social media. From the men and women maintaining our food and fiber system, to the healthcare professionals navigating uncharted territory, and all of the essential workers in between, we'd like to echo our thanks!

Farm Credit Celebrates June Dairy Month on Social Media

June Dairy Month is here! Keep an eye on our social channels (all social links available at the bottom of this email) this month for opportunities to engage with us in support of our hard-working dairy farmers!

This week, we've launched a virtual dairy toast photo contest! Join us in raising a tall glass of milk (or your fave dairy product) in honor of our hard-working producers. Head over to Facebook to learn more and get involved!

Farm Credit Knowledge Center

Agritourism: Considerations for Success (Live Webinar)

Join us for an introduction to Agritourism on **Wednesday, June 17th, 2020 from 12 PM to 1 PM EDT.**

This educational webinar will cover topics ranging from setting goals, to structuring your business and marketing your products. You won't want to miss out on this lunch and learn opportunity! Learn more: <https://bit.ly/2ANogl2> [bit.ly]

Access the following link to join the live webinar: <https://bit.ly/2BIQgXr> [bit.ly] If you missed a lunch and learn webinar, we will air the recording for 24 hours the following week via "Watch It Back Wednesday"- [Follow the Knowledge Center Facebook page](#) for more details.

Farm Credit University Ag Biz Planner

Are you a young, beginning, small and/or minority farmer looking to take your operation to the next level? You're in luck, the Farm Credit Knowledge Center is now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 Farm Credit University Ag Biz Planner course.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3bzVPnz> [bit.ly]