

**Statement**  
**Dallas Tonsager, Board Member**  
**Farm Credit Administration Board Meeting**  
**October 13, 2016**

During this month of October, I would like to recognize the value and importance of cooperative business structures like the Farm Credit System (System). The System has been successful in large part because of the cooperative principles that guide the operations and decisions of each System bank and association: self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and social responsibility.

Agricultural and utility cooperatives are significant borrowers of the System and are integral to rural America and American agriculture. The member-borrowers of System institutions are the farmers and ranchers in their communities who have an interest in ensuring not only the value of their institution but also the productivity of agriculture and the rural communities that are served by the System institution.

I commend Congress, in its wisdom, for creating the Farm Credit System as a cooperative structure and all of the agricultural producers who have created cooperatives to better serve their agricultural needs and the needs of their rural communities.