## 

# **STAYING STRONG**

### **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**





## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE YEAR (\$ in millions)	2020	2019	2018
Net Interest Income	\$ 1,567	\$ 1,399	\$ 1,431
Provision for Loan Losses	21	57	66
Net Income	1,263	1,091	1,191
Patronage Distributions	728	644	700
AT YEAR-END (\$ in millions)	2020	2019	2018
Agribusiness	\$ 36,103	\$ 33,168	\$ 32,432
Farm Credit Banking	60,516	54,459	50,695
Rural Infrastructure	24,237	21,227	21,367
Total Loans	\$120,856	\$108,854	\$ 104,494
Allowance for Credit Losses	\$ 732	\$ 747	\$ 703
Total Assets	158,586	145,004	139,016
Total Shareholders' Equity	11,910	10,567	9,535

FINANCIAL RATIOS	2020	2019	2018
Return on Average Common Equity	11.86%	11.63 %	14.60 %
Return on Average Assets	0.84	0.79	0.90
Return on Average Active Patron Investment	20.58	19.48	22.35
Net Interest Margin	1.07	1.02	1.09
Total Capital Ratio	15.22	15.86	15.58
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio	7.30	7.51	7.53

## **KEY METRICS**

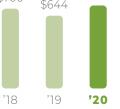








PATRONAGE DISTRIBUTIONS (\$ in millions) \$700 \$644





(\$ in millions) \$9,535 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567 \$10,567

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AS AN INTEGRAL MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM, OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE AS A RELEVANT AND DEPENDABLE PROVIDER OF CREDIT AND OTHER VALUE-ADDED FINANCIAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO AGRICULTURE, RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER SIMILAR BUSINESSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF RURAL AMERICA.





KEVIN G. RIEL Board Chair



THOMAS HALVERSON President & CEO

## LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS

### TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In March of 2020, once it became clear that COVID-19 was spiraling into a global public health crisis that would wreak havoc in the world economy, CoBank's board of directors and executive management team quickly prepared for the worst. We required all but essential employees to work from home and readied our associates to operate the bank remotely for the foreseeable future. Over the course of the next several weeks we dramatically increased our liquidity reserves, raising billions of dollars in extra cash in anticipation of market disruptions and potential drawdowns from customers needing emergency access to credit. We launched a detailed, sector-by-sector analysis of risk in our loan portfolio to assess how the crisis was likely to reverberate through the industries we finance and impact specific customers. Our team of bankers and analysts began proactively reaching out to customers one by one, in order to make sure we understood their individual credit and other needs and to reinforce our support for them as the pandemic unfolded. We also coordinated closely and continuously with our affiliated Farm Credit associations, who finance over 75,000 farmers and ranchers in 23 states. It was a period of tremendous uncertainty at CoBank due the unprecedented nature of the crisis, as it was for virtually every other business in the United States.

Today, a year after the pandemic's onset, we can look back with immense pride on how CoBank has performed in the face of COVID-19—and with relief that the worst-case scenarios envisioned in March 2020 did not materialize. Our associates have performed exceptionally, working together to keep the bank running seamlessly without any interruption in the delivery of products and services to customers. Despite an



# COBANK

economic downturn of historic proportions here in the U.S., CoBank achieved outstanding financial results on behalf of our shareholders, including record levels of loan volume, net income and patronage. Credit quality in our loan portfolio has remained remarkably sound. The bank has also continued to meet its obligations as a responsible corporate citizen, allocating millions of dollars toward COVID-19 relief and other charitable causes in rural communities. Finally, our board and executive leadership have stayed in close communication throughout the pandemic, ensuring we remained fully aligned on strategy and collectively focused on our mission of service to rural America.

It was, in short, an extraordinary year for CoBank. We believe the bank truly lived up to its value proposition and fulfilled its core mission and purpose—to be a stable, dependable source of credit for rural industries through good times and bad, regardless of conditions in the marketplace.

In that context, we are pleased to present CoBank's 2020 annual report to shareholders. This report provides comprehensive information about every aspect of our financial results for the year, and we urge all of our customer-owners and other stakeholders to review it in detail. Our results reflect the innate strengths of our business, including our structure as a customer-owned financial cooperative, the robust access to capital markets we enjoy as a member of the Farm Credit System, and the essential nature of the industries we finance. In many ways they also reflect the admirable performance of our customers, who overcame their own unique challenges from COVID-19 and continued delivering food to a hungry world and power, water and communications services to America's rural communities.

#### (\$ in billions) \$104.5 \$108.9 \$104.4 \$104.4 \$104.4 \$104.4 \$104.4 \$104.4 \$104.4 \$104.4 \$104.4 \$104.4 \$104.4

'18

'19

'20

**TOTAL LOAN VOLUME** 

'17

Period-end Average

## FINANCIAL RESULTS Loan Volume

For the full-year 2020, CoBank's average loan and lease volume increased approximately 8%, to \$112.6 billion. We ended the year with \$120.9 billion in outstanding loans, an all-time high for our business.

The bank experienced balanced growth in lending across all three of our operating segments—Agribusiness, Farm Credit Banking and Rural Infrastructure. Consistent with recent years, most of the growth occurred in our Farm Credit Banking segment, which includes the wholesale loans we provide as a funding bank to our 20 affiliated Farm Credit associations. Average loan volume in this segment increased 10% during the year, driven by robust demand for credit from farmers, ranchers and other association borrowers. Growth in Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure average volume was also strong during the year, at 4% and 10% respectively. Based on feedback from customers, we know a meaningful portion of this growth was related to COVID-19, with customers drawing down lines of credit to ensure they had financial flexibility to manage through the social and economic disruptions caused by the pandemic.

## Net Income

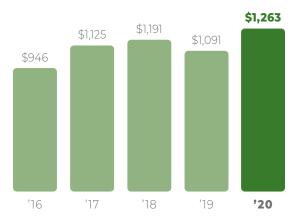
Net income for CoBank rose 16% in 2020 to \$1.263 billion, from \$1.091 billion in 2019. The primary driver of the increase was higher net interest income, which resulted from the increase in average loan volume detailed above as well as other favorable factors. Earnings for the year also benefited from strong fee income as well as a substantially lower provision for loan losses for the year.

It is worth noting how strong CoBank's earnings performance in 2020 was in comparison to the broader U.S. financial services industry, where provisions for credit losses related to the pandemic dealt a major blow to bank profits. Of the 20 largest U.S.-domiciled banking institutions, 15 saw a substantial decline in net income, with the decreases averaging more than 35% for the year. CoBank is extremely fortunate to be in the business of financing essential industries that provide services people cannot live without, which helps to shield our loan portfolio from economic shocks that heavily impact discretionary consumer spending.

NET INCOME

(\$ in millions)

'16



In 2020, CoBank's controllable operating expenses were 22.0% of operating revenues (defined as net interest income plus fee income), an improvement from 23.3% in 2019. This measure, which excludes the cost of mandatory premiums paid to the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, is an important indicator of efficiency in our business and one we track closely at the board and executive level. On an absolute basis, total expenses inclusive of insurance fund premiums rose by 7.7%, compared to a 13.3% increase in operating revenue. As we noted in this letter last year, our board and executive team are intently focused on cost discipline and ensuring that future expense growth remains appropriately aligned with growth in revenue and earnings.

