



FRONTIER  
FARM CREDIT

# 2023 Community Impact Report



# COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITIES, MOTIVATED BY OUR MISSION

At the heart of our mission-driven financial cooperative is a singular focus of serving agriculture and rural communities. Each year, we put our dedication into action through local contributions, grants, volunteering and more.

By channeling our time and resources into organizations and causes influenced by agriculture – including ag education, hunger and nutrition, and rural disaster relief / essential services – we aim to directly improve the lives of those around us.

In 2023, Frontier Farm Credit contributed to projects and programs that impact agriculture, and our employees dedicated more than 800 volunteer hours in the communities where they live and work.

We also refreshed our *Working Here Fund* grant program to offer more financial support, sized to meet the needs of small and large projects. Nonprofit organizations in eastern Kansas whose projects align with the mission of our grant program can now apply for up to \$5,000 each quarter. Twice a year, we are awarding grants up to \$15,000 and \$25,000.

The following pages in this report feature stories and highlights of our employees and community partners making a difference in 2023. Additional stories can be found online by scanning the QR codes.

The Board of Directors and I are proud of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the communities across eastern Kansas.



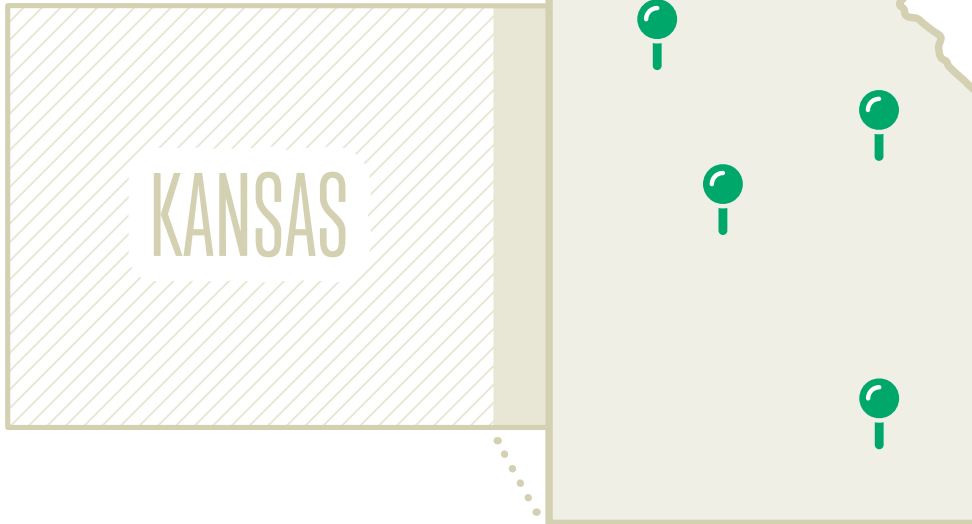
Mark Jensen  
President and CEO



# Community Impact At a Glance

A snapshot of our *Working Here Fund* grant programs, scholarships, employee engagement and local efforts in action across eastern Kansas.

 **Office Location**  
Frontier Farm Credit



- ▶ Supported **hunger initiatives**, awarding 20 grants, totaling **\$75,920**.
- ▶ Funded **ag education programs**, totaling **\$383,600**.
- ▶ Funded **20 scholarships**, totaling **\$44,000**.
- ▶ Teammates **volunteered 822 hours**.



## Ag Education

Frontier Farm Credit supports ag education through a variety of programs, including 4-H, FFA, Ag in the Classroom and many others. More than \$383,000 was donated to support ag education in our communities.



## Hunger and Nutrition

We provide funding to programs that break the hunger cycle, address immediate needs and support food rescue programs. Funding for hunger and nutrition programs totaled more than \$75,000.



## Disaster Relief / Essential Services

Through our local disaster relief efforts, we provide emergency response equipment and safety gear, and help fulfill other rural disaster response needs. Contributions totaled \$16,000.



