Vincent G. Logan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jeffery S. Hall, Board Member Glen R. Smith, Board Member



# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD June 13, 2024

These minutes reflect the business transacted at the June 13, 2024, regular meeting of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) Board pursuant to the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552b, and the regulations of the FCA adopted thereunder.

The meeting was held at the FCA office in McLean, Virginia. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and concluded at 10:51 a.m. The meeting was a hybrid physical/virtual meeting.

Members of the Board present were:

Vincent G. Logan, Chairman and CEO Jeffery S. Hall, Member Glen R. Smith, Member

The above named constitute the full Board.

Others present included **Ashley Waldron**, Secretary to the Board; **David Grahn**, General Counsel; and staff of the FCA and Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (FCSIC). There were eight members of the general public in attendance. (A list of Board and staff attendees is attached as Exhibit A.)

**Chairman Logan** called the meeting to order.

The **Secretary** addressed technical and protocol items and read a statement that announced the meeting would be conducted according to Government in the Sunshine Act requirements.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Chairman Logan** reviewed the published agenda. (A copy of the Public Announcement publishing the agenda for the meeting is attached as Exhibit B.)

Mr. Hall moved to adopt the agenda as published.

Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, **Chairman Logan** called the question.

The **Secretary** polled the Board Members and the motion carried unanimously.

#### CONSIDERATION TO CLOSE PORTIONS OF THE MEETING

**Mr. Smith** noted that the agenda did not include portions of the meeting that should be closed to the public as permitted by the Government in the Sunshine Act and therefore moved that the entire meeting remain open.

Mr. Hall seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, **Chairman Logan** called the question.

The **Secretary** polled the Board Members and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **OPEN SESSION**

## Approval of Minutes Minutes for May 9, 2024

(BM-13-JUN-24-01)

**Mr. Hall** moved to approve the minutes for the May 9, 2024, FCA regular board meeting, as presented.

Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, **Chairman Logan** called the question.

The **Secretary** polled the Board Members and the motion carried unanimously. **(BM-13-JUN-24-01)** 

(A copy of the official "Board Action Item" is attached as Exhibit C.)

#### Reports

## **Quarterly Report on Economic Conditions and Farm Credit System Condition and Performance**

**Greg Lyons** of the **Office of Data Analytics and Economics** and **Lun Nguyen** of the **Office of Examination** presented the Quarterly Report on Economic Conditions and Farm Credit System Condition and Performance.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached as Exhibit D.)

#### **Semiannual Report on Office of Examination Operations**

**Chelsea Mercer** and **Nicole Peek** of the **Office of Examination** presented the Semiannual Report on Office of Examination Operations.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached as Exhibit E.)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Chairman Logan** indicated he would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Mr. Smith** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Mr. Hall seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, **Chairman Logan** called the question.

The **Secretary** polled the Board Members and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

#### **NOTATIONAL VOTE ACTIONS**

There were three notational vote actions approved by the FCA Board from May 9, 2024, through June 12, 2024.

Item Number	Action Date	Voting Results	Subject
NV 24-07	5/10/2024	Approved	Spring 2024 Abstract Update to the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, Executive Order 12866 Annual Review of Significant Regulatory Actions, and Spring 2024 Regulatory Plan
NV 24-08	5/23/2024	Approved	Amendments to FCA Board Policy Statement 64 – Rules for the Transaction of Business of the FCA Board
NV 24-09	6/10/2024	Approved	Delegation of Authority to Approve Certain Capital-Related Requests

The undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are the official minutes of the regular meeting of the Farm Credit Administration Board held on June 13, 2024.

/s/	/s/
Vincent G. Logan	Ashley Waldron
Chairman and CEO	Secretary to the Board

Approved: July 11, 2024

# BOARD AND STAFF PRESENT AT THE FCA REGULAR BOARD MEETING June 13, 2024

Vincent G. Logan, Chairman and CEO Jeffery S. Hall, Board Member Glen R. Smith, Board Member

ATTENDEES	OPEN SESSION	
Office of the Board		
Logan, Vincent	X	
Hall, Jeffery	X	
Smith, Glen	X	
Lund, Zachary	X	
Donner, Mary Alice	X	
Stokke, Michael	X	
Greer, Kristin	X	
Calhoun, Gaye	X	
Lewandrowski, Barbara	X	
Waldron, Ashley	X	
ocos		
Duran, Maribel	X	
Coleman, Robert	X	
Cunningham, Lesley	X	
Diaz, Mauricio	X	
OEEOI		
Burlew, Thais	X	
Fish, Tyler	X	
Major, Sara Lynn	X	
OIT		
Versace, Jerry	X	
Matos, Ricardo	X	
Rana, Ben	X	
ОСРА		
Reuschel, Trevor	X	
Rezendes, Andrew	X	
OGC		
Grahn, David	X	
OE		
Duffy, Mike	X	
Fennewald, Dan	X	
Greenlee, Angela	X	
Nguyen, Lun	X	
Mercer, Chelsea	X	
Peek, Nicole	X	
Holmes, Graham	X	
ODAE		
Shields, Dennis	X	

ATTENDEES	OPEN SESSION	
Lyons, Greg	X	
OIG		
Laguarda, Wendy	X	
Miller, Kevin	X	
OSMO		
Fay, Thomas	X	
Hudson, Bruce	X	
ORP		
Kramp, Kevin	X	
Agans, Autumn	X	
OCFO		
Gandy, Doug	X	
OAS		
Bell, Vonda	X	
Adkins, Byron	X	
FCSIC		
Simonson, John	X	
Wynn, Wade	X	
Morgan, Matthew	X	
Bowen, Mark	X	
GENERAL PUBLIC	8	

#### **Farm Credit Administration**

1501 Farm Credit Drive McLean, VA 22102-5090 (703) 883-4000



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE ACT

#### Farm Credit Administration Board Regular Meeting June 13, 2024

TIME AND DATE: 10 a.m., Thursday, June 13, 2024.