## **Credit Quality**

When COVID-19 hit, it was not immediately clear what the impact would be to our customers and to credit quality in our loan portfolio. We certainly expected increases in credit stress for some industries due to the demand disruption caused by government lockdowns and sudden changes in behavior by businesses and consumers. In the ethanol industry, for instance, prices dropped precipitously as vehicle travel and fuel consumption evaporated. Food companies with substantial exposure to restaurants and institutions also saw a major drop in demand for their products. Meatpacking companies and other customers with manufacturing operations suddenly faced significant workplace safety issues and the prospect of plant shutdowns. In the rural utility sector, cooperatives and other service providers worried about a jump in delinquency rates as their customers struggled to pay monthly bills.

In the end, our customer base proved incredibly resilient throughout the year, adapting to the evolving economic and regulatory environment and finding ways to successfully operate their businesses. Thanks in large part to their performance, credit quality for CoBank remained strong throughout the year. At year end, 95.7% of our commercial loans were classified as Acceptable (the highest category of loan quality), compared with a 10-year trailing average of 95.8%. Non-accrual loans declined to \$117 million, or 0.10% of total loans as of December 31, 2020, an improvement from the previous year. The bank's provision for loan losses was \$21 million for the year compared to \$57 million in 2019.

CoBank's allowance for credit losses, which protects the bank's capital base against losses inherent in our loan portfolio, totaled \$732.2 million as of December 31, 2020, or 1.24% of nonguaranteed loans when loans to Farm Credit associations are excluded.

#### **OPERATING EXPENSE RATIOS**



Controllable Expenses/Operating Revenues

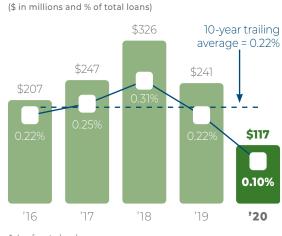
#### **ACCEPTABLE LOANS\***

(% of commercial portfolio)

(%)



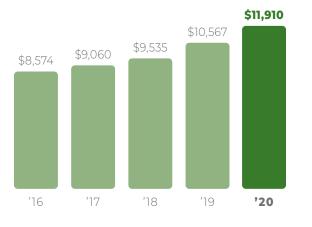
#### **NON-ACCRUAL LOANS\***



\* As of period end.







### Capital, Liquidity and Shareholders' Equity

Throughout 2020, CoBank's capital and liquidity levels remained well in excess of regulatory minimums. At year-end, shareholders' equity was \$11.9 billion, and the bank's total capital ratio was 15.22%, compared with the 8.0% minimum (10.5% inclusive of the capital conservation buffer) established by the Farm Credit Administration, the bank's independent regulator. At yearend, the bank held approximately \$36.0 billion in cash and investments. The bank had 174 days of liquidity at the end of 2020, which substantially exceeded the regulatory minimum of 90 days.

Managing capital to appropriate levels is a constant balancing and optimization process for CoBank, as it is for any financial institution. It is critical that we maintain a sufficient base of capital to fulfill our mission, support prudent levels of business risk and ensure our ability to meet the future borrowing needs of our customers. At the same time, we do not endeavor to hold capital not needed to support the business that could otherwise be returned to our customer-owners. Our board and executive team are fundamentally aligned on this issue and fully committed to thoughtful, ongoing evaluation of our capital levels.

SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (\$ in m	nillions)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Preferred Stock	\$	1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Common Stock		3,072	3,240	3,416	3,622	3,918
Retained Earnings		4,121	4,552	4,982	5,351	5,804
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)		(119)	(232)	(363)	94	688
Total Shareholders' Equity	\$	8,574	\$ 9,060	\$ 9,535	\$ 10,567	\$ 11,910

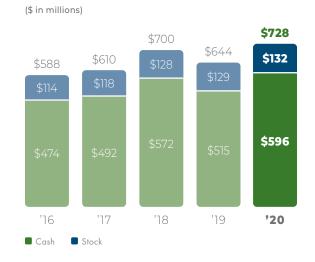
### Patronage

One of our top strategic objectives each year is to deliver strong, reliable patronage returns to our customer-owners. Patronage is a central component of the CoBank value proposition and one of the most powerful tangible benefits we deliver to eligible borrowers as a member-owned financial cooperative.

For 2020, patronage will total \$728.4 million, the highest level in the history of CoBank. That includes \$621.8 million in cash and stock patronage program payments the bank had initially targeted to make, plus an additional \$106.6 million all-cash special patronage payout unanimously approved by our board in December 2020. Our board was especially gratified to make the special distribution to our customer-owners, given the continuing high level of uncertainty in the economy from the pandemic and the operating environment for rural businesses.

The adjacent table details 2020 patronage distributions by customer or loan type under our various capital plans and patronage programs. Agribusiness, communications and project finance borrowers earned 115 basis points of patronage for the year, while rural electric and water customers earned 96.5 basis points. Affiliated Farm Credit associations received 43.5 basis points of all-cash patronage under their capital plan. For most classes of borrowers, patronage distributions for the year will be approximately 21% above the amount initially targeted under their capital plan.

#### PATRONAGE DISTRIBUTIONS



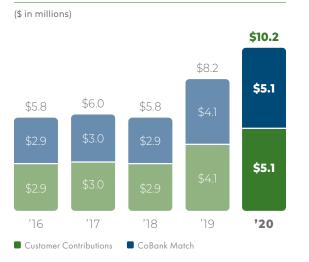
### 2020 PATRONAGE

DISTRIBUTIONS BY POOL (\$ in millions) P	rogram Patronage	Special Patronage	Total Patronage	BPS*
Agribusiness, Communications and Project Finance	\$ 204	\$ 29	\$ 233	115.0
Rural Electric and Water	103	19	122	96.5
Farm Credit Affiliates	185	38	223	43.5
Loans Purchased from Other Farm Credit Institutions	117	18	135	115.0
Non-Affiliated Farm Credit and Other Financing Institu	utions 13	2	15	30.0

\* Basis points of qualifying loan volume.

## **Corporate Social Responsibility**

Another important way CoBank fulfilled its mission during the year was to maintain its strong level of support for charitable and civic organizations, and through contributions to industry organizations serving our customers. The health, economic and social fallout from COVID-19 drastically increased the level of need around the country while also straining the resources of government agencies and the non-profit sector. This was especially true in the nation's under-resourced rural communities. For that reason, corporate philanthropy played an even more important role than it normally does in the broader societal response to the pandemic.



SHARING SUCCESS PROGRAM

CoBank's charitable giving totaled \$13.2 million for the year, along with an additional \$3.2 million in commercial sponsorships. Our charitable contributions included \$5 million allocated by our board to the bank's flagship Sharing Success program, through which the bank matches charitable contributions made by our customers to nonprofit organizations in their communities. The entire Sharing Success fund was expended this year, with almost 700 customers leveraging the program and delivering funds to food banks, hospitals, schools, social services programs and a host of other worthy causes, primarily in rural areas.

Much more information about these activities is available in our separate annual Corporate Social Responsibility report. We encourage you to read that report, which brings to life the positive impact that these mission-driven investments by CoBank are having on people and communities in need.