## Employee Community Engagement

Frontier Farm Credit employees and Directors volunteered 822 hours in our communities, which resulted in \$31,887 in donations to local nonprofits. Employees and Directors also receive matches for donations made to nonprofit organizations up to \$500 for each employee, which resulted in a total of \$11,507.



## Local Efforts

Each of our local offices impacts communities with funding support for programs and initiatives focused on ag education, hunger and nutrition, and rural disaster relief / essential services.



## Scholarships

We offer multiple annual scholarships through FFA, land grant universities and community colleges. \$44,000 in scholarships were awarded to students pursuing agricultural careers.





# Ag Education

**Agricultural education inspires learning, empowers communities and fosters innovation. We are proud to partner on projects that cultivate awareness among students, teachers and local community members.**

## Students Grow Their Skills with New Ag Education Equipment

Students at Junction City High School have new classroom supplies for agricultural science education curriculum thanks to grant funds from Frontier Farm Credit.

The Junction City School District purchased 10 interactive data-logging platforms, two charging stations, two CO2 gas sensors and two pH sensors. Students enrolled in ag education courses will be trained how to use the equipment before utilizing it in experiments, labs and research to collect data and make graphs.

The training will further prepare students for future jobs in the agriculture industry by increasing their understanding of how the equipment is used in the field.

We're proud to support state and local FFA programs to provide education, experiences and resources for youth involved in agriculture.

## Two New Greenhouses Growing Minds and Communities

Baldwin High School's greenhouse benefits the school's new FFA chapter and students enrolled in the plant science course. Students will grow and maintain plants and produce that will be sold to community members through an annual plant sale fundraiser.

Some of the produce grown, including lettuce, tomatoes and peppers, will be used as part of the school's lunchtime salad bar. Baldwin High School also hopes to host an evening class for the community about growing plants.

Holy Name Catholic School purchased a greenhouse for its K-6 students to learn about weather, ecology, and plant and insect biology. Students have the opportunity to plant, grow and care for flowers before they are used for landscaping and decoration around the school. Lower grade students learn about plant science, while grades 4-6 continue studying botany and explore related careers.



### Online Feature

Regenerative Ag  
Floodwater Prevention





## Rural Disaster Relief / Essential Services

**With a singular focus of supporting agriculture and rural communities, we understand the importance of equipping first responders with the resources to serve and protect farmers and community members in the event of a disaster or emergency situation.**

### Grain Bin Rescue Equipment Keeps Communities Safe

Nehama County Rural Fire District No. 6 provides rescue services to more than 600 people throughout the county. The 24-member department purchased a grain bin tube, rescue auger, 1/2-inch drill and two safety harnesses to assist those trapped in a grain bin engulfment.

Marysville Fire Department continues to protect its community and neighboring townships with updated grain bin rescue equipment purchased with funds from Frontier Farm Credit. The new rescue auger and air monitor help rescuers efficiently conduct operations in time-sensitive entrapment situations.



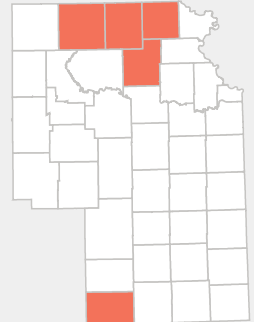
### Essential Service Equipment Improvements Help Protect Life and Land

Sedan Area EMS updated its reporting technology for those who receive care in the Chautauqua County and surrounding areas. More than 1,000 patients can receive improved quality of care, as responders are now easily able to access historical medical records while not at the station.

Netawaka Rural Fire District No. 6 purchased a new brush truck fire pump. The truck responds to wildland, cropland and vegetation fires. Other services Netawaka No. 6 provides include fire suppression, rescue and prehospital emergency medical response.

**Here's a look at the counties the fire departments referenced serve.**

- ▶ Chautauqua
- ▶ Jackson
- ▶ Marshall
- ▶ Nehama
- ▶ Brown



**Online Feature**

FD Communication Revitalization







# Hunger and Nutrition

We recognize rural communities face many of the same hunger and nutrition challenges as urban areas. Each year, Frontier Farm Credit provides funding for food pantries, community gardens and other important programs that serve counties with high percentages of food insecurity.

