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## **Farm Credit supports Arkansas Veterans with \$10,000 award to the Arkansas Homegrown by Heroes Program**

The Farm Credit cooperatives of Arkansas announce a \$10,000 award to the Arkansas Homegrown by Heroes program in support of Arkansas veterans. Arkansas has adopted the national Homegrown by Heroes branding program that enables farmer veterans to market their local agricultural products by labeling them as veteran-produced.

The Homegrown by Heroes program was formally launched by Governor Asa Hutchinson at the capitol in July and is administered by the Arkansas Agriculture Department. Farm Credit's gift will assist with participant signage, product stickers and help promote the program among Arkansas veterans.

"Farm Credit appreciates the service and commitment made by military members and is proud to support the Homegrown by Heroes program in our state," said CEO Greg Cole of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services.

"According to the Farmer Veteran Coalition, only 16 percent of America's population lives in rural areas, yet 40 percent of the men and women serving in the U.S. military come from rural communities. There's a connection between veterans and farming, and Farm Credit hopes the Homegrown by Heroes program provides Arkansas farmer veterans with an advantage in the marketplace."

With more than \$3 billion in assets, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, Delta Agricultural Credit Association, Farm Credit Midsouth, and Farm Credit of Western Arkansas support rural communities and agriculture across Arkansas with reliable, consistent credit and financial services today and tomorrow. The Farm Credit cooperatives of Arkansas are owned by the more than 10,000 customers we support. Through the cooperative structure, customer-owners have a voice and vote in the associations' governance and share in the their cooperative's financial success through cooperative returns which total more than \$152 million since 1997.

**Identification for attached photo:**

(Left to Right) AgHeritage Farm Credit Services CEO **Greg Cole**, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture **Wes Ward**, Farm Credit of Western Arkansas CEO **Glen Manchester** and Farm Credit Midsouth CEO **James McJunkins**. The Farm Credit cooperatives of Arkansas awarded \$10,000 to the Arkansas Homegrown by Heroes program administered by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.