### Looking Forward

It's clear that COVID-19 defined the operating environment for virtually every U.S. business in 2020, CoBank included. What is not clear, from the vantage point of early 2021, is how much longer the pandemic will dominate the economic, social and political landscape here in the United States and around the world. As of this writing, a number of vaccines have been developed and are in the early stages of deployment. The U.S. presidential and congressional elections are behind us, providing more clarity about the direction of federal policy for at least the next two years. The American economy continues its recovery and to adapt remarkably well to the constraints and obstacles of COVID-19. Agricultural commodity prices have risen markedly in recent months, buoying hopes for recovery in the nation's agricultural sector. Fortunately for CoBank, our forward path is clear regardless of how long it takes for us all to overcome the pandemic. We know. based on our experience in 2020, that we can operate the bank, serve customers and fulfill our mission even under immensely challenging circumstances. That enables us to look ahead with a high degree of confidence and to remain focused on our longerterm strategic objectives.

We will continue to serve our customers with excellence and strive to deliver meaningful value to them in every interaction and transaction. We will continue to pursue opportunities for growth across all the industries and sectors we finance. We will continue to position ourselves as a partner of choice to our affiliated associations and other institutions across the Farm Credit System. We will carefully manage risk in all its forms across our enterprise to ensure risk levels remain appropriate and aligned with our mission and commercial goals. We will invest in our technology and operating platforms to drive increased levels of efficiency and operational excellence. We will also invest in our human capital and workplace culture, given how central our associates are to serving our customers and fulfilling our mission of service to rural America. We will remain committed to being a good corporate citizen and to supporting civic and charitable organizations in the places where we do business and across the nation's rural communities.

As always, we remain grateful for the enormous trust our customers place in CoBank as their financial partner. We thank you for your support and look forward to reporting back about our progress against these mission service and commercial goals.

**KEVIN G. RIEL** Board Chair

Kein Brief Tom Helverson

**THOMAS HALVERSON** President and Chief Executive Officer

# 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COBANK'S BOARD CONSISTS OF DIRECTORS ELECTED BY ITS CUSTOMER-OWNERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF APPOINTED DIRECTORS. A MAJORITY OF OUR DIRECTORS ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN FARMING, RANCHING AND OTHER RURAL INDUSTRIES.



# **2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



KEVIN G. RIEL | CHAIR Occupation: Farming Hometown: Yakima, Washington



KEVIN A. STILL | 1ST VICE CHAIR Occupation: Agribusiness Cooperative Management Hometown: Danville, Indiana



JON E. MARTHEDAL | 2ND VICE CHAIR Occupation: Farming Hometown: Fresno, California



**DUANE R. ANDERSON Occupation:** Agribusiness Cooperative Management Hometown: Seneca, Kansas



**RUSSELL G. BROWN Occupation:** Community Banking Hometown: Warsaw, Virginia



**ROBERT M. BEHR** Occupation: Agribusiness Cooperative Management Hometown: Lakeland, Florida

WILLIAM M. FARROW, III

Occupation: Retired, Commercial Banking

Hometown: Evanston, Illinois



MICHAEL S. BROWN Occupation: Retired, Commercial Banking Hometown: San Diego, California



**BENJAMIN J. FREUND** Occupation: Farming Hometown: East Canaan, Connecticut







DANIEL T. KELLEY Occupation: Farming Hometown: Normal, Illinois



**DAVID J. KRAGNES** Occupation: Farming Hometown: Felton, Minnesota



**GARY A. MILLER** Occupation: Electric Cooperative Management Hometown: Douglasville, Georgia



SCHEHERAZADE S. REHMAN Occupation: Professor, International Business and Finance Hometown: Washington, D.C.

# **STAYING STRONG**



**CATHERINE MOYER Occupation:** Rural Communications Management Hometown: Ulysses, Kansas



**EDGAR A. TERRY** Occupation: Farming Hometown: Ventura, California



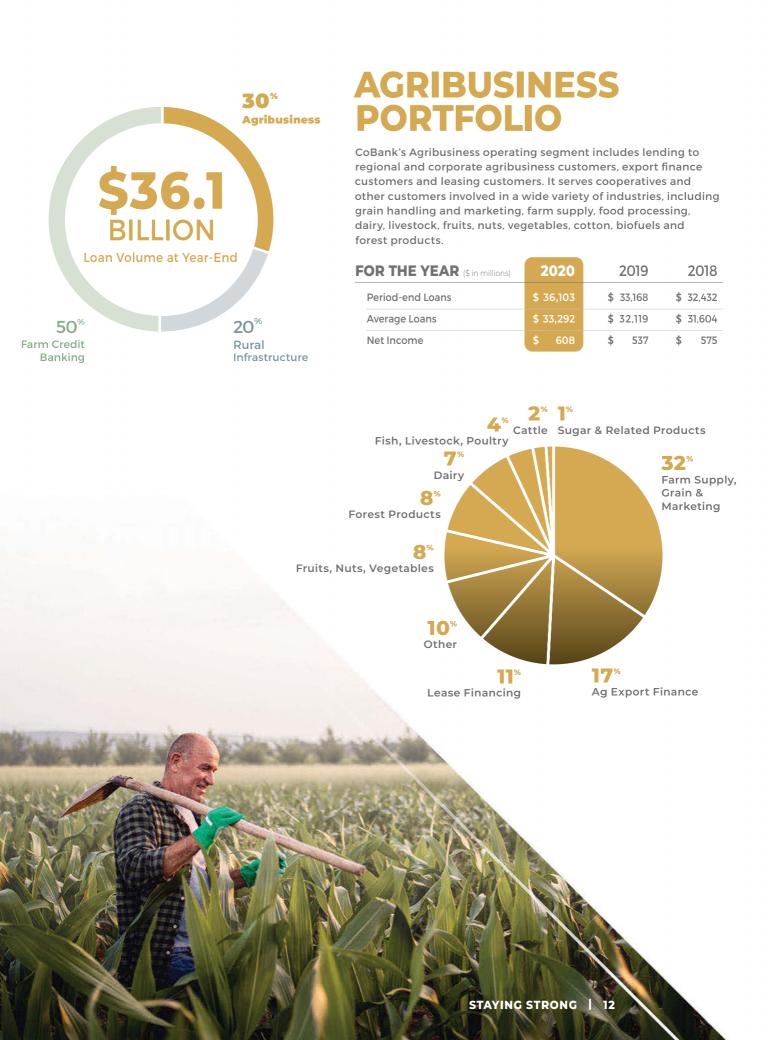
**MICHAEL W. MARLEY** Occupation: Farming Hometown: Roswell, New Mexico



