

# 2023 Community Impact Report



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, Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica) contributed more than \$5.8 million to projects and programs that impact agriculture, and our employees dedicated more than 11,000 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 Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming 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 our four-state territory.

Mark Jensen
President and CEO



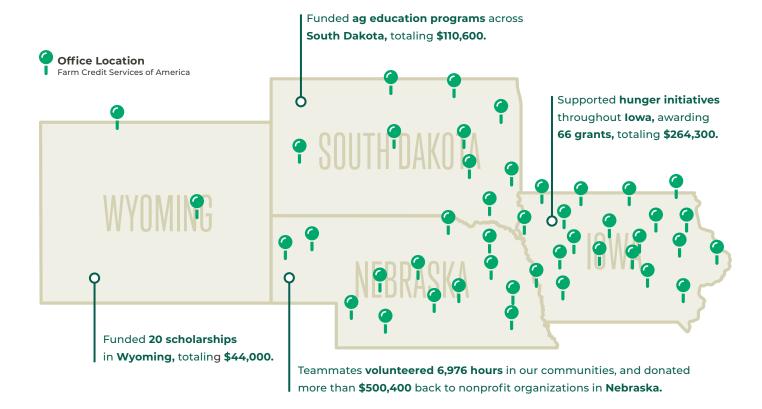






# **Community Impact At a Glance**

A snapshot of our *Working Here Fund* grant programs, scholarships, employee engagement and local efforts in action across our four-state territory.





### **Ag Education**

FCSAmerica supports ag education through a variety of programs, including 4-H, FFA, Ag in the Classroom, Women in Ag and many others. \$1.7 million 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 \$1.2 million.



# 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 more than \$390,000.



# **Employee Community Engagement**

FCSAmerica employees and Directors volunteered 11,949 hours in our communities, which resulted in more than \$754,000 in donations to local nonprofits. The Employee Donation Match Program also matches donations made to nonprofit organizations up to \$500 for each employee, which totaled over \$257,000.



#### **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 annual scholarships through FFA, land grant universities, four-year colleges and community colleges. More than \$439,000 in scholarships were awarded to students pursuing agricultural related careers.



# WE DO MUCH 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 achievements from 2023.

### **WORKING HERE FUND GRANTS**

We awarded more than \$3.4 million 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 \$11 million since 2013.





**Hunger and** Nutrition



**Rural Disaster Relief Essential Services** 

### 190 scholarships funded

### More than \$257,000 matched

through employee and **Director donations** 

### **Grants totaling** more than \$3.4 million

to nonprofit programs

11,949 volunteer hours



Scan the QR code to learn more about our impact.



### **Ag Education**

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

### **Enhancing Ag Education**

Projects supported in 2023 included a hydroponic gardening tower that is helping educate 4-H youth in Wyoming about alternative vegetable growing methods. Another grant in Nebraska is providing hands-on learning experience to FFA chapter members who are upcycling an old school greenhouse into a poultry lab.

Funding for larger initiatives, such as the SoDak Ag-Venture Experience at the South Dakota State Fair, will help engage an urban audience as fairgoers participate in immersive activities that connect them to the roots of our food system. And the construction of a new multipurpose livestock barn in lowa will serve as an event space for exhibitors and the local community.

FCSAmerica is proud to support the startup and revival of FFA chapters throughout our fourstate territory.



#### **Tech Tools and Resources**

Several grants in Iowa and Nebraska are helping integrate cutting-edge technology into middle and high school ag education courses. These projects include a drone that will be used to crop scout an 18-acre student farm, sensors that integrate data collection into food science curriculum, a robotic arm that helps monitor and water a small garden bed, and hydraulics and pneumatics training modules that replicate real-life, industrial production line processes.

In 2023, our efforts helped build, expand and maintain 22 greenhouse projects.













# Hunger and Nutrition

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

## Backpack Programs Help Bridge the Hunger Gap



More than 500 students in three states were sent home with small packs of nutritious food.



Food distributed for 35 weeks of the school year and during summer months.



Provided ingredients for one to two meals weekly, plus vouchers for fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, milk and meat.

