



Premier Farm Credit

The Gold Standard in Ag Lending | PREMIERACA.com

AGFORUM

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF
PREMIER FARM CREDIT

APRIL 2024

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE CHAIR
FLEMING

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LYNDSY GRAVES
OUTSIDE DIRECTOR &
FINANCIAL EXPERT
KEARNEY, NE

WE'VE DELIVERED \$6.75 MILLION IN PATRONAGE BACK TO OUR MEMBER-OWNERS



Premier Farm Credit paid a record \$6.75 million in cash patronage to its customer-owners in early 2024. The financial services cooperative has returned more than \$87 million through its Patronage Dividend Program. This year marks the 27th consecutive year a patronage has been paid.

As a customer-owned cooperative, Premier Farm Credit understands that extra capital can make a big difference in a customer's operation. The checks are a significant benefit to the member-owners and also to local communities. It is also in line with the mission-driven approach of Premier Farm Credit, to work diligently to support agriculture and rural communities, today and tomorrow. "At Premier Farm Credit, our goal is to provide exceptional customer service and competitive interest rates to our member-owners," said Mike Grauberger, President and CEO. "Our

patronage program sets us apart, the more we earn, the more we can return to our customers. The impact is substantial, not only for borrowers but also for the local communities we serve."

"As a board, we work to maintain a financially-sound cooperative that provides strong customer value," said Becky Lenz, Premier Farm Credit Board Chair. "When we determine the patronage distribution amount at the end of each year, we look at a number of different economic and financial factors; as well as capital needs to sustain the organization over the long term. \$6.75 million is a significant payout that goes back into our borrower's pockets."

As part of the Farm Credit System (established in 1916), Premier Farm Credit is a mission-driven ag-lending cooperative owned entirely by its borrowers/member-owners. Premier Farm Credit serves northeast Colorado and the surrounding areas by providing loans, leases, insurance and appraisals for agriculture and ag-related businesses. They also provide rural home loans for residences in small towns and on small acreages. Premier Farm Credit has aggregate loan volume of over \$1 billion and has offices in Sterling, Fort Morgan, Yuma and Holyoke.



STERLING	970.522.2330
HOLYOKE	970.854.3585
YUMA	970.848.5839
FT. MORGAN	970.867.4966
INSURANCE	970.522.5295



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YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

