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First Citizens Hosts 6th Annual Ag Forum

MANSFIELD, PA (March 2018) –Farm diversity was the theme of First Citizens 6th annual Ag forums this year. Over the course of two days, guest speakers spoke to 150 farmers about expansion, diversification, project planning, permits and watershed ordinances, grain trends and the egg embryo industry.

Because First Citizens serves customers in 10 counties across Pennsylvania, they held two forums again this year to geographically accommodate farmers and other individuals of agribusiness. The first was held in East Earl, Lancaster County, and the second in Troy, Bradford County. The main speaker, Richard Cole, presented information related to grain and its use as a secondary income for farmers in the dairy, swine and poultry business. Cole, who has a degree in Agricultural Economics from Penn State University, is the Director of Grain Origination for Perdue Agribusiness in Bainbridge, Lancaster County. Prior to joining Perdue, he spent 20 years with the PACMA Division of the Pennsylvania Farm Association.

Also in attendance were several additional guest speakers. In East Earl, Jeff Ainslie, a consultant at Red Barn Consulting, spoke of existing animal agriculture compliance. Next, Chris Pierce, owner of Heritage Poultry Management Services, Inc., presented information on the current egg market and poultry industry. Pierce is a member of the First Citizens Ag Advisory Board. In Troy, guest speaker Robert Kreider, owner of Embrovac, LLC, spoke about his company's transition to the embryo vaccine market. Kreider is a member of the bank's Ag Advisory Board. Peter Hughes, owner of Red Barn Consulting, spoke to the audience about managing permits and water shed ordinances.

At the Troy event, Mark Hamilton, current Tioga County Commissioner and Doug McClinko, Bradford County Commissioner, were in attendance. Clint Owlett, who is running for the PA Representative Position, was also present at the forum.

First Citizens Community Bank is headquartered in Mansfield, Pennsylvania. They currently operate 28 offices throughout Tioga, Bradford, Potter, Clinton, Union, Centre, Lebanon, Lancaster, Schuylkill and Berks counties in Pennsylvania and Allegany County New York. For more information about First Citizens, visit FirstCitizensBank.com, or find them on Facebook.

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