## **Access for Refugee and Immigrant Communities**



Culturally appropriate foods provided to 60+ refugee families each month.



Immigrant Culinary Integration training offered to 40 participants.

It is estimated that each pound of produce grown in community gardens provides three servings of food.

## **College Campus Pantries Keep Students Fed and Focused**



Funding used to stock food pantries on college campuses.



More than 2,000 pounds of food distributed.



More than 2,000 students served.

Grants totaling more than \$133,000 supported 45 food pantries in 2023.











### 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 Resources**

Two volunteer fire departments in Iowa and South Dakota received grants totaling more than \$10,000 to purchase essential equipment used in the event of a grain bin accident. The specialized tools will help ensure rescue teams can safely and effectively respond to incidents while preventing the loss of life.

### Grain Bin Support Outcomes:

- Update current manual methods of removing grain around a victim.
- Decrease firefighter and victim exhaustion.
- Add battery capacity to ensure enough power and run time to complete a rescue.
- Increase speed and ability to rescue a victim from a grain bin.



### **Emergency Response Tools**

Grant contributions will positively impact rural communities across our four-state territory where local rescue services were able to purchase the following life saving tools:

- Bunker gear for firefighters.
- Portable automated external defibrillator.
- ▶ Brush fire truck.
- Vehicle extrication tools.
- High pressure air tanks.

### **DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT**

Donations in 2023 supported communities impacted by tornados in Iowa and fires in Nebraska, as well as the Lake Norden Volunteer Fire Department in South Dakota, where a devastating fire destroyed the fire hall and all emergency vehicles and equipment inside.







### **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 FCSAmerica teammates into the community through individual and group volunteer efforts.

> **Donated by employees** \$193,003

**FCSAmerica match donations** 

\$257,196

**Teammates volunteered** 

11,949 hours

**Volunteer match donations** 

\$754,687





















### **Nonprofit Donations by FCSAmerica**

Below are some of the nonprofit organizations FCSAmerica provided donations to in 2023. For a more comprehensive list of more than 1,200 nonprofit organizations, visit fcsamerica.com/communitydonations.

#### Ag Education

AgriSafe Network Bellevue University Bon Homme School District **Boone County Extension** Buena Vista University Casper College Central Community College Foundation Central Wyoming College Chadron State College Custer County Agriculture Society Delaware County Fair Society Des Moines Area Community College Doane University Eastern Wyoming College Friends of Fayette Fair Foundation Future Farmers of America State Associations & Local Chapters Goshen County 4-H Foundation **Groundworks Connect** Hastings College Hawkeye Community College Foundation

Hershey Public Schools Hinton Community School District Foundation

Iowa Central Community College Iowa Lakes Community College

Iowa Western Community College Jerauld Buffalo Leaders 4-H

Iowa State University

Lake Area Technical College Laramie County Community College Madison County Fair

Mitchell Technical Institute Foundation Mobridge-Pollock School District

Morningside College Muscatine Community College

Natrona County 4-H Foundation Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

North Fayette Valley High School North Iowa Area Community College North Polk FFA

Northeast Community College Northeast Iowa Community College Foundation

Northwest College Oakland Craig Public Schools

Sandy Creek High School Sheridan College Shicklev High School

South Dakota State University South Hardin High School Southeast Community College

University of Nebraska - Kearney University of Nebraska - Lincoln

University of Nebraska - Omaha University of Northern Iowa University of South Dakota - Vermillion

University of Wyoming Webster County Fair Foundation Yankton County Extension Office

#### **Agriculture Organizations**

Antelope County Ag Society **Audubon County Pork Producers** Benton County Dairy Producers **Buchanan County Dairy Producers Buchanan County Pork Producers** Clay County Ag Extension District Clayton County Dairy Promotion Delaware County Dairy Promoter Delaware County Pork Producers **Dubuque County Dairy Association Dundy County Ag Society** Gage County Ag Society Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation

### **Agriculture Organizations**

#### Iowa Farm Bureau Foundation

Iowa Soybean Association Iowa Women in Ag Lincoln County Ag Society Lyon County Pork Producers Mitchell County Agricultural Society National Pork Industry Foundation Nebraska Cattlemen Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic Nebraska Corn Growers Association