JANUARY

Phyllis Luft, 40 years

FEBRUARY

Jeff Schumacher, 32 years
Ryan Lebsack, 10 years

MARCH

Lee Salyards, 2 years
Kevin Wright, 6 years

APRIL

Chris Hornung, 18 years

WE ARE NO STRANGER TO HAIL STORMS IN NORTHEAST COLORADO

CALL KEVIN OR CARRIE TODAY

970-522-5295

TO GET YOUR CROP-HAIL POLICY IN PLACE

SMOTHERED BURRITOS

Submitted by *Melanie Segelke* - Accountant, Sterling, CO

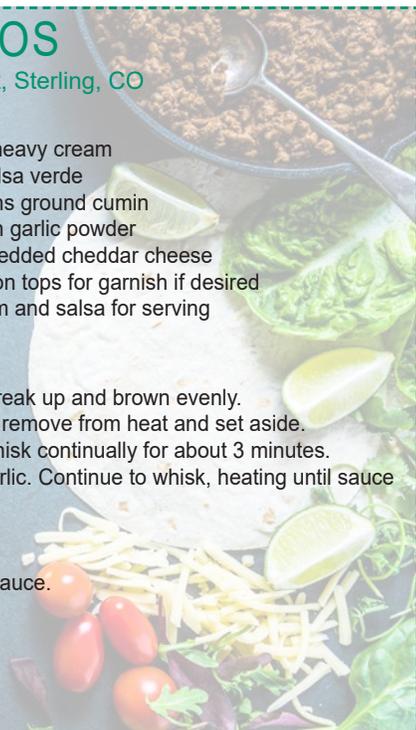


INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 3 tablespoons taco seasoning
- 1/2 cup water
- 12 flour tortillas
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 8 ounces chicken broth
- 12 ounces sour cream
- 8 ounces heavy cream
- 1/2 cup salsa verde
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- Green onion tops for garnish if desired
- Sour cream and salsa for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Brown ground beef in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Stirring to break up and brown evenly.
2. Add taco seasonings and water and stir to combine. Cook for 5 minutes, remove from heat and set aside.
3. Add butter to a saucepan and whisk in flour. Cook over medium heat. Whisk continually for about 3 minutes.
4. Add chicken broth, sour cream, heavy cream, salsa verde, cumin and garlic. Continue to whisk, heating until sauce thickens. Remove from heat.
5. Preheat oven to 350°.
6. Pour half of sauce in a 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
7. Spoon ground beef into tortillas and roll up. Place seam side down into sauce.
8. Pour remainder of sauce over the top of the burritos.
9. Top with shredded cheese.
10. Bake, uncovered for 30 minutes.
11. Remove from oven and rest 5 minutes before serving.
12. Top with additional sour cream and salsa if desired.



FRAUD PROTECTION BEST PRACTICES FOR COMPUTER OR MOBILE DEVICE USERS

- From CoBank Fraudwise

Never disclose via text message, phone call or email your personal or financial information, including account numbers, passwords, Social Security number or birth date.

Be suspicious of any emails that claim to be from a financial institution – including CoBank – a government agency or other entity, that request account information or verification of account or login credentials such as user names, passwords, personal identification number (PINs), etc.

Be wary of emails with links or attachments requiring you to change or verify your account information, as they often contain malicious code that could expose your company's login and account credentials to fraudsters.

Be wary of odd, strangely worded or unexpected emails from friends and acquaintances, or business emails that contain misspellings or grammatical errors. This may indicate that the impersonated email account has been compromised.

If you are suspicious of an email request, call the company using a publicly available phone number, not one provided in the email, to verify the request. If you use the contact information provided in the email, the fraudster might reply that the message is safe.

Use complex passwords consisting of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters; do not use names and special dates that may be known or determined by others.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Please remember to cast your vote for the upcoming Director Election in your ag-lending cooperative. In the Northeast Region, *Rick J. Krueger* will run against incumbent, *Rodney A. Boerner*. In the Northwest Region, *Derek R. Windsheimer* will run against incumbent, *Lisa E. Shinn*. In the Southern Region, *Kala R. Doane* will run against incumbent, *Ryan W. Godsey*. Your voice matters so send your ballot in.

NJC STUDENT BOARD



The NJC Student Board has been preparing introductory videos about agriculture in northeast Colorado and they will present their final project to management in Early April.

- Bailey Dennet** - Bridgeport, NE- Majoring in Ag Business
- Olivia Taylor** - Mondovi, WI- Majoring in Ag Business/Equine Management
- Kenzie Sijelmassi** - Castle Rock, CO- Majoring in Animal Science/ Pre-Vet Medicine
- Peyton Munroe** - Encampment, WY- Majoring in Ag Business
- Bailey Fischer** - Franktown, CO- Majoring in Production Ag
- Austin Evans** - Redmond, OR- Majoring in Ag Education

THE GROW YOUR FUTURE FORUM

Was held outside of Denver this year. The event is tailored for young, beginning, and small farmers. The two-day workshop provided vital tools for financial success.



Participants came from Oklahoma to California and gathered to learn, network, and collaborate within the Farm Credit System. Speakers included Tim Kohl, Dr. Freddie Barnard, Todd Van Hoose, Randy Blach, and Dr. Dan Mooney. Pictured are customers **Katie and Joe Hatch, Bryan and Taylor Rieder** with Senior Loan Officer **Trish Kembel**.

AG CLASSROOM VISITS



Loan Officer **Andy Piel** and Credit Manager **Jessica Lebsock** recently brought Premier's financial expertise to the Merino and Sterling Ag Classrooms! As a group, they covered Premier's services, careers and the impact of interest rates. Then the students were able to gain some hands-on experience working through case studies to analyze Balance Sheets and Income Statements and determine if they would approve a new loan request. The future of agriculture is looking bright!