**PLACE:** You may observe this meeting in person at 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090, or virtually. If you would like to observe, at least 24 hours in advance, visit FCA.gov, select "Newsroom," then select "Events." From there, access the linked "Instructions for board meeting visitors" and complete the described registration process.

**STATUS:** This meeting will be open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The following matters will be considered:

- Approval of Minutes for May 9, 2024
- Quarterly Report on Economic Conditions and Farm Credit System Condition and Performance
- Semiannual Report on Office of Examination Operations

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: If you need more information or assistance
for accessibility reasons, or have questions, contact Ashley Waldron, Secretary to the Board.
Telephone: 703-883-4009. TTY: 703-883-4056.

/s/
Ashley Waldron
Secretary to the Board

#### **Farm Credit Administration**

1501 Farm Credit Drive McLean, VA 22102-5090 (703) 883-4000

#### **BOARD ACTION ITEM**



#### **FCA BOARD ACTION ON**

Minutes for May 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

BM-13-JUN-24-01

Effective Date: June 13, 2024

**Impact on Prior Board Actions: None** 

#### THE FCA BOARD HEREBY:

• Approves the minutes for the May 9, 2024, regular Board meeting, as presented.

DATED THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2024 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

/s/ Ashley Waldron Secretary to the Board

## **Exhibit D**



# **Quarterly Report on Economic Conditions and Farm Credit System Condition and Performance**

June 13, 2024

Greg Lyons — Senior Economist,
Office of Data Analytics and Economics

Lun Nguyen — Supervisory Senior Examiner,
Office of Examination





# **Topics for Open Session**

## Economic Conditions Affecting the Farm Credit System

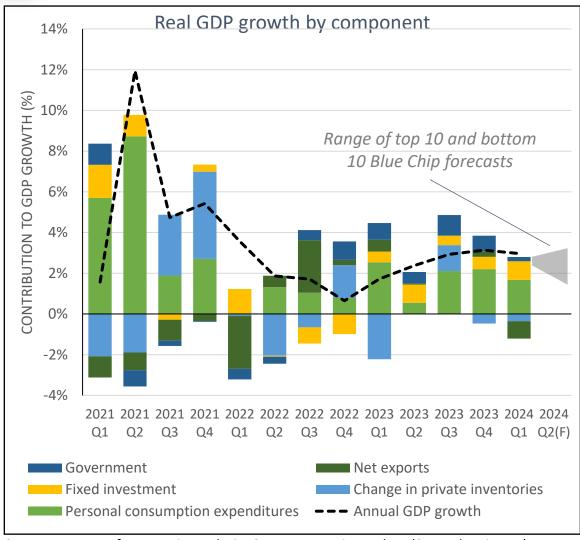
- Macroeconomic conditions
- Agricultural incomes
- ► Farmland markets

## Farm Credit System Condition and Performance

- System growth and loan portfolio
- Earnings and capital
- ► Financial Institution Rating System (FIRS)



# Slow growth forecast for 2024, with downside risk



### GDP forecasts slip, but remain positive

- Growth expectations below 2023 levels
- 12-month ahead recession probabilities fall

### Personal spending capacity falls

- Personal saving rates decline
- Credit card delinquencies rise
- Consumer loan demand weakens