Nebraska Soybean Association Northeast Iowa Dairy

Otoe County Agricultural Society Pierce County Ag Society

Sac County Cattlemen Saline County Agricultural Society Sheridan County Cattlewomen

South Dakota Beef Breeds Council Spink Conservation District Stanton County Ag Society Suhr Dairy and Friends Annual Farm

Tama County Pork Producers Wright County Cattlemen

#### **Disaster Relief and Essential Services**

Black Hawk Volunteer Fire Department Charlotte Community Fire Company City of Ashland Volunteer Fire Department Clarksville Fire Departmen Decorah Volunteer Fire Department Hadar Fire & Rescue Haves Center Ambulance Java Fire District Lake Norden Volunteer Fire Department Morning Sun Fire Department Nebraska Cattlemen Disaster Relief Fund Orleans Rural Fire Department Rackett Rural Fire District 4 Revillo Fire Department Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department Truro Fire & Rescue Department Wapello Community Ambulance Wasta Volunteer Fire Department Wilcox Rural Fire Protection District

#### **Employee Match Donations**

Allamakee Community School District Alzheimer's Association American Cancer Society - Iowa Angels Among Us Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands Black Hills Works Foundation Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Southwest Iowa Boys & Girls Club of Watertown Child Saving Institute Children's Cancer Connection Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines **Cuming County Fair Foundation** Friends of the Hartley Library Friends of the Watertown Regional Library Habitat for Humanity International Hamilton County Fair Foundation Hardin County Agricultural Society Harrisburg Community Foundation Heart Ministry Center

Humble and Kind Make-A-Wish of Nebraska Milbank Community Foundation Mitchell United Way Peru State College Foundation

Project Pink'd Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa

### **Employee Match Donations**

Siouxland Junior Adaptive Sports South Dakota FFA Foundation Special Olympics South Dakota State University of Iowa Foundation United Way of Huron United Way of Northeastern South Dakota Watertown Area People Against Child Hunger Watertown Community Foundation West Point Community Theater Western South Dakota Senior Services Wyoming Agricultural Leadership Council Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom

#### **Hunger and Nutrition**

Allen County Food Bank Atkinson Stuart Food Pantry Atlantic Food Pantry Bon Homme Food Pantry Council Bluffs Pantry Association Cumberland Care & Share Pantry Day County Food Pantry Delaware County Food Bank Feeding South Dakota Food Bank for the Heartland Food Bank of Iowa Food Bank of Lincoln Food Bank of Siguxland Food Bank of the Rockies Fremont County Cent\$ible Nutrition Program Hershey-Sutherland Food Pantry Lake County Food Pantry Mapleton Food Pantry Norfolk Area United Way Salvation Army Then Feed Just One Weekend Snack Pack Wood River Food Pantry Woodbine Food Pantry

#### **Volunteer Match Donations** ALS in the Heartland

Area IV Senior Citizens Planning Council Beatrice Educational Foundation Center for People in Need Concerned Dewitt Citizens Crooks Area Working Together Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands Elderbridge Agency on Aging

Friends of Cass County Casa Program Friends of Saunders County 4-H & Extension

Groton Area High School Heartland Family Service

Heartland Hope Mission Imagine the Possibilities Iowa SIDS Foundation

Kim Foundation Linn County Fair Association

Meals from the Heartland Nebraska 4-H Foundation

North-Iowa Southern Minnesota Veterans Standdown

Senior Citizens Services Seward County 4-H Foundation Shelby County Fair Association South Dakota State Fair Foundation SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center The Banquet

Washington County Friends of the Fair Woodbury County Fair Association Yankton County 4-H Clubs

### **Scholarship Program**

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

### IN 2023, FCSAMERICA AWARDED 190 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR A TOTAL OF \$439,000.

### **Supporting the Next Generation**

Our scholarship program keeps growing. Since 2018, we have more than tripled the amount awarded to students and increased the number of participating institutions.