## Childrens' Farmers Market Promotes Healthy Choices

On behalf of the Power of Produce (PoP) Club, the Riley County Health Department (RCHD) in Manhattan received a *Working Here Fund* grant to support its farmers market incentive program.

PoP Club is a farmers market incentive program for children ages 4 to 12 that empowers them to make healthier food choices while learning about where food is grown by interacting with local producers. Each week of June through August, children attended the PoP Club booth and received tokens for fresh fruits or vegetables. After receiving the tokens, children participated in educational activities about gardening or farming.

PoP Club enhances the experience for children and families at the market while supporting local growers directly. RCHD promotes and protects the health and safety of its community through evidence-based practices, prevention and education. Community partnerships, including Food and Farm Council of Riley County & Manhattan, are critical to address public health needs.

**"The PoP Club engages children at the farmers market and empowers them to make healthful food choices. Farmers markets across the nation have implemented the program and documented the program's positive impact on children."**

**Cathy Jones, Registered Dietitian**



## Keeping Kids Full

With the support of a *Working Here Fund* grant from Frontier Farm Credit, Hiawatha Elementary School continued its Backpack Buddies program to help provide nutritional lunches, dinners and snacks to food-insecure students during weekends throughout the school year. In recent years, the school had up to 40 students receive a supplemental food bag.

Families in need of food assistance had the opportunity to sign up for the program during August enrollment. In September, weekly food bags were distributed to students through May.

## Nurturing Communities with Nutritious Foods

Flint Hills Breadbasket (FHBB) continues to support more than 1,000 people in Riley and Pottawatomie Counties thanks to funding from Frontier Farm Credit. FHBB was able to purchase six months of fresh foods and relevant food staples, including flour and sugar.

While many of the donations received are shelf-stable, some do not support healthy choices – so it's important that those items are supplemented with fresh foods.

The LGBTQ+ and Latino communities are often disproportionately affected by food insecurity and lack access to services to improve health, safety and quality of life. The Breadbasket demonstrates its commitment to equitable access through bilingual staff, an affirmative environment and an overall sense of welcome.

FHBB provides reliable access to healthy food, builds connections with community partners and empowers neighbors to meet basic needs.

**“It is important that healthy food choices are available for every guest served, whether they are the first visitor or our last. It is the goal of FHBB to create a space where all feel valued and welcome.”**

**Karla Hagemeister, Executive Director**

## Grade School Now Teaching Gardening

Bartlett Grade School can now provide gardening education to students, families and community members with support from Frontier Farm Credit.

The school purchased nutrition class supplies, community gardening materials and consumables. Project members met with community partners to develop a shared vision, provided nutrition classes, and it plans to provide evening classes for families and community members focused on proper greenhouse planting and transplanting methods.

Bartlett Grade School is a K-8 building in the USD 506 district of Labette County that prides itself on a sense of family and rural community while providing students with opportunities that go beyond the walls of a traditional classroom.

**“Our primary goal is to educate students and community members on the benefits of healthy eating while providing them with the skills and resources to grow their own food in home and community gardens.”**

**Michael Harrison, Science Teacher**

Frontier Farm Credit donated \$14,000 to organizations to distribute meals and food items to approximately 3,500 people within our rural communities.



