

2020 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



Farm Credit Services
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A MISSION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Just as we work to meet the financial needs of farmers, ranchers, rural residents and agribusinesses, we are committed to supporting the rural communities in which they live.

Our community involvement is focused on ag education, young and beginning producer programs, hunger and nutrition, and rural disaster relief and essential services. We support these initiatives through employee volunteering, contributions and grants.

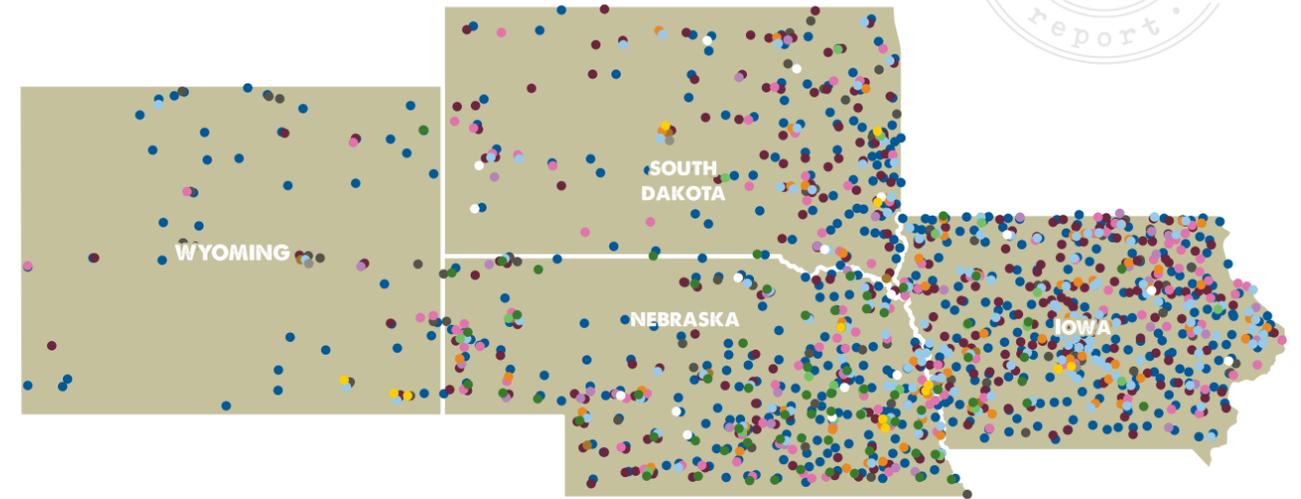
In 2020, our community involvement evolved to match the needs that emerged as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Employees volunteered remotely or in socially distanced settings. Grants and donations supported food banks and mobile pantries, ag students and educators, and many other worthwhile community needs during this unprecedented time – a few of which are shared in the following pages.

The impact map in this report provides a visual reference to the projects and places where we made a difference in 2020.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and our leadership team, I want to express the pride and appreciation we share for the hundreds of employees who invested their time and talents to benefit rural communities.



Mark Jensen
President and CEO



- **4-H Stall Cards:** More than 48,000 stall cards provided to livestock exhibitors.
- **Disaster Relief:** Contributions supported local disaster relief efforts.
- **Employee Match:** This program provided matches of up to \$250 for each employee and Director contribution to causes that were meaningful to them, totaling \$208,647. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we doubled our ratio to 2:1 to help nonprofits with limited fundraising options.
- **Employee Volunteers:** FCSAmerica employees volunteered 2,426 hours for nonprofit organizations in their local communities through virtual and socially distanced efforts.
- **Expanded Grants:** Up to \$10,000 per grant, totaling \$321,500 for hunger and nutrition, ag education, rural disaster relief and essential services, and young and beginning producer programs.
- **Farm Risk Management Tool:** Provided web-based farm risk management online tool and curriculum to 469 high school FFA chapters.
- **FFA Support:** Provided funding for 8,104 FFA handbooks and funding support for establishing new chapters.
- **Grain Bin Rescue:** Donated grain bin rescue equipment and training for 17 volunteer fire departments.
- **Grants:** Provided 158 *Working Here Fund* grants up to \$2,000 each, totaling \$294,621 for hunger and nutrition, ag education, rural disaster relief and essential services, and young and beginning producer programs.
- **Hunger Relief:** Provided funding for mobile pantries, food rescue and food distribution to underserved counties with high percentages of food insecurity.
- **Local Contributions:** Each of our local offices impacted communities with funding support for local programs and initiatives.
- **Scholarships:** Funded 32 \$2,500 land grant university scholarships and 46 \$2,000 community college scholarships to students pursuing a career in agriculture.
- **The Big Garden:** New community gardens harvested produce and taught children to grow food.
- **Underwriting Support:** Funded support for South Dakota Ag Foundation, ISU Innovation Center, SDSU Swine Research, UW Ranch Management and Ag Leadership Center, AgriSafe mental health training in our four state territory, Nebraska Urban Ag Education curriculum, Nebraska 4-H Food Chain Game and Latino Center of the Midlands/Siembra Nebraska.
- **Women in Ag:** Funded 32 courses, including farm business management, livestock management, succession planning and women in ag leadership.

