

THE BRAND

The Newsletter for the Farm Credit of New Mexico Community

June 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

There were two positions on the FCNM Board of Directors up for election in 2022. The election results are in and Doug DeGroot and Kelly Peterson have been elected.

Southeast Region – Seat #4 (4-Year Term):

Doug DeGroot has been reelected to the Southeast Region. A special thank you to Steven McCutcheon II for his support of FCNM by allowing his name to appear on the ballot.

Southwest Region – Seat #6 (4-Year Term):

Kelly Peterson has been elected to the Southwest Region.

A special thank you to Craig Tharp for his support of FCNM by allowing his name to appear on the ballot.

2023 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee serves one (1) year terms and is comprised of no less than three members and no more than seven. The following stockholders were elected to the 2023 Nominating Committee:

Jim Ross Caviness
Jose Chavez
Kim Chesser
Devin Kanapilly
Brycen Salopek
Jett Sharp
James Sloan



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FARM CREDIT
OF NEW MEXICO



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

NEAL HURLEY

By Tania Privette

Fun, selfless, honest, kind, compassionate, giving, source of knowledge, “go-to” person, role model, caring, teacher, mentor and great cook are just a few of the words that Neal Hurley’s coworkers use to describe him.

Celebrating 20 years at Farm Credit and 35 years as an appraiser, Neal Hurley was selected for the CREED Spotlight as one that does his job well and has accountability to the team. So, when asked about what Accountability to the Team meant to him, he said it is “understanding your role within the company and diligently striving for competency in your chosen profession, communicating realistic expectations and meeting commitments you have made. You need to understand how your job performance impacts others’ ability to complete their tasks, duties and job performance.”

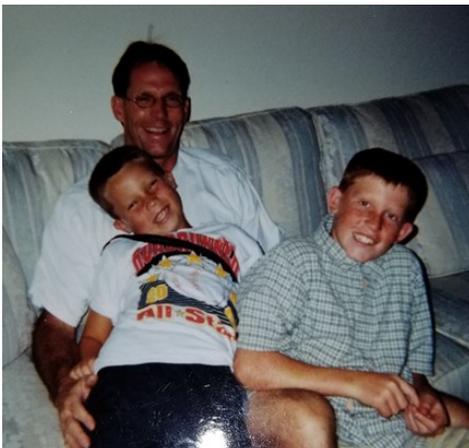
In May 2002, with 2 boys to care for, Jay and Connor, that were “a visit to the urgent care waiting to happen”, Neal accepted an opportunity to work at FCNM. This allowed Neal to continue to do work that he really enjoys while also providing healthcare for his family. Before working at FCNM, Neal worked as an appraiser for Sunwest Bank, Boatman’s Bank, Nations Bank and Bank of America and comments that he is a “merger and acquisition” survivor. He has also been a residential and commercial appraiser in addition to his farm appraisal experience. Working at FCNM has allowed him to see really cool places that many people don’t get to and he gets to meet people he would never otherwise meet. Neal considers it a great day when he has been riding around with a rancher and gets to learn from that rancher’s knowledge and experiences.

Neal has lived in Albuquerque since he was 4 and continues to reside there today. For his 8th birthday, Neal got to wrestle a bear (parental oversight in the 60s is a little different than it is now). He learned that if

you eat spaghetti and then wrestle a bear, you get your face licked! As a young man he has had all the glamorous farm jobs such as shoveling horse manure, hauling hay and building fences. One day Neal was complaining about life to an older gentleman that he considers a friend and mentor. He says that the man got a big smile on his face, shrugged his shoulders, and very matter of factly said, “well, hopefully sooner or later you’ll grow up.” Neal realized that while he couldn’t control everything in his life, he could control how he reacted to it. That lesson he learned in his early 20’s has stayed with him all of these years.