### Online Feature

LCEAC Food & Hygiene Pantry



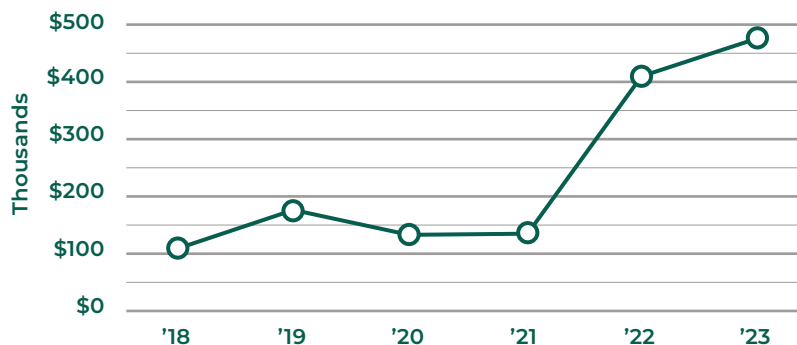
# WE DO MORE THAN FINANCING.

As a mission-driven financial cooperative, we work every day to strengthen the communities we and our customer-owners call home. Here are a few of our highlights from 2023.

## WORKING HERE FUND GRANTS

We awarded more than \$475,000 in grants supporting ag education, hunger and nutrition, and rural disaster relief / essential services.

This brings the amount awarded through our *Working Here Fund* grants to more than \$1.2 million since 2015.



Ag Education



Hunger and  
Nutrition



Rural Disaster Relief /  
Essential Services

20  
scholarships  
funded

More than  
\$11,500  
matched

through employee and  
Director donations

Grants  
totaling  
\$475,520  
to nonprofit organizations

822  
volunteer  
hours



Scan the QR code  
to learn more about  
our impact.





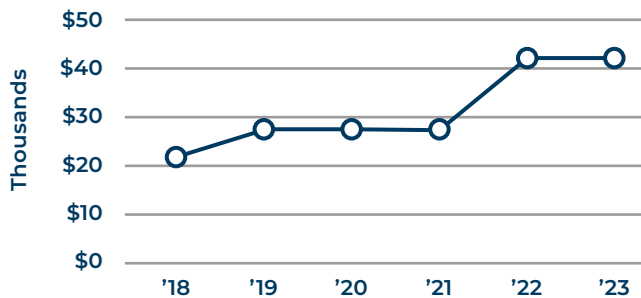
## Scholarship Program

Frontier Farm Credit is committed to supporting the future of agriculture through our scholarship program. We invest in the education of college students and high school seniors pursuing degrees that prepare them for a career in agriculture.

**IN 2023, FRONTIER FARM CREDIT AWARDED 20 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR A TOTAL OF \$44,000.**

### Supporting the Next Generation

Our scholarship program keeps growing. Since 2018, we have nearly doubled the amount awarded to students.



**8**

Land Grant University  
Scholarships

**4**

Two-Year Community  
College Scholarships

**8**

FFA Scholarships

## Scholarships Awarded in 2023

We offer annual scholarships to qualified students studying agriculture-related coursework. Congratulations to our 2023 recipients!

Carly Collins  
Braden Francis  
Lauren Gatz  
Jayce Hilderbrand  
Andrea Hipke  
Ethan Kneisler  
Sadie Krogmann  
Payton LeDuc  
Cece Lozano  
Callista Moore

Taylor O'Brien  
Ava Perrier  
Gracie Schertz  
Jonathon Siess  
Owen Strathman  
Payton Walk  
Lauren Wheeler  
Tobi Wilber  
Elizabeth Wright  
Alissa Yarnel



**Learn More**

Scan the QR code to apply.





# Teamwork Makes Our Communities Stronger

Volunteering is one of many ways we serve the communities we and our customer-owners call home. Each year, our teammates support local projects and nonprofit organizations that are meaningful to them through volunteer hours and match donations.

## Employees Give Back

2023 brought Frontier Farm Credit teammates into the community through individual and group volunteer efforts.

Donated by employees  
**\$6,026**

Frontier Farm Credit match donations  
**\$11,507**

Teammates volunteered  
**822 hours**

Volunteer match donations  
**\$31,887**



# Nonprofit Donations by Frontier Farm Credit

Below are some of the nonprofit organizations Frontier Farm Credit provided donations to in 2023. For a more comprehensive list of more than 145 nonprofit organizations, visit [frontierfarmcredit.com/communitydonations](https://frontierfarmcredit.com/communitydonations).

