

MEMBER NEWSLETTER



FRESNO MADERA  
FARM CREDIT

AGRICULTURE IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS

*Connection*

MARCH 2023



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# *Connection*

Member Newsletter - March 2023

Dear members:

Welcome to the inaugural electronic edition of our member newsletter - Connection. With this newsletter we want to strengthen our connection with you by providing you with useful insights, updates, and relevant information. I want to acknowledge that we understand how valuable your time is; we have no desire to inundate you with content you can't use.

We plan to carefully select information we think you'll value: the kind you can leverage as you continuously manage and improve your operation over time. We're doing the same thing here at FMFC - as we continue to align our organization to meet your evolving needs - we'll leverage our newsletter here - in addition to our relationship staff - to let you know what's new about our services.

We also want you to share your thoughts: You'll have the opportunity to send us your feedback to provide us insights into what you'd like to hear more about. I hope you enjoy this first issue and that you'll find value in the content we're sharing. I'll close with my thanks to you for your continued trust and support of Fresno Madera Farm Credit - we take great pride in serving you and the agriculture in our region.

In gratitude,

Keith Hesterberg

President & Chief Executive Officer



## **Take Advantage of our Future Payment Funds - Earn 4.5% Interest Starting April 1**

Advanced payments on your loan can be placed in a Future Payment Fund, or Voluntary Advanced Conditional Payment (VACP) account, to earn interest until you are ready to utilize them for future loan payments or operating expenditures.

### **Benefits of a Future Payment Fund:**

- Keep your cash liquid while still earning interest
- No minimum balance requirement
- No monthly transaction fees
- Effectively reduce your cost of borrowing
- Easily transfer funds to an outside bank account, make a loan payment, pay taxes or insurance, and more!

**To learn more about our Future Payment Funds, or to view a list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit our [website](#), or call and speak to one of our customer service representatives at (559) 277-7016.**

## **Learn More About FMFC's Digital Banking Services**

### **MyFMFC**

MyFMFC provides you with instant access to all of the services available at Fresno Madera Farm Credit. From your home computer or smart phone you can access statements, view loan information, send secure messages, or sign into Online Banking.

### **Online Banking**

FMFC's Online Banking is a transactional online portal where you can conduct all your banking transactions anytime, anywhere. Add an external bank account to the portal and you can make a payment to your loan, transfer money from your loan, and much more!

### **Auto Pay**

Ready to automate your payments so you don't have to worry about them? FMFC's Online Banking portal let's you set up automatic, recurring payments.

**For more information on any of our digital services, please contact our Loan Accounting team at (559) 277-7016. Enroll in myFMFC [here](#).**



## **New Madera Branch Under Construction on HWY 99 and Ave. 17**

If you've driven down Highway 99 through Madera in the past few months, you may have noticed construction taking place just north of Avenue 17.

This site is the future home of the Fresno Madera Farm Credit - Madera Branch. We are excited to soon be able to offer our members a more modern location with plenty of room to grow to meet the needs of the northern Central Valley.

While we begin to transition to our new building, you can continue to conduct all of your business at our existing Madera Branch located at 305 N. "I" Street, however, you may notice a few changes to the building. Fresno Madera Farm Credit will continue to operate out of the north portion of the building until we make the final move to our new building in June.

**If you have any questions or concerns related to the Madera office transition, please feel free to contact us at (559) 277-7000.**





# UPCOMING EVENTS



## USDA Relief Programs Application Deadline June 3

Deadlines are quickly approaching to apply for two USDA assistance programs for agricultural producers designed to help address gaps in revenue during the pandemic and recent natural disasters.

The Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP), assists producers of agricultural commodities who experience revenue decreases in calendar year 2020 due to the pandemic.

The Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two is designed to help offset the impacts of natural disasters that occurred in 2020 and 2021 - especially for livestock producers impacted by drought or wildfires.

**Links to both programs are available on the Assistance Programs section of our website. For more information, click [here](#).**



## Fresno County Farm Bureau Celebrates the Bounty of Fresno County

The Fresno County Farm Bureau will host their 5th annual "Bounty of Fresno County" event on Thursday, April 20, at Wolf Lakes Park in Sanger. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., followed by the program and dinner at 6 p.m.

