

Farm Credit of Northwest Florida Awards \$18,500 to Non-Profit(s) Improving Rural Communities

MARIANNA, Fla., Jan. 12, 2024 – Farm Credit of Northwest Florida announced a total of \$18,500 awarded to five organizations working to improve rural communities within the Florida Panhandle. One recipient was the Jackson County Jr. Cattlemen’s Association, an organization open to those 21 and under who want to serve as an essential part of Florida’s cattle industry. The members of the Jr. Cattlemen’s Association hold ranch tours, meetings, and discuss current issues facing the cattle industry.

Another recipient was Second Harvest of the Big Bend headquartered in Tallahassee, FL. Second Harvest provides food for our neighbors facing hunger and food insecurity throughout the Big Bend service area by serving as a storage and distribution depot for over 149 smaller frontline agency partners such as soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and emergency food pantries. In 2022, Second Harvest provided approximately 14 million pounds of nutritious food to people in need for no charge (enough for about 11.6 million charitable meals).



Rooted in Giving Donation Award to Asa Anderson, President of Jackson County Jr. Cattlemen’s Association by Nominator, Lesia Andrews, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, Marketing Manager.



Rooted in Giving Donation Award to Kristie Teal, Donor Engagement Manager of Second Harvest of the Big Bend by Dorislynn White-Padgett, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, Director of Human Capital.

Other award recipients include Sleep in Heavenly Peace, the Monticello, FL chapter; Waterfront Rescue Mission, headquartered in Pensacola, FL; and Feeding the Gulf Coast whose Panhandle Branch is in Milton, FL.

“We are delighted to support these outstanding organizations supporting the next generation of agriculture and families in the Jackson County and surrounding areas,” said Farm Credit of Northwest Florida CEO John Gregory. “I am proud of our employees, who contribute donations that are matched by Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, to provide these staff-nominated awards to worthy recipients. Working together, we can help our communities remain strong and resilient.”

Additionally, food collected from the Farm Credit of Northwest Florida Food Drive was provided to Second Harvest of the Big Bend and Feeding the Gulf Coast, with the aim to help restock the shelves of area food banks after the Thanksgiving holiday and provide area families nutritious meals.

This is the 9th year of the Rooted in Giving holiday awards, with more than \$104,000 donated to assist organizations making our local communities better places to live.

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About Farm Credit of Northwest Florida

Farm Credit of Northwest Florida is a member-owned financial cooperative headquartered in Marianna, Fla., that serves 18 counties throughout the Florida panhandle. Farm Credit offers highly competitive credit to meet the financing needs of rural land and homeowners, farmers, and agribusinesses. For more information about the types of financing available or how cooperative lenders share their profits with borrowers, please visit www.GoRural.net.

