Agricultural Credit Conditions Update

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The views expressed here are those of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City or the Federal Reserve System.
Outlook Themes

- The U.S. ag economy has entered the year with the strongest financial outlook in years.

- Some industries are positioned better than others, and there are still significant risks.

- Almost all measures of credit conditions have improved sharply in recent months.
A year ago, the U.S. ag economy appeared to be entering another year of decline.

Sources: USDA and Haver Analytics.
Ag commodity prices have rebounded sharply, however, following a plunge in the early months of the pandemic.

Agricultural Commodity Prices

Sources: CME, WSJ and Haver Analytics.
Last spring, it appeared that financial challenges could intensify quickly.

Changes in Farm Borrower Liquidity
Kansas City Fed Region


Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Survey of Agricultural Credit Conditions, Farm Credit Administration, Farm Service Agency, Farmer Mac, MetLife Investment Management, Equitable Agrifinance and PGIM.

Farm Loan Delinquency Rates and Farm Sector Leverage
Government aid programs provided significant assistance to the U.S. farm sector.

Direct Government Payments to U.S. Farm Sector

By the end of the year, farm income and credit conditions had improved dramatically.

**Farm Income**
Federal Reserve Districts

**Farm Loan Repayment Rates**
Federal Reserve Districts

Note: Farm Income includes only Districts that collect information related to changes in farm income and spending. Survey for St. Louis District began Q2 2012.

Sources: Federal Reserve District Surveys of Agricultural Credit Conditions
Farm real estate markets strengthened through 2020 and values may increase further in 2021.

Value of Non-irrigated Farmland - by Federal Reserve District

Expectations For Nonirrigated Farmland – KC District

Sources: Federal Reserve District Surveys of Agricultural Credit Conditions
Historically low interest rates have provided additional support for farm finances.

Average Interest Rates on Agricultural Loans

Note: Average fixed interest rates on intermediate operating loans and farm real estate loans reported by agricultural bankers in the Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Richmond and St. Louis Federal Reserve Districts.

Sources: Federal Survey District Surveys of Agricultural Credit Conditions.
Capital spending plans strengthened at year-end and could increase further in coming months.

Farm Borrower Capital Spending – Federal Reserve Districts

Note: Includes only Districts that collect information related to changes in farm income and spending. Survey for St. Louis District began Q2 2012.

Sources: Federal Reserve District Surveys of Agricultural Credit Conditions
Looking ahead, macroeconomic growth prospects will shape broader ag market conditions.

Real GDP Growth Forecasts – As of January 2020

Real GDP Growth Forecasts – As of January 2021

Exports to China will be an important determinant of the strength in ag markets.

U.S. Ag Exports by Partner

Value of U.S. Dollar*

*Nominal, broad, trade-weighted exchange value of the U.S. Dollar

**As of January 2021

Sources: Federal Reserve Board, WSJ, USDA, World Bank and Haver Analytics.
U.S. ag producers appear to be in a relatively strong financial position, but there are still near-term risks.

- Macroeconomic effects associated with the pandemic
- Household finances and off-farm income
- Government payments in 2021 and beyond?
- Policy uncertainty
- Financial decisions amid uncertainty: marketing, risk management, and investment
- Livestock sector