## Ag Education

Agriculture Future of America  
 Allen Community College  
 Allen County Extension  
 Atchison County Extension  
 Atchison County Fair Association  
 Chase County Extension  
 Chautauqua County 4-H  
 Coffey County Extension  
 Council Grove Area Foundation  
 Doniphan County 4-H  
 Douglas County 4-H Foundation  
 Franklin County 4-H Council  
 Future Farmers of America State Associations & Local Chapters  
 Geary County Schools  
 Highland Community College  
 Holy Name School  
 Kansas FFA Foundation  
 Kansas State Research & Extension  
 Kansas State University  
 Labette County Fair Association  
 Leavenworth County 4-H  
 Lyon County Extension  
 Madison FFA Chapter  
 Osage County Extension  
 Pottawatomie County 4-H Foundation  
 Southwind Extension District  
 Transition Plus Association  
 Wildcat Extension District  
 Wilson County Fair Association  
 Woodson County Extension

## Agriculture Organizations

Atchison County Women in Ag  
 Clay County Conservation District  
 Doniphan County Women in Ag  
 Greenwood County Conservation District  
 Kansas Livestock Association  
 Marion County Conservation District  
 Shawnee County Conservation

## Disaster Relief and Essential Services

Farm Rescue  
 Marshall County Fire District 7  
 Marysville Fire Department  
 Nemaha County Rural Fire District 6  
 Netawaka Rural Fire District 6  
 Sedan Area EMS

## Employee Match Donations

Brown County Fair  
 Emporia Community Foundation  
 Galesburg Relief Fund  
 Greater Manhattan Community Foundation  
 Kansas State University Foundation  
 Kansas Troopers Foundation  
 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
 STEP Foundation

## Hunger and Nutrition

Abilene Area Food Pantry  
 Allen County Food Bank  
 Atchison County Food Pantry  
 Beacon Food Pantry of Bourbon County  
 Chase County Care and Compassion  
 Coffeyville Neighborhood Initiative  
 Community Access Center  
 Eleanor's Food Pantry  
 Elk County Ministerial Alliance  
 Flint Hills Breadbasket  
 Hope House  
 Kaden's Kloset  
 Main Street Ministries Food Bank  
 Marion County Food Bank  
 Marshall County Agency on Aging  
 Morris County Care & Share  
 Nemaha County Food Pantry  
 Pantry of Hope  
 Pony Express Partnership for Children  
 Vaughn-Trent Community Services

## Volunteer Match Donations

American Red Cross Midway – Kansas Chapter  
 American Red Cross of South Central and Southeast Kansas  
 Douglas County FCE Council  
 Emporia Friends of the Zoo  
 Greenwood County 4-H Foundation  
 Hetlinger Developmental Services  
 Kansas 4-H Foundation  
 Labette County Emergency Assistance  
 Nemaha County Free Fair Outreach  
 Power of the Past Antique Engine and Tractor Show





# Working Here Fund Grants

Our grant program has been supporting nonprofit organizations in eastern Kansas since 2015.

Eight years and more than \$1 million later, we have refreshed our grant program to offer more financial support, sized to meet the needs of small to large projects.

We award grants up to **\$5,000** each quarter. Twice a year, we award grants up to **\$15,000** and up to **\$25,000**. All grants align with our mission to serve agriculture and rural communities.

## 2024 Working Here Fund Grant Application Deadlines:

- ▶ March 31
- ▶ June 30
- ▶ September 30
- ▶ December 31



**Learn More**

Scan the QR code to apply.



### Ag Education

Programs that support ag education for students, adults and families to expand their knowledge about agriculture through curriculum, programs, educational events and other projects.



### Hunger and Nutrition

Initiatives focused on food insecurity that serve the immediate need, provide food rescue or help break the hunger cycle.



### Rural Disaster Relief / Essential Services

Support in the event of natural disasters, assistance for first responders or initiatives that impact life-and-death situations.



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