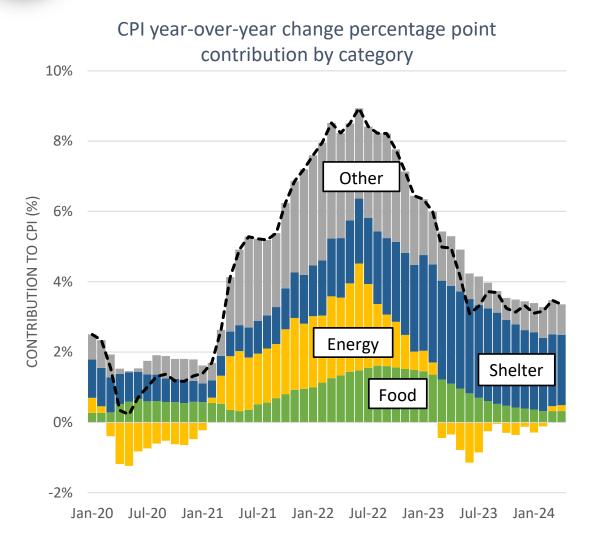
#### Consumers are more selective

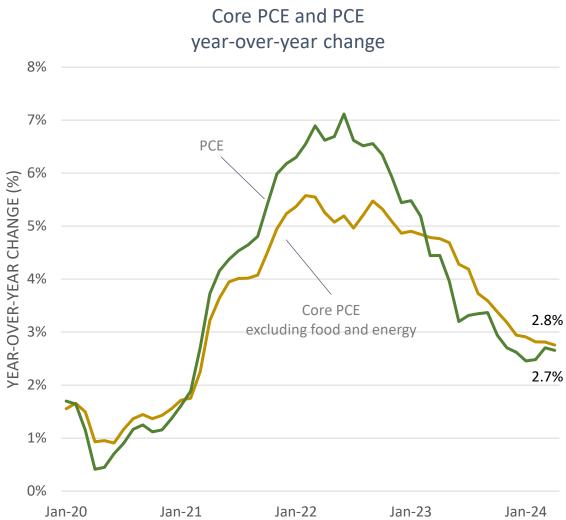
- Falling good purchases
- A plateau in food services

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gross Domestic Product (Second Estimate). Blue Chip forecast range from Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta GDPNow.



# Inflation continues to moderate, but progress has slowed

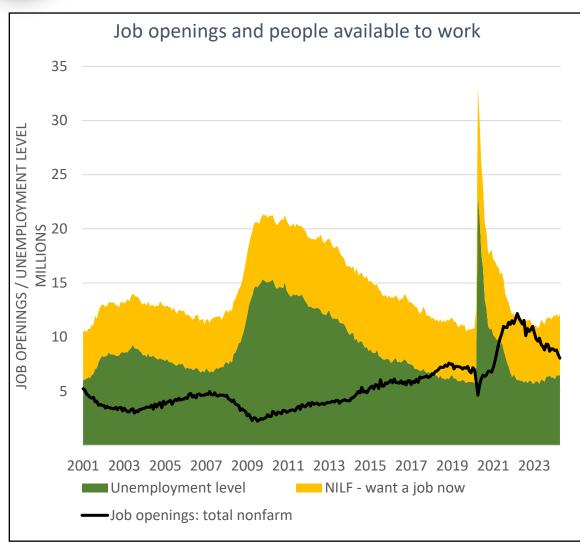


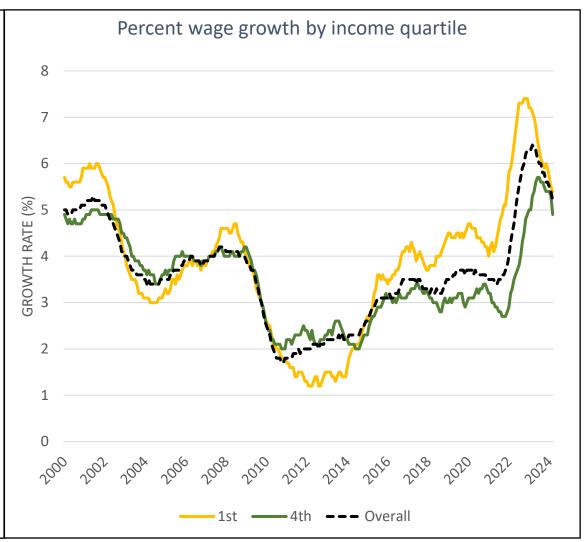


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, author's calculations and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis Personal Income and Outlays.



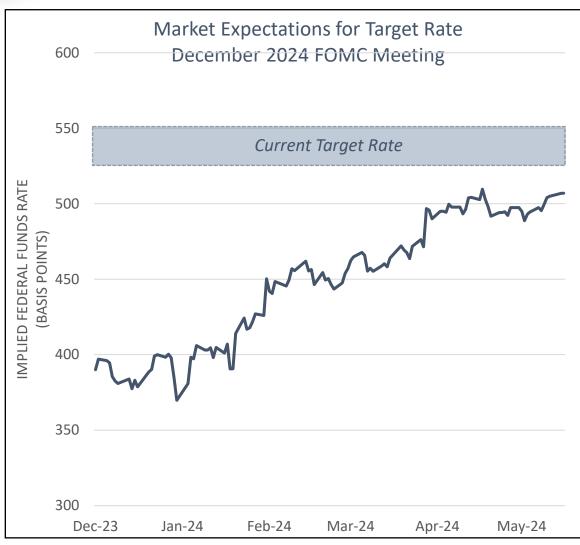
# Labor markets cool, but job openings and wage growth point towards residual tight conditions







# Current economic conditions give Federal Reserve room to watch and wait



### Less economic pressure for rate reductions

- Lower recession probabilities
- Sticky inflation measures
- Supportive labor market

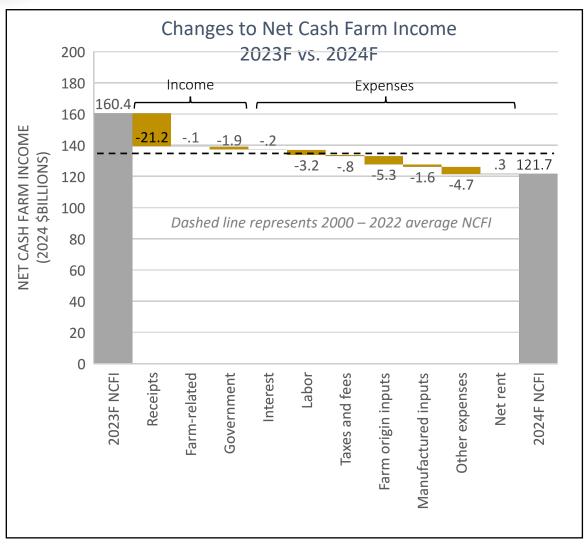
"The [Federal Open Market] Committee does not expect it will be appropriate to reduce the target range until it has gained greater confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2 percent."