For more information about our community involvement, visit fcsamerica.com/community.



CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

VIRTUAL TOOLS ADVANCING THE LEARNING LANDSCAPE

When the pandemic prompted a sudden shift to virtual learning, educators reimagined classrooms and created lessons for hybrid or at-home instruction.

Muscatine Community School District agricultural education students completed virtual labs using cutting-edge GoPro technology.

The Big Garden and Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom pivoted from in-person programming to online video lessons, livestream farm tours and self-guided activities.

FCSAmerica provided tools and resources to make these efforts possible.

BREAKING THE HUNGER CYCLE

THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY

Even in ag-based communities, food insecurity is a challenge for too many families. This year, the need for food assistance was further complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FCSAmerica supported the most food insecure counties through donations to nonprofit organizations and programs that serve immediate hunger needs.

\$375,000 IN DIRECT DONATIONS AND CHALLENGE MATCH PLEDGES.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 RELIEF DONATIONS

-  Refrigerated truck deliveries to food desert communities
-  Funding for drive-through mobile pantries
-  Food distribution to school-aged children
-  Rescued food that otherwise would have been wasted

AG SUPPORTING AG

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Communities across FCSAmerica's four-state territory were impacted by drought, floods and severe storms, the most devastating being the derecho that blew through much of Iowa.

Coming on the heels of COVID-19's market disruptions and changes to daily life, these events compounded the challenges of 2020. FCSAmerica supported programs essential to both the physical and emotional rebuilding of rural communities, including:

DERECHO RELIEF ASSISTANCE

\$100,000 DONATED TO

- ▶ Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
- ▶ American Red Cross Iowa Region
- ▶ Iowa Food Bank
- ▶ United Way of Eastern Central Iowa

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

AgriSafe is a network of clinically trained agricultural health and safety professionals. FCSAmerica provided financial support to AgriSafe for wellness outreach and training with the goal of reducing mental health disparities in rural communities.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

-  Sewed masks for essential workers and nonprofit organizations
-  Worked with internet safety experts to apply their rating system to online sites aimed at youth
-  Wrote cards and letters to those experiencing isolation
-  Hosted virtual volunteer events as part of Community Impact month



AG EDUCATION

GROWING AG LEADERS OF TOMORROW

A donation from FCSAmerica will support the Ranch Management and Agriculture Leadership Center in the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The center will train the next generation of ranch, wildland recreation professionals and agricultural leaders, and impact the daily experience of ag students.

“We are excited about the opportunities this will provide,” says Barbara Rasco, dean of the college. “The agricultural leadership component will provide students with the leadership and soft skills that they need to be successful in their future careers.”

4-H & FFA SUPPORT



48,125

Total number of stall cards donated to 4-H clubs



8,104

Total number of handbooks provided to FFA chapters



HANDS-ON LEARNING

ENGAGING YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

Statewide agricultural youth development programs are delivering engaging hands-on learning experiences to students and teachers thanks to grant support from FCSAmerica.

Ground Works and South Dakota Ag in the Classroom, for example, used funds from FCSAmerica to provide curriculum lessons, activities and training online. The funds will also support 15 Youth Eating Smart (YES) summer camps in 2021.

Similarly, the Iowa Agricultural Literacy Foundation (IALF) hosted 11 online professional development courses to equip teachers with the tools they need to integrate agriculture into their classrooms.



APPROXIMATELY
15,000
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WERE IMPACTED BY GROUND WORKS/SOUTH DAKOTA AG IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAMS IN 2020, INCLUDING
700
YES CAMPERS.



WORKSHOPS ENGAGED
222
CLASSROOMS IN GRADES PREK-12 AND
304,000
STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT AGRICULTURE THROUGH IALF PROGRAMS.

