



289 Hurricane Lane, Suite 102  
P.O. Box 467  
Williston, Vermont 05495  
802/879-4700 FAX 802/878-0360  
www.yankeeaca.com

## **Yankee Farm Credit, ACA**

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August 13, 2008

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

RE: Rural Community and Mission-Related Investments

Dear Mr. Van Meter:

On behalf of Yankee Farm Credit, I am pleased to provide comments on Mission-Related and Rural Community Investments. We strongly support the proposed rule and urge FCA to proceed with adoption of the rule.

Yankee Farm Credit is a finance cooperative serving 1,200 customers in the state of Vermont and parts of New York and New Hampshire. Yankee is the largest agricultural lender in Vermont and in the parts of New Hampshire and New York that we serve. Our portfolio includes dairy, forest products, livestock and specialty crops.

Farmers depend on local communities and rural residents to help support related businesses and for market opportunities critical to their success. The fact is that we have a large number of small farm operations in our area – many of these are involved in direct marketing to local residents. Small farms make important contributions to our rural communities, but small farm operators are often dependent on off-the-farm income for economic success. Investments that will spur economic development in rural areas will help create rural employment and provide a direct benefit to our farmer-owners. This is an important authority for Farm Credit to fulfill its mission.

Yankee Farm Credit works closely with the Vermont Department of Agriculture and the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) in support of agriculturally related efforts. Our current authorities limit our ability to work on important rural business and infrastructure projects. The mission related and rural community investment authority will enable us to work more closely with other commercial lenders and economic development agencies on rural infrastructure projects to support the area we serve.

Thank you for your consideration and concern for rural America.

Sincerely,

George S. Putnam  
President and CEO