

PRESS RELEASE



American AgCredit
Money for Agriculture

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American AgCredit To Host A.G. Kawamura, California State Food & Agriculture Secretary, at Dinner Event

~ Dinner scheduled for Thursday, March 12 at the San Joaquin County's Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center

STOCKTON (February, 2009) – American AgCredit, the nation's 7th largest Farm Credit cooperative, will feature *A.G. Kawamura, California's Food and Agriculture secretary*, as the keynote speaker for its annual Customer Appreciation Dinner.

Scheduled for Thursday, March 12, the event is being held at San Joaquin County's new Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, which is a new location for the dinner. The Center, which officially opened September 12, 2008, hosts a 9,400-square-foot conference center that seats up to 500 people.

A.G. Kawamura is a third-generation grower and shipper and founding partner of Orange County Produce, LLC. Prior to serving as California's Secretary of Food and Agriculture, Kawamura was chair of the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service's Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Fruits and Vegetables. He is also a past chairman of Western Growers Association, a past president of the Orange County Farm Bureau, and a past member of the California Strawberry Commission.

"Agriculture in California faces many challenges, and the Farm Credit System has always been supportive of ranchers, growers and shippers to provide the financial support needed through good and bad times," said Kawamura. "I'm honored to speak to the farmers and ranchers of California."

According to Bud Bensley, American AgCredit's Senior Vice President of Credit, the event marks an important milestone for both American AgCredit and the Agricultural Center.

"American AgCredit is proud to be affiliated with the new San Joaquin County AgCenter and to have our new facility located next door on the ag campus. American AgCredit has served agriculture in the valley for over 90 years, and the new Stockton facility reflects an ongoing commitment to our farmers and ranchers and as well as the entire ag community," he said.

The Stockton Region of American AgCredit returns \$1.96 million in dividends to its customers

This annual customer appreciation event follows on the heels of American AgCredit's fourth consecutive year of returning dividends to its customers based on the Association's previous year's

performance. The Stockton Region alone has returned close to \$7.5 million in dividends to its local members since 2006, including this year's dividend of \$1.96 million. This year's payout totals \$64.1 million that American AgCredit has returned back to its members in that same period.

Dividends allow the cooperatively-owned Association to return a portion of its net income to its member shareholders, who are its borrowing customers. Individual dividend amounts are based upon the average daily balance of the borrower's loan(s) as a percentage of the total loan balances held in the Association.

Steven R. Day, Regional Vice President, believes that cash dividends set American AgCredit apart from other financial institutions in the marketplace.

"In today's volatile financial environment, American AgCredit has remained a stable and reliable source of financing for our region's producers. In addition to continuing to provide loans to the agricultural community, we are proud that our capital strength allows us to be able to give back to our customers a dividend based on that success."

About the California Department of Food and Agriculture

The California Department of Food and Agriculture oversees programs to assist and promote California's agriculture industry. The department operates as an advocate for the industry, and provides regulatory, informational and other marketing services for agricultural producers, handlers, consumers and others. The Department also provides information and economic analysis on agricultural marketing issues. Approximately 1,800 employees work for the department with a budget of \$270 million.

About American AgCredit

Founded in 1916, American AgCredit is part of the cooperative nationwide Farm Credit System, and is the nation's 7th largest Farm Credit cooperative. American AgCredit specializes in providing financial services to agriculture and rural customers throughout California and Nevada as well as to capital markets customers in 27 states across the nation.

Financial services provided by American AgCredit include production and mortgage financing, equipment and vehicle leasing, lines of credit, and the Young, Beginning and Small farmer program. In addition, the Association provides interest-free loans for qualifying 4-H and FFA AgYouth programs, as well as college scholarships to young people interested in agriculture. For more information about American AgCredit's financial services, call 800-800-4865 or visit the website at www.agloan.com for a listing of offices by region.

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