

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Randy Barbee
502-420-3756 or 502-494-5713 (cell)
rbarbee@e-farmcredit.com

Education benefit a great benefit at Farm Credit

Louisville, KY (March 24, 2010) - When customers grow and learn, so does the organization that serves them. That's Farm Credit Services of Mid-America's philosophy and one of the reasons the \$16.4 billion farm lender has introduced a program that reimburses educational expenses incurred when young or beginning customers attend and complete business, production, financial management or ag leadership programs that will help them in their farming operations.

"We believe investing in our customers' ongoing development, particularly those who are young or new to farming," said Tom Schlenker, executive vice president with Farm Credit in the corporate office in Louisville. "The idea is to provide opportunities our customers can leverage to enhance their knowledge of farming, agriculture and business management. Whether they're looking to improve technical or leadership skills, or advance their knowledge in production agriculture, we want to help them achieve their goals."

As an example, Farm Credit recently helped finance eight young farm customers' attendance at a National Young Farmer Education program in Mobile, Alabama where they not only sharpened their farm business skills, but visited and learned about agriculture in other parts of the country.

Farm Credit's education reimbursement program is available to customers who are under the age of 35 or have been involved in farming less than 10 years. The agriculture lender also offers programs supporting young and beginning farmers including the reimbursement of FSA loan guarantee fees and modification of loan underwriting standards. Additionally, FCS works with small and part-time farmers to help them invest in diversified businesses that maintain and strengthen the infrastructure of rural communities.

For more information about Farm Credit's Young, Beginning and Small Farmer Programs, go to www.e-farmcredit.com or call your local office at 1-800-444-FARM.

About Farm Credit Services of Mid-America

Farm Credit Services of Mid-America is a \$16.4 billion financial services cooperative serving over 85,500 farmers, agribusinesses and rural residents in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee. The association provides loans for all farm and rural living purposes including real estate, operating equipment and housing and related services such as crop and life insurance, and vehicle, equipment and building leases. For more information about Farm Credit, call 1-800-444-FARM or visit them on the web at www.e-farmcredit.com.

###