- FOMC Apr/May Statement

Source: CME Fedwatch Tool, ODAE Calculations



# USDA projects second year of sharp income declines as receipts fall and expenses continue to climb



#### Income continues marked decline

- Price declines offset higher quantities
- Corn, soybean receipts drive fall
- Lower supplemental, ad-hoc payments

### **Expenses continue to rise**

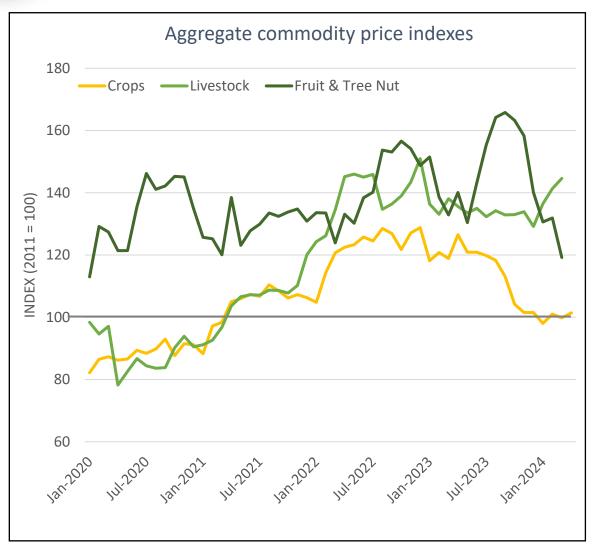
- Highest real expenses since 2014
- Interest, labor, livestock lead increases

### Financial ratios fall from recent highs

- Liquidity, profitability ratios fall
- Solvency ratios show continued strength



# Livestock sector sees stronger prices while other sectors search for footing



### **Crops**

- Marketing opportunities follow brief run
- Cash grains look for next price support
- Breakeven prices

#### Livestock

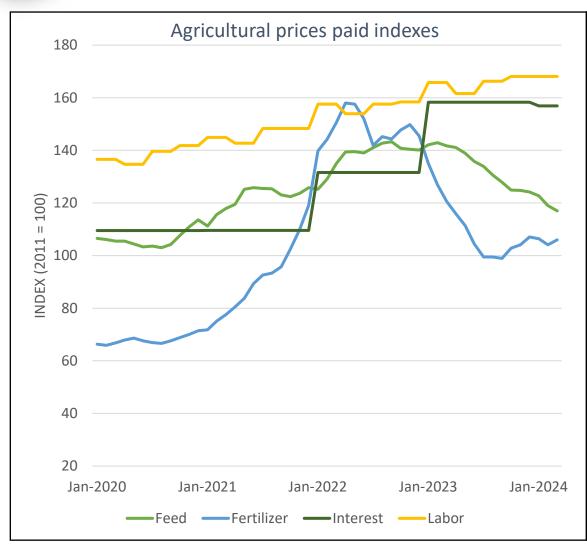
- Cattle shine, but profits mixed across sector
- Feed costs vs. nonfeed costs
- Consumer demand strong for now

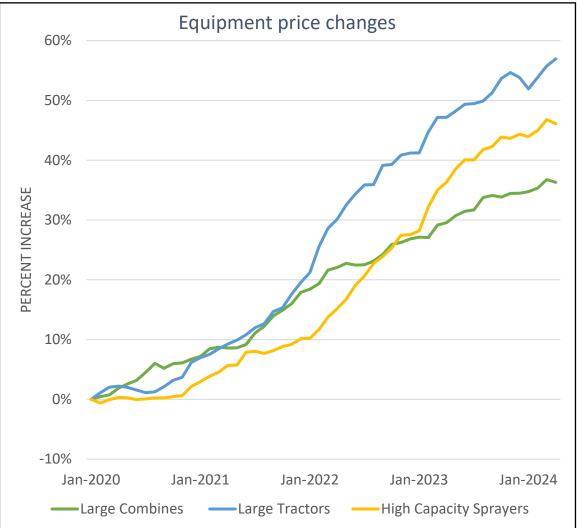
### Fruit / Nut

- Near-record production weighs on tree nuts
- Aggregate fruit, nut prices fall



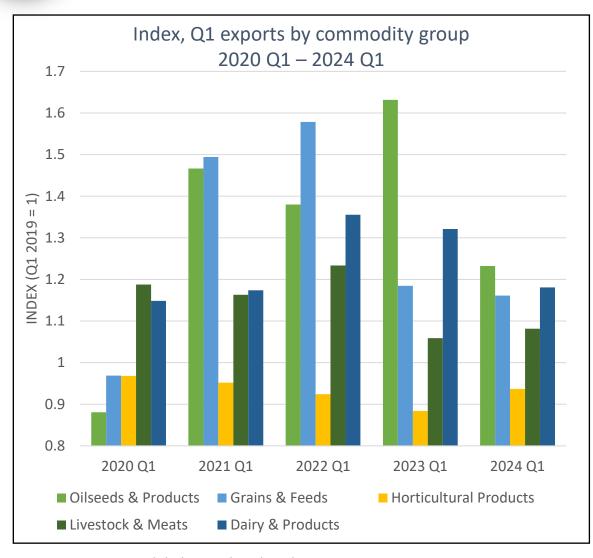
# Select input prices moderate, but higher cost environment likely to persist







