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FARM CREDIT OFFERS \$1,000 COLLEGE AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

More than \$20,000 of scholarships will be awarded to college-bound students who are pursuing agriculture-related curriculum and careers. Farm Credit Services of Illinois will present twenty-three \$1,000 "We Understand" Agriculture Scholarships to high school seniors this spring.

"We know the value of investing in young people who have a passion for agriculture. We need some of the brightest of today's youth to become tomorrow's agricultural leaders," says Dave Owens, Farm Credit Services of Illinois President & C.E.O. "The 'We Understand' Agriculture Scholarship program helps us promote the positive opportunities of exploring careers in the agriculture industry – including production agriculture." Scholarship selections are based on a combination of academic achievement, participation and leadership in school and community organizations, and the applicant's commitment level to an agricultural career.

To be eligible, scholarship applicants must be high school seniors who plan to enroll in a college or university during the fall 2009 semester and who will be pursuing an agriculture-related academic major or career. Applicants must reside in one of the sixty southern counties in Illinois served by Farm Credit Services of Illinois. The scholarship application deadline is March 15, 2009.

Applications for the "We Understand" Agriculture Scholarships are available at the 21 Farm Credit Services of Illinois branch offices and on-line at www.fcsillinois.com/scholarships.html. Questions about the scholarship can be sent to info@fcsillinois.com.

Farm Credit Services of Illinois is a farmer owned and directed agricultural lending cooperative with more than \$2.3 billion of assets. They provide competitive farm financing and crop insurance expertise to 8,000 farmers, agribusinesses, and rural landowners in the southern 60 counties of Illinois. The mission of the U.S. Farm Credit System is to provide financial capital and financial services to agriculture and Rural America.

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