

For Immediate Release

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Fresno Madera Farm Credit and CoBank Step Up with \$30,000 Donation to Central California Food Bank Amid Growing Food Insecurity

Fresno, CA – Sept. 20, 2024 – As rising living costs continue to impact households, Fresno Madera Farm Credit and CoBank have come together to donate \$30,000 to Central California Food Bank’s Feeding Families Fund Drive. This contribution will help provide over 120,000 meals to rural residents of Central California, many of whom have limited access to full-service grocery stores and are facing the ongoing challenges of increasing food prices.

“With rising costs of all basic necessities—food, healthcare, gas, and utilities, we are seeing both an increase in need and frequency in which neighbors are seeking our support,” said Kym Dildine, co-CEO, Central California Food Bank. “Through the generosity of Fresno Madera Farm Credit, CoBank and others, we can meet neighbors where they are to provide the nourishment they need to thrive.”

The \$30,000 donation, made possible by a matched contribution from CoBank, reflects the partnership between Fresno Madera Farm Credit and Central California Food Bank. Together, they are focused on addressing the growing needs of the community.



Staff from Fresno Madera Farm Credit and CoBank present a check for \$30,000 to the Central California Food Bank.

"Fresno Madera Farm Credit’s partnership with Central California Food Bank aligns with our shared commitment to supporting Central Valley communities," said Claire Trudo, Vice President at CoBank. "We are proud to stand alongside them in their mission to ensure food security for those in need."

The donation coincides with the 11th Annual Feeding Families Fund Drive, which offers a 50% match from GAR Bennett for all contributions made throughout the month of September. Fresno Madera Farm Credit staff also volunteered during the drive, helping collect donations at The Market grocery store on Herndon and West.

"Food insecurity is a real issue that affects people across our region," said Fresno Madera Farm Credit CEO Keith Hesterberg. "We're in our tenth year of partnership with Central California Food Bank – we understand how critical their mission is as well as the leadership they provide around the effort to direct support to where it is most needed and how best to lift our communities through making a tangible, meaningful impact on food insecurity in the region."

Fresno Madera Farm Credit and CoBank are committed to making a positive difference in the communities they serve, ensuring that families in Central California have access to the food they need during challenging times.

About Fresno Madera Farm Credit:

Founded in 1917, Fresno Madera Farm Credit is a farmer-owned cooperative and a proud member of the national Farm Credit System. Located in one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world, FMFC provides credit and financial services to farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses that grow, process, and market over 350 commodities that are shipped all over the United States, and the world. For more information about FMFC please visit fmfarmcredit.com, and for more information about the Farm Credit System, visit www.farmcredit.com.

About CoBank:

CoBank is a cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 76,000 farmers, ranchers, and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country. CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure, and rural communities. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S., and also maintains an international representative office in Singapore.