# **Exports remain strong to start 2024, but downside** risk remains



### **Economic headwinds to exports**

- Strong dollar hinders ag exports
- Forecast slower growth in emerging markets

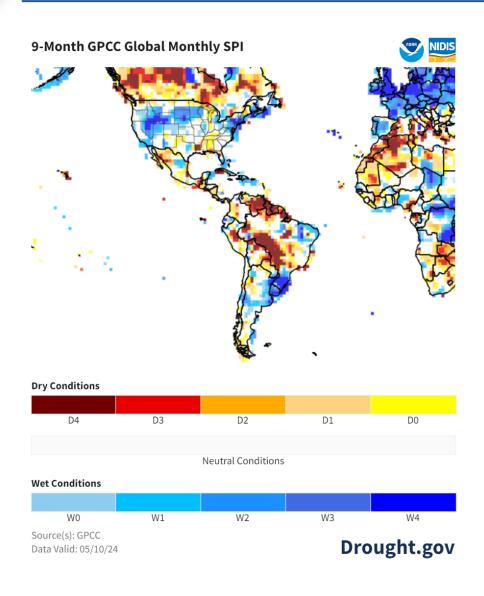
### **Divergent stories**

- Soybean exports decline globally
- Continued strength from Mexico, Canada
- Consumer-oriented goods persist
- Geopolitical pressures

10



# Favorable weather conditions to start 2024 growing season



### **Current U.S. conditions supportive for growth**

- Crop plantings planted / emerging on time
- Drought in parts of the Plains

#### Domestic 3-month forecast show few risks

- Warmer weather across the country
- Less precipitation in Mountain, northwest
- Wetter conditions in Southeast

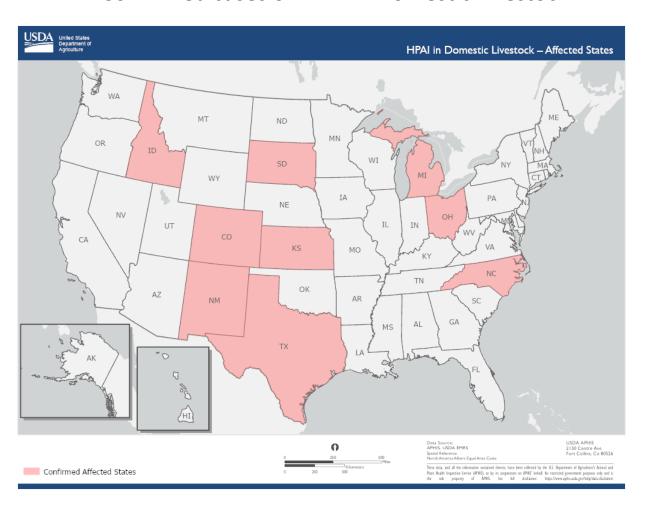
### Some price upside from global conditions

- Poor conditions in parts of Brazil, Argentina
- Dryness, frost hit Russian wheat
- Keeping an eye on China



# Highly pathogenic avian influenza detections in livestock add some uncertainty to outlook

#### Confirmed cases of HPAI in Domestic Livestock



### Minor impacts to production to date

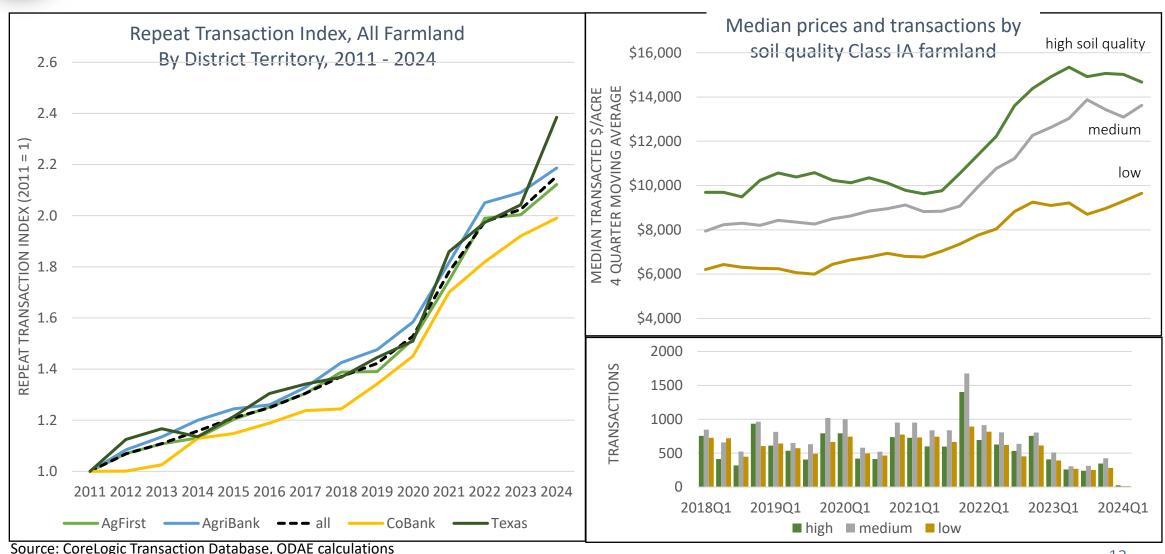
- 1% decline in milk herd during Q1
- 80 unique confirmed outbreaks

