

July 22, 2008  
1805 Sunray Avenue  
Mankato, MN. 56001

08 JUL 25 14:14:57

Gary K. Van Meter  
Deputy Director  
Office of Regulatory Policy  
Farm Credit Administration  
1501 Farm Credit Drive  
McLean VA 22102-5090

RE: Mission-Related and Rural Community Investments

Dear Mr. Van Meter,

U. S. agriculture depends on rural communities to support the related businesses and markets critical to their farming success but also to provide off-farm employment which is more critical than ever for many of today's farm families. Rural communities often lag behind metropolitan areas in essential infrastructure, services and facilities, in areas such as transportation, health care, education and others that would drive employment and economic opportunities to those rural areas. In order to keep pace, let alone survive, America's rural communities need improved and reliable access to funds that support new investments in rural communities and allow for improvements in the existing infrastructure. I feel these are essential in keeping the younger generation in the rural communities where they cannot only exist, but thrive.

The Farm Credit Administration's proposed rule to enable Farm Credit institutions to make mission-related investments in rural communities is a step in the right direction. This proposal allows those closest to rural areas, the farmer and cooperative owners of Farm Credit institutions, to support their communities by making critically needed investments in the future of those rural communities. I not only support what this proposed rule is striving to accomplish but urge the Farm Credit Administration to move it forward in the regulatory development process. Thank you for supporting rural America.

  
Joyce R. Rohrbaugh