**DAVID S. PHIPPEN** Occupation: Farming Hometown: Ripon, California



**BRANDON J. WITTMAN Occupation:** Electric Cooperative Management Hometown: Billings, Montana

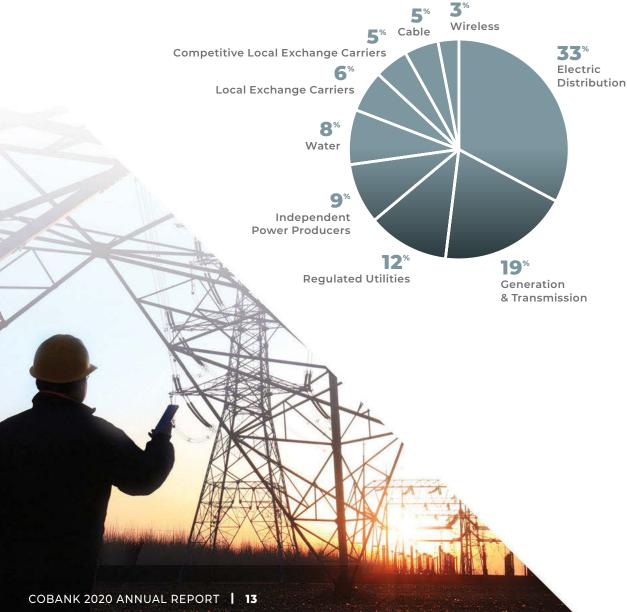




## RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

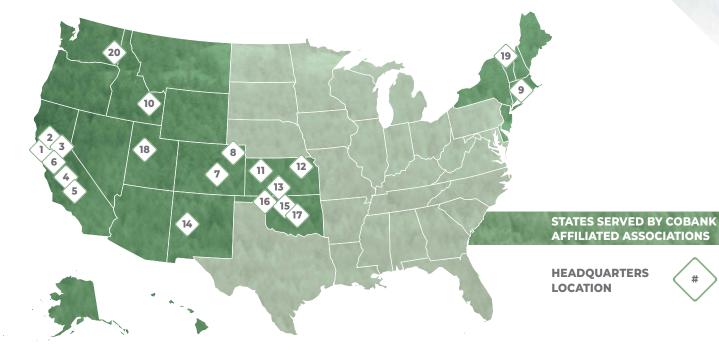
CoBank's Rural Infrastructure operating segment includes lending to rural infrastructure borrowers across the United States. It serves rural utilities and other customers across a wide variety of industries, including electric generation, transmission and distribution cooperatives; midstream energy and gas pipeline providers; water and wastewater companies; broadband, data centers, wireline, cable and wireless communications service providers; and rural health care and other community facilities.

FOR THE YEAR (\$ in millions)	2020	2019	2018
Period-end Loans	\$ 24,237	\$ 21,227	\$ 21,367
Average Loans	\$ 22,919	\$ 20,919	\$ 20,919
Net Income	\$ 398	\$ 331	\$ 347



## **FARM CREDIT BANKING GROUP**

**AFFILIATED FARM CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS** 



### **CALIFORNIA**

American AqCredit 1 SANTA ROSA

Farm Credit Services 2 of Colusa-Glenn COLUSA

Farm Credit West 3 ROCKI IN

Fresno Madera Farm Credit 4 FRESNO

Golden State Farm Credit 5 KINGSBURG

Yosemite Farm Credit 6 TURI OCK

### COLORADO

Farm Credit of 7 Southern Colorado COLORADO SPRINGS

Premier Farm Credit 8 STERLING

### CONNECTICUT

Farm Credit East 9 ENFIELD

## **IDAHO**



### **KANSAS**



Frontier Farm Credit MANHATTAN

High Plains Farm Credit LARNED

### **NEW MEXICO**

Farm Credit of New Mexico ALBUQUERQUE

### **OKLAHOMA**





Oklahoma AgCredit EDMUND

### UTAH

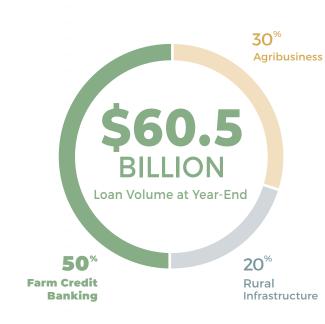


### VERMONT



### WASHINGTON

20 Northwest Farm Credit Services SPOKANE

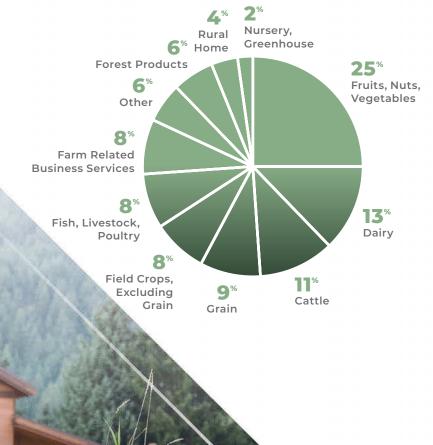


## FARM CREDIT BANKING PORTFOLIO

In addition to providing loans to cooperatives and other commercial customers in all 50 states, CoBank serves as a funding bank for 20 affiliated Farm Credit associations across the country. Those associations provide loans and financial services to more than 75,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states. They serve a diverse array of industries, from fruits, nuts and vegetables to grains and other row crops to dairy, beef, poultry and forest products.

CoBank provides these association customers with wholesale financing as well as other value-added products and services. Our relationships with these associations provide the bank with added lending capacity by serving as participation partners on large credit transactions. CoBank also derives additional value from purchasing participations in their loans.

FOR THE YEAR (\$ in millions)	2020	2019	2018
Period-end Loans	\$ 60,516	\$ 54,459	\$ 50,695
Average Loans	\$ 56,423	\$ 51,313	\$ 48,121
Net Income	\$ 257	\$ 223	\$ 269



## FARM CREDIT BANKING GROUP

### FARM CREDIT QUICKLY STANDS UP PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

In the early days of 2020, Farm Credit was largely untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic. The earliest outbreaks hit urban areas hardest, first in Washington state and New York City. Other cities followed, making it seem like the threat might miss rural residents. It was not until after Memorial Day that rural communities across the country became the epicenters of the virus. The first news reports appropriately focused on the health and safety impacts of the virus and on the need for protective equipment and ventilators.

As it became obvious there was nowhere to hide from the economic blow, Congress began a push to help the country. The CARES Act became law on March 27, providing the Small Business Administration \$349 billion to start up a new loan program from scratch—the Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP. If borrowers qualified, their loans could later be forgiven. It was a lifeline to small businesses across the country. Designed to help businesses slammed by the pandemic keep their employees on the payroll, it was also meant to help stem unemployment and cushion the economy.

The program was instantly popular, and the SBA was asked to move almost 15 times its annual loan volume through the new program as soon as possible. As you can imagine, there were hiccups. But when the money ran out, Congress made an additional \$310 billion available.

Recognizing that demand would exceed supply, Congress directed SBA to set aside funds for rural lenders, and Farm Credit institutions answered the call to get involved. A few were SBA lenders before the PPP, but most were not. The process to become a PPP lender was not for the faint of heart, but it was worthwhile. After applying and getting approved in a single day, one customer said, "That is amazing! All in the same day. I know why we switched banks... that is for sure."

That dedication to rural America is why Farm Credit institutions persevered, received SBA's approval and made these loans to customers—including some who headed to other banks, fearing that CARES Act money would run out before Farm Credit could make PPP loans. Some of those customers came back when Farm Credit institutions got approved, because they were still waiting at the banks.

CoBank and 51 associations loaned almost \$1.4 billion to nearly 16,000 customers. And 91% of those loans were \$150,000 or less. CoBank's district accounted for over half that loan volume. In addition to CoBank, affiliated associations partnered with the SBA to make these loans. It's safe to say that every one of those loans was important to the customer.

## KAPAPALA RANCH

One of those loans went to Lani Petrie, owner and operating manager of Kapapala Ranch on the Big Island of Hawaii. On the slopes of the dormant Mauna Kea volcano, Lani runs over 1,200 mother cows. Her 1,000 goats serve double duty as brush cleaners and meat for Hawaii's Asian market. While Petrie lives in a paradise, she is familiar with natural and economic disaster. In her words, "I had never seen anything like this. COVID-19 simply shut down the world." HARON ROSANN

The first wave of PPP funds ran out even before farmers could access the program. But as Petrie put it, "Within just a few days, it seemed, our American AgCredit Manager, Linus Tavares, was calling me to let me know that they had got the portals in place with SBA and to fill out our application online. The application was refreshingly simple!" Less than a week later, she had the funds, calling it "unbelievable."