#### **Risks remain**

- Confirmed cases in other livestock
- Containment introduces new expenses



# Select farmland markets show second year of little or no growth to start 2024





# Questions?



# Farm Credit System Condition and Performance as of March 31, 2024

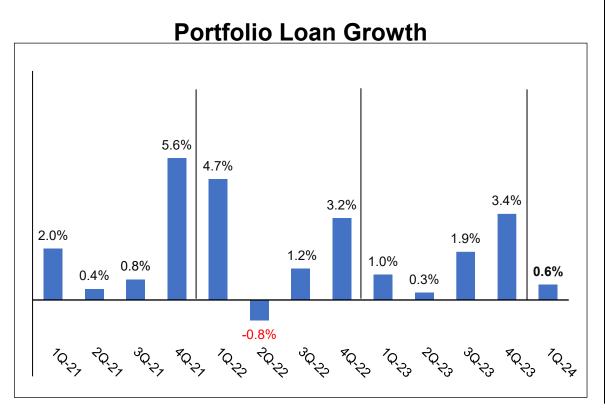
Lun Nguyen Supervisory Senior Examiner Office of Examination

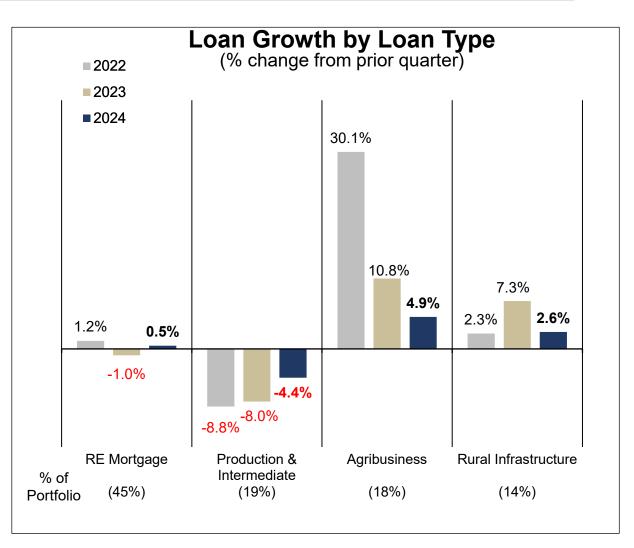




# System reports modest growth in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, seasonal factors drive financing needs