**To purchase individual tickets, or table of eight, click [here](#).**



## 2023 Almond Alliance Convention

The 41st annual Almond Alliance Convention is taking place April 24-27 at the historical La Quinta Resort in La Quinta, Calif. The Almond Alliance is one of the leaders in the almond industry advocating for growers across the U.S.

This year's convention features presentations from experts and insiders on the industry's current challenges, plus opportunities for networking and showcasing new products and services.

**For more information, click [here](#).**

**FMFC is a proud sponsor of the Almond Alliance Convention.**



## Farm Credit Supports a Strong Farm Bill

Farm families need a Farm Bill that provides a safety net for their operations. And every five years, Farm Credit advocates for legislation that includes provisions that address the following priority areas: Strengthening Crop Insurance, Expanding the Farm Service Agency's Guaranteed Loan Program, and Increased Investment in Rural Infrastructure Programs.

**Click [here](#) to read about some of the work that Farm Credit is doing to advocate for the upcoming Farm Bill.**



## CoBank Report: Inflation is Beginning to Loosen its Grip

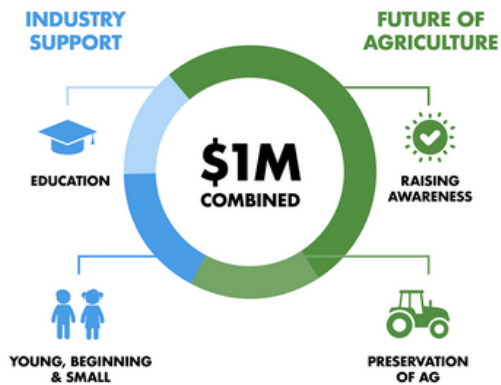
Inflation and the Ukraine war will remain the two biggest factors for commodity markets in the first half of 2023. With inflation softening, the Fed is likely to halt its interest rate hikes before mid-year but the inflation picture will be complicated by the likely surge in China's oil and gas demand as its economy rebounds post-COVID.

**Click [here](#) to read the full report.**





## IN THE COMMUNITY



## Farm Credit Alliance donated more than \$900,000 to Ag Organizations across California in 2022

Farm Credit is the largest provider of credit to U.S. agriculture, but its support goes much deeper than that. Farm Credit is also committed to the sustainability and long-term viability of agriculture and rural communities and strongly supports non-profits working to preserve and protect California agriculture.

In 2022, the Farm Credit Alliance – AgWest Farm Credit, American Ag Credit, CoBank, Colusa-Glenn Farm Credit, Fresno Madera Farm Credit, Golden State Farm Credit and Yosemite Farm Credit – contributed over \$900,000 to nearly 100 agricultural organizations around the state.

Click [here](#) to read more.



## FBI Warns of 'Timed' Ransomware Attacks on Agriculture Sector

Ransomware gangs may be timing their attacks on U.S. agriculture organizations to inflict maximum damage.

The FBI's cyber division recently published a flash alert for the food and agriculture sector stating that "ransomware actors may be more likely to attack agricultural cooperatives during critical planting and harvest seasons" like the fall and early spring.

Click [here](#) to read more about this important warning.



## Fraud Wise Podcasts Available on our Website!

On the go? Check out CoBank's Fraud Wise podcast for dozens of hours of content designed to help you keep your business safe from cybercriminals.

Click [here](#) to visit the FMFC website for a full catalog of episodes you can listen to anytime or use to conduct training with your own staff.





## 2023 Annual Stockholder's Meeting & Director Elections

The 2023 Annual Stockholders' Meeting was held March 23, at the Elite Event Venue in Fresno.

Director and nominating committee elections will open in early April when ballots are mailed out to all voting stockholders. Voting instructions and a candidate information booklet will be included with your ballot. The election concludes May 8, and results will be delivered via postcard in mid-May.





# HOLIDAYS & OFFICE CLOSURES

## **Friday, May 26**

Offices Close at 3:30 p.m.

## **Monday, May 29**

Offices Closed for Memorial Day

## **Monday, June 19**

Offices Closed for Juneteenth National Independence Day

## **Tuesday, July 4**

Offices Closed for Independence Day

## **LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING!**

Click [here](#) to share your thoughts on this member newsletter.

The quick, three-question survey will help inform and guide future newsletters.



# FRESNO MADERA FARM CREDIT 2023 CALENDAR

Stop by any of our locations to pick up your copy!



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