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FIRST EDITION 2021

President's Message

Stay warm and stay positive!

AgrAbility

Restoring hope, renewing productivity.

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EVENTS & STUFF YOU'LL WANT TO DO

Our Ag Scholarship deadline is fast approaching.

Did You Know?

Trust us to finance your farming needs.



President's Message

"The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer."
— Will Rodgers

With 2020 behind us, we're all wondering what 2021 will bring. As is the way of any successful farmer, we are not defeated by the challenges we face. Rather, we pull ourselves up by the bootstraps, dust ourselves off, and continue to do what we do best – find solutions. With an eye on what's ahead, our industry is taking time to learn from the crisis to increase preparedness for the future. Agricultural decision-makers are supporting the choice to move toward a more resilient food system, securing and building positive trade, and adopt-

ing more integrated approaches. All the while, we're examining ways to ensure environmental sustainability while continuing to provide safe, affordable food for all.

Looking ahead, 2021 is full of opportunity for agriculture. As we hunker down on these cold winter nights, I urge you to focus on something positive and to look toward the future with hope!

Stay warm and stay positive!

Randy

AgrAbility: Restoring Hope, Renewing Productivity

Farming ranks as one of the most dangerous occupations in the country. And many farmers struggle with ailments like arthritis, or knee and back problems that are caused by the daily demands of production agriculture. The AgrAbility project is designed to assist farmers and other agricultural workers with disabilities or long-term health conditions by providing the resources and support they need to live independently and continue working in production agriculture. The program addresses a wide variety of disabling conditions in agriculture, including, but not limited to, amputations, visual/respiratory impairments, Cerebral palsy and more.



In Pennsylvania, there is a statewide partnership between the Penn State Extension and UCP Central PA in support of the AgrAbility project, funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

If you or someone you know has a disability that interferes with their ability to return to a life in production agriculture, call toll-free (800) 998-4827, email AgrAbility@psu.edu, or visit agrabilitypa.org to learn more.



Fresh IDEAS

Slow-Cooker Country Ribs

Here's a pure comfort-food recipe sure to warm your bones on any chilly day.

2 lbs. boneless pork ribs
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
8 small potatoes (halved)
4 medium carrots (1" pieces)
3 celery ribs (1" pieces)
1 medium onion (chopped)
¾ c. water
1 clove garlic
1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 Sprinkle ribs with salt and pepper; transfer to a 4-qt. slow cooker. Add potatoes, carrots, celery, onion, water and garlic. Cook, covered, on low until meat and vegetables are tender, 6-8 hours.

2 Remove meat and vegetables. Whisk soup into cooking juices; return meat and vegetables to slow cooker. Cook, covered, until heated through, 15-30 minutes longer.

Meet the TEAM

Aaron "Luke" Vastine is an eleventh-generation farmer and an Assistant Vice President, Senior Credit Analyst in our Winfield Loan Production Office. Today, he and his wife still work the family farm where they embrace their passion for draft horses, grow field crops, Christmas trees, hardy mums, and raise chickens for meat and eggs. When asked about why he loves his



job, Luke said, "You don't have to be a farmer to be a good ag banker, but when you understand farming you can tailor the products and services to the customer in the best way. Some banks back away from ag in tough times, but at First Citizens, that just isn't our philosophy. We help our customers seek out options, such as diversification, for growth potential and profit improvement, and it's that kind of commitment that makes all the difference."

Changes to the Paycheck Protection Program Provide *New Opportunities* to Borrow



When Congress created PPP as part of the CARES Act in March of 2020, the program's emphasis on payroll raised challenges for many farmers who do not issue structured payroll — namely those operating as sole proprietors, independent contractors, or self-employed producers who file a Schedule F with their 1040 income tax form.

The program's loan application required such producers to use their net farm profit amount from their Schedule F tax form as a stand-in for their self-employment compensation when applying for a PPP loan. However, many farmers filed a zero or negative net farm profit on their 2019 tax forms, effectually making them ineligible for the small business support.

Changes to the COVID stimulus package that were approved by Congress in December allow farmers who run their operations as sole proprietors, independent contractors, or otherwise self-employed individuals to have access to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Producers who were denied PPP loans or whose loan amounts did not consider self-employment compensation may now be eligible for the vital federal small business support.

If a farmer previously received PPP funding, they need to prove a 25% reduction in gross

revenues for a like quarter from 2019 to 2020 in order to be eligible for a second draw.

FCCB is currently accepting applications from existing customers through our online loan portal. To access the portal and begin an online application, visit our website www.myfccb.com and click Coronavirus Updates. All documents will be signed electronically in the FCCB Loan Application portal.

As you fill out your online application, you will notice an option to choose a lender. Please choose your current FCCB Ag Banker from the list. Your Ag Banker will review the application and reach out to you.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need help. You can reach us at (800) 326-9486.

Act now! Deadline is Wednesday, March 31st.



Agricultural biotechnology holds tremendous potential to improve animal health, enhance farm productivity, improve nutrition, and even reduce the need for some animal health measures. For example, genetically engineered insect-resistant cotton has allowed for a significant reduction in the use of persistent, synthetic pesticides that may contaminate groundwater and the environment.

The terms of the MOU apply to certain animals (cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses, mules, or other equines,

catfish, and poultry). Under this framework, USDA would safeguard animal and human health by providing end-to-end oversight from pre-market reviews through post-market food safety monitoring for certain farm animals modified or developed using genetic engineering that are intended for human food.

Additionally, portions of the FDA's pre-existing biotechnology oversight will shift to the USDA. As always, FDA will review intentional genomic alterations intended for any purpose other than

agricultural use (biopharma and non-heritable genomic alteration), and continue to regulate other agricultural products derived from animals developed using genetic engineering.

Biotechnology provides farmers with tools that can make production cheaper and more manageable, and this promising MOU will amplify America's agricultural possibilities. The USDA and FDA are committed to working together to foster safe use of this powerful technology to encourage innovation.

USDA & FDA Agree on Value of Biotechnology in Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration recently finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining responsibilities for regulating the genetic engineering of certain animals that are intended for agricultural purposes (such as human food, fiber, and labor).

Employee HIGHLIGHTS



Our President & CEO, Randy Black, was recently named to the Penn State University Board of Trustees!

Penn State University is a strong advocate for the agricultural industry, offering various degrees in the field through the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. Delegates from agricultural societies at the University selected Randy for his agricultural expertise and involvement in key agricultural organizations across the state of Pennsylvania. A lifelong farmer and Pennsylvania resident, Randy is an advocate for the ag community and eager to provide leadership that will help fellow farmers navigate challenges that are unique to the industry. Under his leadership, we've extended and strengthened our agricultural commitment and are currently one of the top Ag lenders in our nation.

In addition, Randy was also named as a Class A Director for the Philadelphia Federal Reserve.

Congratulations, Randy! We know FCCB and community banks will be well-represented.

EVENTS & STUFF YOU'LL WANT TO DO

We are accepting applications for the 2021 FCCB Ag Scholarship until March 30th. This scholarship is available to a high school student continuing their education in an agricultural-related field. To apply, visit our website at myfccb.com > About Us > Scholarships