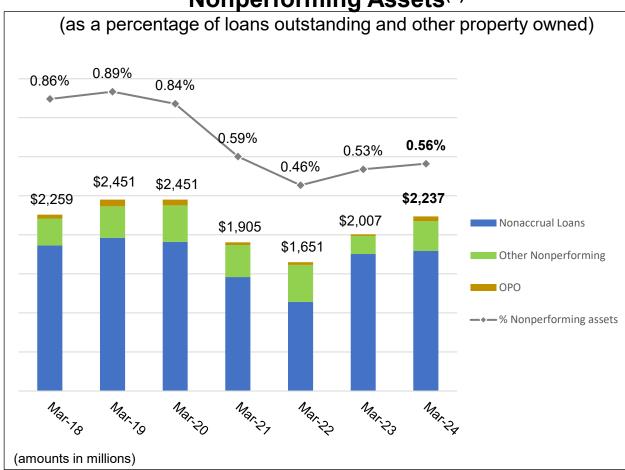




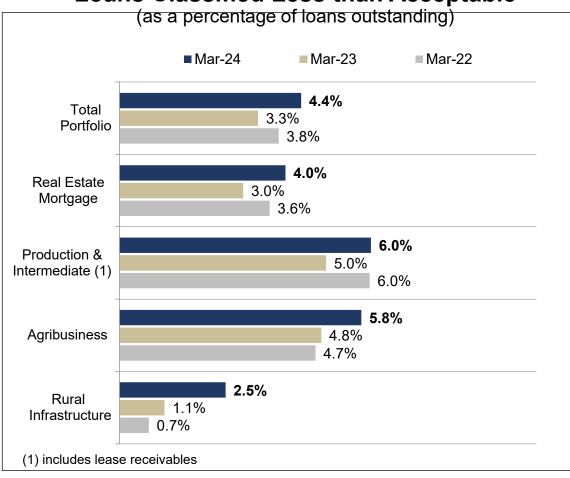


# Credit risk measures trend higher, but portfolio risk remains low

Nonperforming Assets<sup>(1)</sup>



**Loans Classified Less than Acceptable** 



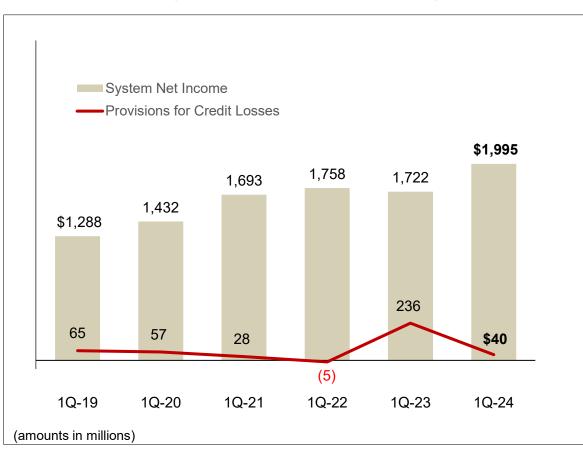
(1) Prior to the adoption of CECL on 1/1/23, nonperforming assets included accruing restructured loans

Source: Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation Information Statements

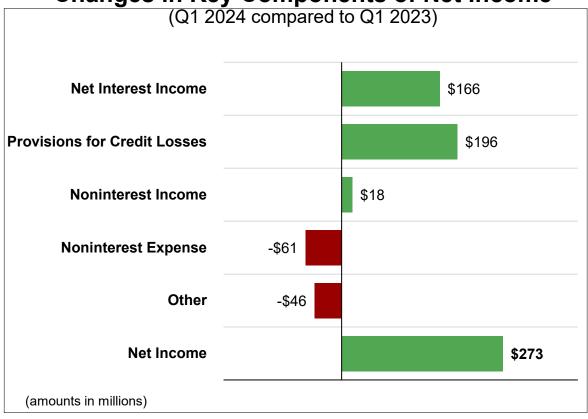


# Higher net interest income and lower allowance provisions drive 1st quarter earnings growth

# **System Earnings** (for the quarter ended March 31)



### **Changes in Key Components of Net Income**



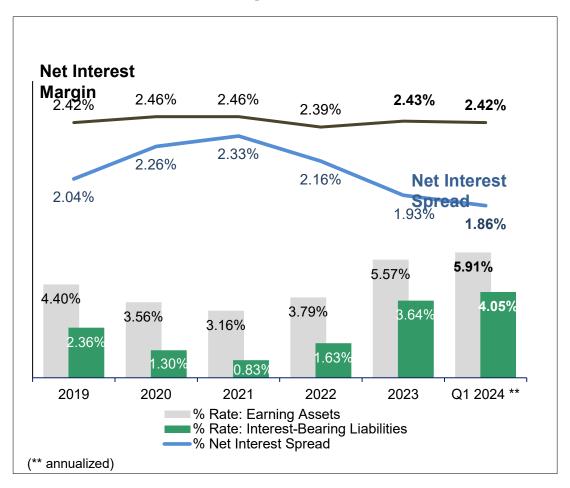
Source: Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation Information Statements



# Net interest spread declines on higher funding costs; net interest margin steady

- Net interest spread continued to compress, dropping 7 basis points primarily related to higher funding costs.
- Net interest margin remained stable, dropping 1 basis point from year-end 2023 as income earned on noninterest-bearing sources largely offset the decline in net interest spread.

### **Earnings Measures**



Source: Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation Information Statements



# Strong earnings support capital growth

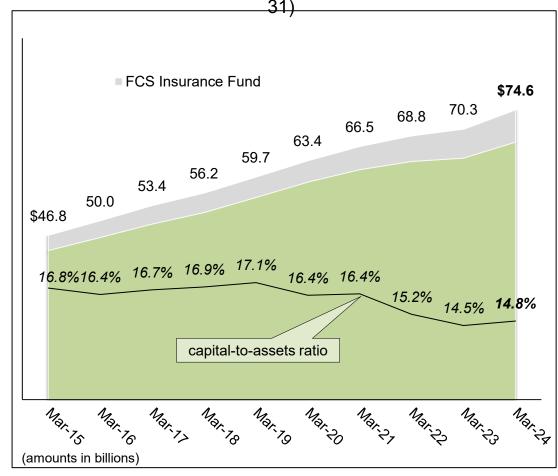
## Capital<sup>(1)</sup>

(as of March 31, 2024)

- Total capital increased \$4.3 billion or 6.1% year-over-year.
- ► The System's capital-to-assets ratio increased to 14.8% compared with 14.5% a year ago.
- ► Total regulatory capital ratios:
  - Banks: 13.2% to 15.8%
  - Associations: 11.9% to 35.3%
- Days of liquidity for the 4 funding banks ranged from 165 to 198 days.

