

**Honorable Michael M. Reyna
Chairman and CEO
Farm Credit Administration
Statement in Response to the Attack on America
September 17, 2001**

Last week, the unthinkable happened: the United States was attacked and innocent American citizens died ... not on foreign soil ... but our own. We were, however, not alone ... there were people from 63 different countries who died in this tragedy as well. Some of them were Americans and others were not ... there were many people of different races, ethnicities and religions.

Like a burglar who breaks into a home and steals things of value ... America's sense of safety and security has been stolen by this attack. This is America's national nightmare.

Towering and strong buildings ... symbols of America's economic strength and military might ... crumbled and fell ... and took with them the lives of mothers and fathers ... husbands and wives ... brothers and sisters ... friends and loved ones ... and so many, many more. Sadly ... the skyline of countless American families has changed forever. Steel and concrete can rebuild buildings ... it will take our support and prayers to repair damaged families and lives.

Today is a new day in this country. I have great confidence that our leaders will chart an appropriate course of action. We are now just beginning to understand how different life will be in America going forward. One thing is certain ... patience will be in high demand.

Character shines through during adversity. America's national character has certainly shined brightly over the last few days, as demonstrated time and time again by acts of kindness large and small.

No doubt the images and personal stories of the last several days have prompted many of you to acts of kindness and generosity. To those of you who have given of your time ... your money ... and even yourself by, for example, donating blood ... let me say thank you.

I have spoken to many of you ... and I know you are prepared to do more ... and I know you want to do more ... I know this because you are asking what else you can do to help. As a way to help you channel your kindness and generosity, I have asked agency personnel to develop a list of ways you can provide assistance. This list will be forthcoming. Please consider helping in any way you can — more people than ever are counting on your support.

One final note ... this senseless attack was carried out by individuals ... and ... the individuals responsible for the attack should be held accountable and brought to justice and punished accordingly, with the truth as our guide. We know better than our attackers that it is wrong to judge people by their country of origin ... or race ... or ethnicity ... or religion.

There is no justification for words and actions filled with hate — but then again, last week's tragedy proved that ... didn't it? Again, thank you. God bless you ... and God bless America.