WE'RE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING

2024 SCHOLARSHIP winners

After reviewing several top-notch applications, the scholarship committee has made its decision recipients. Premier's 2024 Scholarship Recipients are:

<p>TAYLA MARTIN HOLYOKE HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>Tayla Martin is graduating from Holyoke High School and is planning to attend CU-Boulder and major in Accounting and Ag Business. She is the daughter of KC and Gina Martin and granddaughter of Terry Martin.</p>	<p>CASSIDY GODDARD HAXTUN HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>Cassidy Goddard is graduating from Haxtun High School and is planning to major in Business Administration at Black Hills State University. She is the daughter of Casey and Lindsay Goddard and granddaughter of Claude and Joann Goddard.</p>	<p>CARTER VAN OVERBEKE HOLYOKE HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>Carter Van Overbeke is graduating from Holyoke High School and is planning to attend an undecided university and major in Mechanical Engineering. He is the son of Troy and Michelle Van Overbeke and grandson of Carl and Kathleen Schneller.</p>	<p>ADDICYN KESSINGER AKRON HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>Addicyn Kessinger is graduating from Akron High School and is planning to attend Black Hills State University and major in Exercise and Sport Science. She is the daughter of Kory and Shanan Kessinger and granddaughter of Lila Kessinger.</p>
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GRO UPDATE



GRO recipient, **Berkley Nighswonger** of Yuma, stands with her steer, Oliver. Berkley doesn't come from an agricultural background and is in her first year of FFA.

GRO recipients, **Braya, Brennyn, and Ellys Kailey** of Sterling are shown with their expanded rabbit hutches.

SAVE THE DATE

FOR OUR UPCOMING CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DINNER

Tuesday, August 27th
Sterling Elks Lodge

We hope you will join us for food and fellowship from 5:30 - 7:30pm



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MIKE GRAUBERGER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this issue of our spring newsletter finds you doing well. Spring is always a time of optimism for producers in Northeast Colorado as the weather warms up, crops are planted, and cattle are turned out to grass.

I am writing this message following the conclusion of our Annual Stockholder Meeting where I reported on Premier Farm Credit's results of operations for 2023. I was pleased to report to those attending our meeting that 2023 was a record year for Premier Farm Credit in many areas including total assets exceeding \$1.0 billion; record year-end loan volume of \$994.2 million; record net income of \$20.4 million; and record patronage of \$6.75 million. As a member of Premier Farm Credit, you not only have access to competitive lending solutions and financially related services, you also share in our success when you receive your patronage dividend each year.

Director Candidates were also finalized for our annual stockholder election during our Stockholder Meeting. Board members play an important role in the governance and oversight of operations at Premier Farm Credit. The Board establishes policies and strategies that govern how we carry out business, and ensures these strategies and policies are implemented in compliance with laws and regulations in a safe and sound manner. The Board delegates day-to-day operations to management, including all lending decisions. We understand that borrower confidentiality is very important. As such, Board members do not see or have access to borrower loan and financial information.

Cooperatives continue to play an important role in providing products and services to agriculture producers and rural communities. As a shareholder in Premier Farm Credit, I encourage you to take an active interest in the governance of your Association. You can do this by participating in the Board nomination and election process, serving on our Advisory Committee, visiting with your Board members, and staying abreast of Association operations by reading through our 2023 Annual Report, which was mailed to all members at the end of March.

As we embark on another year, Premier Farm Credit is financially strong and positioned to continue to support our membership and our local rural communities. We are committed to working with our customers to find the best lending solution for each situation. Please reach out to your loan officer if we can be of additional service to you, and refer your friends and neighbors. We are always looking to add new members.

Premier Farm Credit is proud to be your lending cooperative and we thank you for your continued business and support.

– Mike Grauberger, President and CEO