### JOE GOLTER

#### PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Meanwhile, on the other side of the country near Portsmouth, New Hampshire, lobsterman Joe Golter was facing similar challenges. Golter loves his work of 40 years, still going out on his 42-foot wooden boat, custom-built in Maine. Named for Golter's sister, his dad bought the Sharon Rosanne in 1986. Golter rebuilt the boat 15 years ago, crediting his ability to weather the hard work of lobster fishing to its solid construction. In addition to fishing, Golter runs a bait business, developed a waterfront pier and is expanding his wholesale lobster sales operation.

Golter watched the lobster industry shut down. With little demand and low prices, he turned to his finance partner of 37 years, Farm Credit East. They helped him quickly process a PPP loan, allowing him to avoid laying everyone off. As Golter put it, "Farm Credit's great. They are smart and know this business. And when I need financing, the money is in the account the next day." And then he rattled off a list of his Farm Credit lenders over the years, describing how they became friends.

Joe Colter learned the importance of hard work as he learned the lobster business from his dad. He has seen the value of what he describes as a "wonderful relationship" with Farm Credit over and over—when times were good, and this year especially when they weren't.

"The mission of the Farm Credit System is to serve as a reliable source of credit for agriculture and rural communities," said Bill Davis, CoBank executive vice president of Farm Credit Banking. "The System's response to COVID-19, especially the help it provided through the PPP program, is a powerful demonstration of Farm Credit's importance to the rural economy in this country."

## CVA Central Valley Ag



CARL DICKINSON
President & CEO | Central Valley Ag

COBANK DOES IT BETTER THAN ANYONE BECAUSE THEY'RE IN IT EVERY DAY. THAT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE.

## REGIONAL AGRIBUSINESS

#### CENTRAL VALLEY AG YORK, NEBRASKA

Chalk up 2020 as a surprisingly successful year for Central Valley Ag (CVA), Nebraska's largest farmer-owned cooperative. "Surprising" because for an anxiety-filled, three-month span last spring following the COVID-19 outbreak, travel slowed, fuel consumption plummeted and the ethanol industry experienced an abrupt slow-down.

Back in March, these developments did not bode well for CVA, whose primary market for corn is ethanol. In a normal month, the co-op ships some 6-8 million bushels to ethanol plants. As the impact of the pandemic spread, however, the market for ethanol began to soften. CVA leaders had to wrestle with a multitude of important business questions. Chief among them: how to find a home for all that corn?

"That was the biggest operational adjustment we had to make we were holding on to a lot of grain because ethanol simply wasn't running at the capacity it was before," said Carl Dickinson, CVA president and CEO. "Fortunately, our organization had other market alternatives because of our shuttle train loaders, including poultry, livestock and export markets."

Recalling the onset of COVID-19, Dickinson vividly remembers the whirlwind happenings of Saturday, March 7. In the morning, he first learned about an employee who had been exposed to the virus and needed to be quarantined. By 7 p.m., Dickinson had gathered his team on Zoom to discuss steps to move forward, keeping top-of-mind the health of their 900 full-time employees and 150 seasonal workers.

CVA leaders quickly locked down offices and restricted unnecessary travel; measures that, in hindsight, contributed to excellent results for the business. By focusing on delivering value to its members across 83 locations in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas, CVA performed well in spite of the pandemic. Sales topped \$1 billion, and the bottom-line of all four CVA divisions agronomy, feed, grain and energy—performed well.

Fortunately, the ethanol market also gradually recovered during the year. "It took a little while for ethanol to come back, but once it did at mid-year, we actually saw dramatic improvement in our bottom-line performance," Dickinson said.

CoBank has acted as lead lender for CVA and its predecessor companies for decades, arranging financing first in the tens of millions and more recently in the hundreds of millions as the company has grown.

Over the years, even when markets proved volatile as in 2020, CoBank and Tom Houser, lead relationship manager, have been trusted partners who can always be counted on to help CVA and see the bigger picture, Dickinson said.

"Trying to predict the financing needs of a co-op like ours isn't always so easy," he said. "CoBank does it better than anyone because they're in it every day. That makes a huge difference."

### ALABAMA FARMERS COOPERATIVE, INC. DECATUR, ALABAMA

While COVID-19 caused misery for much of the U.S. economy this past year, inspiring success stories did emerge. Case in point: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc. (AFC) and its subsidiary Bonnie Plants—the largest U.S. distributor of vegetable and herb plants—benefited greatly from Americans' sudden, intense interest in growing their own edible plants.

"When things get scary, agriculture becomes a security blanket for people," said Rivers Myres, AFC's CEO. "As soon as mandatory quarantines took hold, at-home planting became all the rage. By our count, at least 21 million new gardeners opted for the comfort, security and cost efficiency of growing their own edible plants."

Bonnie quickly leaned in to the home gardening craze and made important strides to stay in front of it. It cleared a first hurdle by tapping the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives to successfully advocate for Bonnie's designation as an essential business. They then ramped up operations to meet demand for core products such as tomatoes, peppers and herbs to U.S. residents from coast to coast. By year's end, having met this unexpected, record demand, Bonnie improved its financial performance by 50% compared to 2019.

For AFC, Bonnie's success proved to be a silver lining in a year otherwise fraught with challenge. Back in early March, once the threat posed by COVID-19 became clear to Myres and his executive team, two immediate questions needed to be addressed. First, how to take care of their 5,000 employees nationwide, finding the best ways to keep them safe and healthy. And second, how to ensure that AFC continued to stay financially strong for its member partners and farmers.

"In those early days of the virus, we didn't quite know what we were working with, but we did understand the importance of acting decisively and communicating openly with our people," Myres said. "Clear, honest communications made the difference in ensuring that we didn't miss a beat. As a result, we not only survived, we thrived."

Thriving best describes the 84-year history of AFC, which has steadily grown to become one of the largest farmer-owned, ag-related businesses in the southeastern U.S.

AFC leaders point to their longtime partnership with CoBank as a fundamental reason for the co-op's overall success. In 2020, CoBank assisted in the financing of a joint venture called GreenPoint Ag Holdings, which is co-owned by AFC. Most recently, CoBank also helped arrange leases for Bonnie trucks through the bank's Farm Credit Leasing subsidiary, said Thomas Hallin, AFC CFO. "Over the years, in good times and in challenging ones like 2020, CoBank has supported us every step of the way," he said. "They've been an unbelievable institutional partner for us."





**RIVERS MYRES** CEO | Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.



THOMAS HALLIN CFO | Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.

IN GOOD TIMES AND IN CHALLENGING ONES LIKE 2020, COBANK HAS SUPPORTED US EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

## CORPORATE FINANCE

#### **OCEAN SPRAY** BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

As pandemic-driven consumers have flocked to grocery stores at record rates, Ocean Spray has pivoted, adjusting its business operations to meet demand. The world's leading producer of cranberry juices, juice drinks and dried cranberries leaned on the exceptional efforts of many people in its orbit, most notably its team members on the front lines.