## System Capital<sup>(1)</sup>

(for the quarter ended March





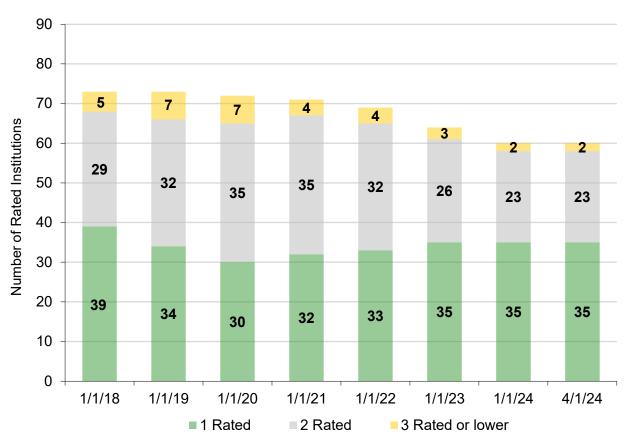
# Composite FIRS ratings remain steady

### **Current FIRS Ratings**

(based on 1st quarter 2024 financial reporting)

- Composite FIRS ratings reflect the System's sound financial condition.
- Over 96% of System banks and associations have a Composite FIRS rating of 1 or 2.
- Institutions rated 3 or lower hold less than 1% of System assets.

# Composite FIRS Ratings Farm Credit System Banks and Associations





# Risks we are monitoring

Borrowers and System institutions are facing a more uncertain operating environment:

- Tighter margins and lower profitability for grain producers
- Declining liquidity and increased reliance on operating lines
- Potential impact of higher interest rates and lower profits on real property values
- Increased stress in certain agricultural segments (tree nuts, swine, poultry)
- Uncertain outlook for economic growth in the U.S. and abroad
- Increased global tensions, avian influenza, and weather













## **FCA Board Meeting June 2024**

# **Semi-Annual Report on** Office of Examination **Operations** June 13, 2024

Chelsea Mercer, FCA Examiner Nicole Peek, FCA Examiner Office of Examination



# **OE Operations Agenda Topics**



- ► Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Plan Objectives
  - Risk Supervision and Examination Activities
  - Public Mission
  - Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness
  - Human Capital





# **Risk Supervision & Examination**



- Conducted onsite examination and/or oversight activities at 3 funding banks, 35 associations (60%), and 6 other entities
- ▶ Issued 24 reports of examination, 17 interim activity letters, and 39 FIRS Letters
- Maintained a higher level of supervisory oversight at 3 System institutions
- Issued examination guidance













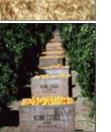
# **Risk Supervision & Examination (continued)**

- ► FY2024 National Oversight Plan Focus Areas
  - Cybersecurity threats and a changing operational environment
  - Capital markets loan growth and increased risk in large, shared assets and commodity segments
  - Long-term financial stewardship
  - Stress analysis in a period of heightened volatility and uncertainty
  - Standards of conduct
- Completed or on target to complete the 7 systemic risk strategies and 3 institution risk strategies









## **Public Mission**

- ► Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers (YBS) Programs
  - Worked with ORP and ODAE on internal and external YBS FAQs
  - Reviewed 2023 qualitative YBS rating results
  - Proposed changes to exam guidance and rating criteria and provided staff training based on the YBS final rule and BL-040 updates
- Small, low risk associations
  - Met with CEOs of small associations and received positive feedback on OE steps to address their concerns







- Examination Tool Innovations
  - Finalized new Examiner Feedback application
  - Made enhancements to the EDGe application and reports
- ▶ OE Operational Process Innovations
  - Continued to modernize OE management reporting, planning, and budgeting processes through PowerBI
- ► FCS Loan Database Use
  - Continued to work with the System to assess and improve data reliability and develop new reports





# **Human Capital**



On target to complete strategies related to training, development, recruitment, retention, and knowledge transfer



 Hired 13 associate examiners, 1 commissioned examiner, with plans to hire 6 mid-careers (5 technical specialists and 1 commissioned), and 1 administrative assistant



 Attrition levels declined to 4 percent compared to 6 percent last year with projected 9 percent attrition for the year









▶ We are on target with total staff, but remain below target for commissioned examiners



#### **Total OE Staff**

Total OE Staff	Planned	Projected	Variance
Beginning FY 2024	182	185	3
Attrition   Retirements	(18)	(18)	0
Hirings	18	21	3
Ending FY 2024	182	188	6

#### **Commissioned Examiners**

Commissioned Examiners	Planned	Projected	Variance
Beginning FY 2024	83	81	(2)
Attrition   Retirements	(8)	(8)	0
Hirings	2	2	0
Newly Commissioned	9	9	0
Ending FY 2024	86	84	(2)



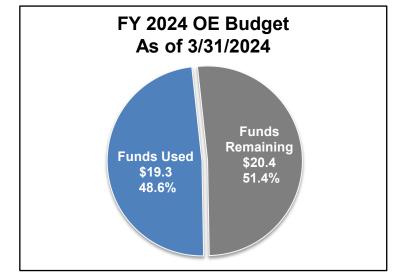






- ► Fiscal YTD as of 3/31/2024
  - Actual expenses are in line with net budget with return to normalized travel
  - Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) are in line with budget





FTEs	
♦ Budgeted Full Year FTEs	184.69
♦ Projected Full Year FTEs	184.64
Budget Variance	(0.05)





# **Summary**



- ► Effectively conducted examination and oversight activities through the 1st half of FY 2024
- On target to complete FY 2024 Operating Plan objectives
- Focusing on ensuring OE has sufficient highly skilled staff to accomplish our mission
- Actively managing our budget as we have returned to normalized travel