**30 Land Grant University Scholarships** 

40 **Two-Year Community College Scholarships** 

88 **Four-Year Institution Scholarships** 

**FFA Scholarships** 











### **Scholarships Awarded in 2023**

We offer annual scholarships to qualified students studying agriculture-related coursework at land grant universities, four-year colleges, community colleges and FFA chapters. Congratulations to our 2023 recipients!

Enrique Acevedo Matthew Adams Ashley Adkins Ethan Alfers Carli Antonovich Evan Appleby Kaylee Baker Owen Ballard Joel Bazayamakele Abigail Beeck Drew Benson Lucas Berens Cameron Binder Brittany Blair Trevor Bolton Mia Boulton Carson Brincks Alexis Brinkman Revin Bruck Kevin Brugmann Abigail Bruns Jordyn Buettner Valerie Burch Koby Busch Cole Carlson Creighton Carlson Hailey Carr **Edison Caspers Devon Chambliess** Donovan Chandy Colton Collins Davan Crooker Nathan Crooker Frankie Curren-Graff Chyane Davidson Bryan Diaz-Quezada Abraham Dirkx Mya Dissing Victoria Donovan Tori Dvorak Misty Elliott Dane Elmegreen

Barca Elongo

Tessa Erdmann

Sydney Erickson Kellie Fausti Damon Fehr Heath Keiser Seth Fey Ayden Kenkel Jameson Fleenor Emma Krayneski Svdnie Fornstrom Audrye Foster Joe Langbein Jaxson Frankenstein Tammy Le Peyton French Nolan Lehmann Noah Fuhrman Ava Leonard Daniela Garcia Mejia Mackenzie Liakos Rian Gehring **Grant Linder** Kailee Gill Elizabeth Lipp Sarah Glawe Kristina Goth Elias Lovetinsky Emma Gravert Ben Lueck Nicholas Gray Brennan Lynch Dominic Groothuis Connie Marcos Gage Gullickson Alexis Mauler Eric Gustafson Rhys Maxey Meredith Halweg Kall Mayfield Isabel Hanisch Garrett Hansen Hayden Meinders MaKenna Hanson Ally Micheel Easton Harms Gillian Mojorek Mikayla Monahan Selegna Harvey Ella Haven Sean Moser Rayana Hawks Swayze Ness Grace Helle Nhi Nguyen Emma Heller Vy Nguyen Kelsey Henderson **Delaney Nichols** Kaitlynn Heyen Blake Nielsen Olivia Hilby Zane Niemann Isaiah Hinners Brittany Ohle Elizabeth Hodges Katherine Olson Eoghan Holdahl Isabella Ostovic Aaron Hoover Victoria Perez Sasha Perrin Thaw Htoo Kyle Preister Emma Humphreys Luke Huntrods Madelvn Pulliam Lane Jav Ryan Jensen Jadyn Johnson Jayden Jordan **Aubrey Reger** 

Aubrey Kasbohm Annaliese Kassens Morgan Kwasniewski Angelina Lockhart Addison Meidinger Garrett Rasmussen Gabrielle Rebelein

Kimberly Ramirez Hernandez

Simon Rivas Clav Roberts Jonathan Ruvalcaba-Guzman Kirsten Saldivar Lena Schiller Reilly Schmitt Drew Schnell Brianna Schortzman Ireland Sebetka Chelsev Semour **Emily Shatek** Kylie Shaw Keegan Shuler Morgan Slover Erin Smith Zachary Sodorff Amber Staab Sara Stanek Wyatt Stout Chanda Sunderman Emma Talbott Katrina Todd Jessica Tuttle Amelia Underberg Brady Van Meeteren Brant Vander Hart Mitchell VanderWa Liah Villela Sidney Vincent Grace Walz Miranda Wehling Travis Weininger Zayden Weller Hannah Williams



Aiden Wilson

Taylor Wilson



### Working Here Fund Grants

Our grant program has been supporting nonprofit organizations in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming since 2013.

Ten years and more than \$6.5 million later, we have refreshed our grant program to offer more financial support, sized to meet the needs of small to large projects.

\$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.



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.