The operations and finance teams responded to heightened product demand by carefully adjusting and planning, and frontline manufacturing teams devoted themselves to keeping grocery shelves stocked. The cooperative recognized their dedication with a \$1.50-per-hour wage increase for operational hourly employees on the frontlines, as well as an extra week of vacation from March to July for salaried manufacturing team members.

"Ocean Spray was founded by three cranberry farmers on the principle that we are stronger when we are working together," said Tom Hayes, president and CEO of the 90-year-old agricultural cooperative. Where Ocean Spray really grew and adjusted the most throughout a turbulent 2020, Hayes said, was in innovation. The cooperative, which includes 700 small family farms and employs more than 2,000 people worldwide, had to rethink several product launches.

"We reframed everything with the idea of care first. People first. Each other first," said Hayes. "We made sure that every aspect of our new launches had an impactful social cause tied to it." Ocean Spray's Atoka brand, for example, worked with the #FirstRespondersFirst initiative to provide herbal tonics and wellness shots to first responders in New York, D.C., and Seattle.

Significantly, Ocean Spray in 2020 became the first major fruit cooperative to achieve sustainably-grown verification for its cranberries. Working with the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) platform, the cooperative verified its members' farms against 112 standards, from the way they treat their soil, to water practices, to the care of any animals on the farms. And Ocean Spray continues to expand into the health and wellness space, launching its Lighthouse Incubator in Boston to accelerate innovation and new products. The Akota line is one result; another is CarryOn, the co-op's first CBD beverage.

"Innovation is crucial at this time for food companies because the pandemic has really shined a light on the critical importance of food to our national security," Hayes said. "Innovation allows food companies to quickly adapt to situations and make sure that grocery shelves stay stocked and families stay fed."

This innovation has been supported by the "grounding and steadiness" of CoBank's business relationship, Hayes said. "In times as fluid as these, to know CoBank was unwavering was—and is—priceless," Hayes said. "We thank our CoBank partners for their continued dedication and belief in us and our farmers."

 TOM HAYES

 President & CEO
 Ocean Spray

Former Owned

**Since 1930** 

OUR FRONTLINE MANUFACTURING TEAMS WORKED EXTREMELY HARD TO KEEP GROCERY SHELVES STOCKED AND FAMILIES FED.

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#### VENTURA FOODS BREA, CALIFORNIA

COVID-19 has significantly disrupted the U.S. foodservice sector. One of every six restaurants has permanently closed, and those that have survived are operating with reduced capacities and limited menu offerings. This hardship has reverberated across the foodservice supply chain.

Ventura Foods was among the businesses keenly impacted by the pandemic.

"What initially began as an issue sourcing packaging and ingredients from China quickly became a demand shift challenge," said Erika Noonburg-Morgan, EVP, CFO of Ventura Foods. "Restaurants moved exclusively to take-out and delivery service due to stay-at-home mandates. We quickly pivoted our operations to ensure our customers, especially quick-service operators in the chicken, pizza, and hamburger segments, received the products they needed in the individual packaging formats consumers required."

Ventura Foods manufactures dressings, sauces, mayonnaise, frying oils and margarine for the world's most demanding kitchens in the U.S., Canada, and more than 60 other countries, and produces retail brands including Marie's<sup>®</sup> dressings, LouAna<sup>®</sup> oils, Dean's<sup>®</sup> dips, and Cold n' Soft<sup>®</sup> spreads.

"Volume dropped nearly 50% in April 2020 following stay-at-home orders, requiring us to furlough employees for the first time in our company's history. We navigated unprecedented business challenges almost daily," Noonburg-Morgan said.

Right from the start, Ventura Foods adjusted safety protocols to keep people safe and production lines flowing. "We then began the work of assessing what this pandemic would mean for our business in the short and long-term," she said. "We adjusted our financial metrics to evaluate our business against the crisis and ensured clear, frequent communication between our leadership, board of directors, and employees."

In keeping with its strong values-driven culture, Ventura Foods guaranteed frontline pay and benefits for those employees furloughed in April and quickly returned them to work as the stay-at-home orders lifted.

"We are fortunate to have taken steps before the pandemic, with the April start of our fiscal year in mind, to strengthen our balance sheet," said Noonburg-Morgan. By August, due to continuing market uncertainty, Ventura Foods turned to CoBank, its primary lender for 20-plus years, to close on a new \$100 million, five-year unsecured revolving term loan.

"I can't think of a better business partner than CoBank to help us through this pandemic," Noonburg-Morgan said. "We came into 2020 in a position of strength, and we were able to take steps to further strengthen our liquidity. It's a great feeling to know that, with CoBank's help, we've done everything possible to protect ourselves financially."

## Ventura Foods



ERIKA NOONBURG-MORGAN EVP, CFO | Ventura Foods

I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER BUSINESS PARTNER THAN COBANK TO HELP US THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC.

## FARM CREDIT LEASING

#### SYLTE FARMS IPSWICH, SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 created tough circumstances for brothers Chris and Jason Sylte, and the multi-state grain and cattle farm operation their family has owned for more than a half century. Their concerns revolved around the health and safety of employees, marketplace pressures and the shutdown of ethanol plants that were no longer taking grain.

"The pandemic was a real wake-up call for what can happen in the commodities market," Chris Sylte said. "Through that, and through all the business challenges we faced, we persevered by staying calm, not taking unnecessary risks and not wavering from the long-term plan we had in place."

Sylte Farms managed to stay strong in 2020 across the three main parts of the business—food, trucking and rental housing. The South Dakota-based farm also includes a commercial grain elevator and 80,000 acres in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. The Syltes also run a 1,000-plus calf/cow operation in northeast Texas as well as a commercial trucking operation for hire to haul grain. A subsidiary, S&S Rentals, offers affordable residential living options in South Dakota.

"When we saw oil trade negative and big fluctuations in the commodities market, we worked diligently through adversity from day one," Jason Sylte said. "In trucking, for instance, we coordinated closely with local co-ops to keep our supply chain running and all 20 of our semis going. We're grateful for the hard work and dedication of our drivers, dispatchers, mechanics and other employees who came through for us."

Sylte Farms did experience significant revenue drops initially, Chris Sylte said, but by the second half of 2020, they were able to recover. They limited their "financial pain" with key operational adjustments, government assistance and access to good credit.

For more than a decade, Sylte Farms has been a customer of Farm Credit Services of America and CoBank Farm Credit Leasing, which offers flexible leasing options for vehicles, equipment and facilities. Over that time, the Sylte brothers have leased grain facilities, trucks, farm equipment and farm shops they have constructed.

"I would describe CoBank Farm Credit Leasing as being a very reliable partner over the years," Chris Sylte said. "They've put structure and flexibility into our financing. They also have the tools and resources to maintain our equipment, our truck fleets, and our rolling stock in a way that gives us faith and confidence, making our circumstances much easier, especially during the pandemic."

2021 will mean the continuation of a host of farm-related challenges, such as heightened volatility in commodity markets. Still, Sylte Farms is "cautiously optimistic" about the year ahead. "Farmers are typically optimistic," Jason Sylte said. "We plan to maintain that optimism and transfer that culture to everyone around us."





JASON SYLTE Owner | Sylte Farms



CHRIS SYLTE
Owner Sylte Farms

I WOULD DESCRIBE COBANK FARM CREDIT LEASING AS BEING A VERY RELIABLE PARTNER OVER THE YEARS.

## ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION

### GUADALUPE VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE GONZALES, TEXAS

Texas-based Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) is guided by an ambitious vision statement as it works to deliver services to its membership: "Moving swiftly to deliver the unexpected: people, technology, solutions."

If ever there came a year that challenged Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) to live up to that vision, 2020 was the one, Darren Schauer said. As CEO and general manager, he leads a co-op that provides retail electricity, high-speed internet and a host of other services to more than 100,000 members and customers in a 13-county area of south-central Texas.

"For us, as for most businesses and co-ops this past year, staying strong meant demonstrating the ability to adapt quickly to meet customer expectations," Schauer said. "In early March when COVID-19 hit, we had to address a number of serious challenges, but nothing more important than the health and safety of our employees and the customers and communities we serve."

CVEC leaders immediately asked one-third of their 350 employees to work from home. They temporarily closed customer-service lobbies, and accepted in-office visits by appointment only. They sanitized facilities and distributed personal protective equipment. GVEC established special safety protocols for technicians summoned to customers' homes to install or repair heating and air conditioning units, do electrical work and establish broadband connections.

From day one, GVEC responded to the concerns and needs of its members who experienced financial hardships from COVID-19. The co-op's customer-friendly approach, which included waiving late charges and cancelling disconnects, had a positive effect on business. By the fall, the number of delinquent payments dropped below pre-pandemic levels.

A bright spot for GVEC has been the continued rapid growth of its Internet division. With more customers working from home and turning to online education, demand for high-speed broadband surged to new heights. GVEC.net added a record 1,800 subscribers in the first six months of the pandemic. The co-op continues to expand its broadband infrastructure, bringing internet service to rural territories where it is otherwise unavailable.

Looking back at a tumultuous 2020, Schauer is especially grateful for GVEC's strong financing relationship with CoBank, which, he says, "really came through for us" at the onset of COVID-19.

"In March, the commercial paper market dried up overnight," said Gary Korn, CFO. "CoBank had a backup facility that we drew upon, which carried us over until the markets settled down. It's the only time we needed to do something like that. The point is, we were able to turn to CoBank when we needed them most. Their attitude has always been, 'what can we do to help?' It's a major reason why we greatly appreciate their partnership."

## gvec Delivering more.



DARREN SCHAUER CEO | Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative

FOR US... STAYING STRONG MEANT DEMONSTRATING THE ABILITY TO ADAPT QUICKLY TO MEET CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS.



GARY KORN CFO | Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative

## CCRWC Chesterfield County Rural Water Co.





COBANK HAS ALWAYS COME THROUGH FOR US, ESPECIALLY IN OUR TIMES OF NEED.

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## WATER & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### CHESTERFIELD COUNTY RURAL WATER COMPANY CHESTERFIELD, SOUTH CAROLINA

How does a cooperatively owned utility manage to stay strong while enduring not one, but two crises within the span of 18 months? Charlie Gray, CEO of Chesterfield County Rural Water Company (CCRWC), can tell you all about it.

The first disaster took place in September 2018, when Hurricane Florence ripped through South Carolina and dumped more than 23 inches of rain in less than 36 hours. In Chesterfield County, the sudden storm washed out 42 roads and the water lines alongside them. For CCRWC, a longtime provider of safe, clean water for 80% of the county's residents, the cost of the damage added up to \$1 million.

Fast forward to March 2020 when South Carolina basically shut down due to the onset of COVID-19. Mandatory curfews allowed only essential personnel to be out and about. Initially, Gray and his teammates were unsure about these government-imposed limitations. They had other questions, too, such as how to protect personnel and customers in the office and in the field, how to obtain "essential personnel" badges, what to do about customer payments and how to deal with after-hour emergencies.

"For the first week or so, we were a little disoriented and trying to figure out a game plan," Gray said. "We had faced a lot of emergencies in the past, but I'll admit I was not prepared specifically to deal with a pandemic. And I don't think I was alone."

Thanks to quick action, they soon brought operational issues under control. With the help of the drive-up window at the new office CoBank financed, customers can conduct traditional lobby business in a safer way. Also, with many customers now working from home, demand for new residential water service doubled by late 2020. This gain, offset by a loss of sales to small commercial accounts such as restaurants and schools, kept revenues neutral overall.

Reflecting on how the utility has survived and thrived, Gray cites as a main reason Chesterfield's strong, longtime relationship with CoBank, which has "always come through" in times of need.

CCRWC used its CoBank line of credit to tend to storm-related repairs immediately after Florence hit. Then, when the pandemic slowed payment flows, Gray worked closely with Julia McCusker, CoBank regional vice president, to use the line of credit and gain approval for a PPP loan, all in a matter of days.

"We estimate conservatively that because we didn't perform cutoffs and didn't assess late fees, that we did not collect more than \$175,000 in revenue over the last seven months," Gray said. "Had it not been for the PPP loan we received from CoBank, we would have struggled financially even more than we have."

## **POWER, ENERGY** & UTILITIES

### NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Situated in a state prone to hurricanes and tropical storms, leaders of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) and its member cooperatives know all too well the importance of crisis planning.

"Given our location, keeping a thorough crisis plan close at hand is an important practice for us," said Lark James, CFO for NCEMC, one of America's largest generation and transmission co-ops.

"COVID-19 brought some unknowns, especially in the beginning," James said. "But the fact we had thoroughly planned for all kinds of crises, storm-related and otherwise, definitely helped us pivot and concentrate right away on supporting our 25 cooperative members in their time of need."

Collectively, North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve 2.5 million people, mainly in rural communities. Recognizing the potential financial impact the pandemic posed to rural North Carolina's people and communities, NCEMC and its member cooperatives worked quickly to develop solutions that support the needs of the members, as well as the financial health of the cooperatives and their G&T.

Throughout 2020, North Carolina's electric cooperatives supported members by suspending residential disconnections, (with many doing so in advance of state orders), customizing payment plans and donating to community organizations.

By year's end, NCEMC reported that business had largely rebounded to pre-pandemic levels.

"CoBank—a longtime business partner—came through for NCEMC at several points this past year," James said, ensuring it was in a good liquidity position early on during the pandemic and again later as NCEMC had better assessed its financial needs. NCEMC also teamed with CoBank through its Sharing Success program to provide \$20,000 to the North Carolina Community Foundation to support COVID-19 response in the state's rural counties.

NCEMC's "Brighter Future" vision continues to drive the organization for the next decade as it provides energy innovation, sustainability and continued community support to improve quality of life for co-op members in 93 of North Carolina's 100 counties. James expects CoBank to play a key role in that journey.

"We stay in close contact with CoBank all year, both in good times and especially in challenging ones," James said. "We've been impressed with the breadth of services CoBank offers and which fit our expanding needs."



Cerporation



LARK JAMES
CFO | NC Electric Membership Corporation

WE ARE FORTUNATE AS COOPERATIVES TO HAVE A CLEAR PURPOSE THAT... KEEPS US ROOTED AND KEEPS US STRONG.





WILLIAM BRADFORD CEO | United Communications



 KRISTIN JACKSON

 CFO
 United Communications

I'M PROUD THAT WE STAYED TRUE TO OUR MISSION OF PROVIDING AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS.