When asked about how he incorporates doing his job well into his daily job duties and life, Neal says it is easily summed up into one word... “Care”. He says “I care about my job performance, my fellow coworkers, customers, and the company. The same is true about being a father, son, sibling, and friend.” Neal’s coworkers note that he quietly shows his care and appreciation of others without ever asking to be in the spotlight for doing so. He has been known to buy hay bales and pumpkins to decorate the hallway, leave gifts for others at holidays, cook up a mean meal and take cookies to the other branches to name just a few.

FCNM is fortunate to have someone that does his job so well, is accountable to others, and cares! Thank you, Neal.



Left to right: Connor, Neal, Jay.

Left to right: grandma, brother John, Neal, brother Tim, mom and brother Lonny.

Donation Supports Producers Impacted by New Mexico Wildfires

CoBank, Farm Credit of New Mexico and American AgCredit contribute \$40,000 to Producer Relief Fund

Scientists say the Western United States is experiencing its [driest conditions in 1,200 years](#), fueling an extreme, destructive fire season that threatens the people, communities and livestock of New Mexico. To support the agriculture community through this difficult time, CoBank, Farm Credit of New Mexico, and American AgCredit have partnered to contribute \$40,000 to New Mexico Cattle Growers Association Producer Relief Fund ([Producer Relief Fund](#)).

The Producer Relief Fund purchases feed and infrastructure materials like panels and wire, for producers throughout New Mexico affected by natural disasters such as wildfire, snow storms and flooding. CoBank and Farm Credit of New Mexico helped established this fund in 2020 and, in addition to this donation, support it annually through [Sharing Success Dollars](#).

According to NMCGA President, Loren Patterson, “Animal agriculture is stressful enough for producers during the best of times, add the fury of Mother Nature or an unexpected disaster and the stress level for producers and families can become overwhelming. Producers have traditionally relied on the safety net associated with our State and Federal Agencies to address the impacts of storms and disasters but that help can come slow. New Mexico Cattle Grower’s Producer Relief Fund was designed to address that situation. With funding in place and the years of experience held within our Executive Committee and Board of Directors, assistance can be targeted and swift. The

donations we received from our members, friends, the public, and Allied Industries is testament to the need and goals of our Producer Relief Fund. Many Thanks to CoBank, Farm Credit of New Mexico, and American AgCredit for the donation and support of our fund and helping producers across the state deal with those overwhelmingly stressful situations.”

The donation will make a significant impact for those affected by wildfires and demonstrates Farm Credit’s commitment to New Mexico agriculture. “We appreciate American AgCredit and CoBank’s generosity,” said Alan Feit, Farm Credit of New Mexico CEO. “We’re particularly thankful for CoBank matching the combined total from Farm Credit of New Mexico and American AgCredit, which will help strengthen producer perseverance and resolve during this difficult time.”

To ensure the purchases support the fund’s mission, expenditures go through verifiable sources like the Emergency Operation Center 11, New Mexico Livestock Board and the Extension Service. If you’re interested in supporting the Producer Relief Fund, visit www.nmagriculture.org to learn how to contribute monetary donations, supplies, or volunteer time. –

Learn more about CoBank www.cobank.com
Farm Credit of New Mexico www.farmcreditnm.com
and American AgCredit www.agloan.com

Whistleblower Program

The Audit Committee of Farm Credit of New Mexico has established a Whistleblower Program to receive anonymous and confidential reports from employees, stockholders, or vendors pertaining to fraud, inappropriate behavior, misconduct, or unethical business practices related to accounting, reporting accuracy, internal controls, or identified audit issues by Association employees. The program provides for the confidential, anonymous reporting of concerns. Reports can be filed online at <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/farmcreditnm>. Additional information is also located on the Association website www.farmcreditnm.com click on Whistleblower on the bottom of the homepage.

Farm Credit of New Mexico

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GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

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Join Farm Credit - help us stand up and take action for America's farmers and ranchers. Sign up to receive notices when Farm Credit is taking action to help us educate Congress about agriculture and the types of policies that help farmers feed, clothe and fuel us every day! Sign up [online](http://farmcredit.com/takeaction) at farmcredit.com/takeaction or by texting the below.

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