## COMMUNICATIONS

#### UNITED COMMUNICATIONS CHAPEL HILL, TENNESSEE

When the pandemic broke out and Americans' demand for fast, reliable broadband service turned on as quickly as a light switch, few companies had a clearer view of their homebound customers' sudden need for speed than Tennessee-based United Communications.

"COVID-19 brought on an unprecedented period where we had to balance meeting customers' increased broadband needs and at the same time, remain vigilant about the safety needs of our people," said William Bradford, United CEO. "It's a true testament to staying strong that we doubled down and powered through while keeping everyone safe and well-served."

Founded in 1947, the company first made a name for itself by providing phone service in rural markets other providers refused to serve. Today, more than 20,000 customers in middle Tennessee count on United for their high-speed internet, WiFi, digital TV and telephone service.

Those customers, their communities, and the employees who serve them weighed heavily on the minds of United's leaders March 14 when they first became fully aware of the pandemic.

On that day, a small team of company executives were in Atlanta to meet with Kevin Oliver, their relationship manager at CoBank since 2015. They were discussing plans to aggressively expand United's fiber network to new areas of Tennessee. Then, news broke about the pending threat of COVID-19 and public health officials called on everyone to safely quarantine at home.

On their drive back to Nashville, Bradford and his teammates decided to stay the course on network expansion, but also make safety the highest priority for all employees. Within 24 hours, with little business interruption, they mobilized a work-at-home program. They also instituted strict safety protocols for office and warehouse workers, for sales staff at call centers, and for technicians and install crews.

The company's decisiveness paid off. Over the next few months, United earned high customer satisfaction scores and kept pace with customer additions – even amid a pandemic-driven 30% spike in demand for service.

"When COVID hit, we could have immediately scaled back operations. Instead, we all agreed that broadband would be more important than ever," said Kristin Jackson, United's CFO. "I'm proud that we stayed true to our mission of providing an essential service to our customers, many of whom desperately need it."

To partially offset added costs of its employee safety program, United took out a government-issued PPP Ioan, which CoBank helped facilitate. Later on, CoBank closed on a new \$25 million delayed-draw term Ioan that supported the further build-out of United's fiber network. United also credits CoBank's support as a major reason it recently obtained \$9.5 million in federal and state grants. "At every turn, United has continued to meet the challenges brought on by the pandemic," Oliver said.

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## **PROJECT FINANCE**

## D. E. SHAW RENEWABLE INVESTMENTS

D. E. Shaw Renewable Investments has long been a marketleading owner and operator of solar and wind projects throughout the United States. But DESRI faced a unique challenge following the onset of COVID-19. Uncertainty gripped the capital equipment markets, threatening to disrupt pacing of the company's carefully scheduled project plans, particularly in the build-out of solar farms.

"The immediate hurdle was lack of access to equipment needed for solar farm construction," said Executive Chairman Bryan Martin. "We had to get creative and find new sources for equipment. Ultimately, we stayed the course, taking on each challenge as it presented itself and by year's end, we kept pace successfully."

DESRI currently owns and manages 39 such projects in 18 states that, in total, represent more than 2,300 megawatts of capacity. That's a lot of power. And, considering the typical energy project takes three or four years to complete, it takes an extraordinary amount of long-term planning as well.

COVID-19 suddenly shut off the supply of most equipment primarily sourced from Asia. As a workaround, DESRI arranged to reroute supplies and perform assembly in countries that had not yet experienced pandemic-related trade constraints. And, because DESRI has several projects under development, it was able to swap inventory among them with the help of financing partners and utilities.

As of late 2020, despite initial risk and uncertainty, all of DESRI's project build-outs were moving ahead on schedule. Two external factors helped to minimize pandemic-related disruptions, Martin said. First, early on, governments designated electricity as critical infrastructure, allowing on-site construction work to resume quickly and safely. Second, markets remained liquid; DESRI was able to find financing partners, including CoBank.

The CoBank collaboration kicked off with the 2015 financing of the Block Island Wind Farm, located in the Atlantic Ocean near Rhode Island, the first commercial offshore wind farm in the U.S.

"From the very start, CoBank was at the forefront of being a stable collaborator," Martin said. "They're a terrific example of what we look for, not only in financing projects, but also in helping build customer relationships with rural utilities we serve where CoBank has had relationships much longer than we have."

CoBank currently finances eight of DESRI's wind and solar projects, including high-profile builds in Illinois—Prairie State and Dressor Plains. When completed in 2021, these two solar installations will serve Wabash Valley Power Association, a cooperative that provides wholesale power to 23 member distribution co-ops in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.





BRYAN MARTIN Executive Chairman | DESRI

ULTIMATELY, WE STAYED THE COURSE, TAKING ON EACH CHALLENGE...AND BY YEAR'S END, WE KEPT PACE SUCCESSFULLY.

## VALUE PROPOSITION

CoBank is a financially strong, **DEPENDABLE**, cooperative bank that provides relevant credit and financial solutions to rural America. We are **KNOWLEDGEABLE**, responsive and committed to enhancing our **CAPACITY** to deliver a superior customer experience and competitively priced products through an efficient operating platform, while maintaining the safety and soundness of the bank for future generations. We consistently demonstrate our FOCUS on rural America, repeatedly strive to be a trusted advisor for our customers and a trusted partner for those with whom we do business, while providing a meaningful return on shareholders' investment and **OWNERSHIP** in CoBank.



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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SENIOR OFFICERS

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### CoBank 2020 Annual Report

### **Company Introduction**

CoBank, ACB (CoBank or the Bank) is one of the four banks in the Farm Credit System (System) and provides loans, leases and other financial services to vital industries across the rural communities of America. The System is a federally chartered network of borrower-owned cooperative lending institutions and related service organizations. Cooperatives are organizations that are owned and governed by the members who use the cooperative's products or services.

The following chart depicts the structure and ownership of the System.

The System was established in 1916 by the U.S. Congress, and is a Government Sponsored Enterprise (GSE). As a member of a GSE, we endeavor to fulfill our mission to a highly diverse customer base irrespective of market conditions. We also fulfill our broader mission as a member of a GSE by supporting rural communities and agriculture in their vital role of providing food security, energy security, economic growth, and a high quality of life to all Americans.

**Congressional Oversight Congressional Agriculture Committees** The Farm Credit Council Insurance / Regulation / Farm Credit System Farm Credit Administration Advocacy Insurance Corporation (Regulator) (Advocacy) Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation Agent for Banks (Funding Corporation) System Banks CoBank. AgFirst, AgriBank, FCB of ACB FCB FCB Texas Cooperatives, Other Agricultural and Rural Farm Credit Borrower-Owners Infrastructure Businesses and Other Eligible Borrowers Associations ₽ Farmers, Ranchers, Rural Homeowners and Other Eligible Borrowers

CoBank is federally chartered under the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (the Farm Credit Act), and is subject to supervision, examination, and safety and soundness regulation by an independent federal agency, the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). We are a mission-based lender with authority to make loans and provide related financial services to eligible borrowers in the agribusiness and rural infrastructure industries, and to certain related entities, as defined by the Farm Credit Act. We are not authorized to accept deposits to fund our operations. Instead, we raise funds primarily by issuing debt securities through the System's agent, the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation (Funding Corporation). Such securities are the joint and several obligations of the four System banks. We are cooperatively owned by our eligible U.S. customers. Our customers consist of agricultural cooperatives; other food and agribusiness companies; rural power, communications and water cooperatives and companies; rural community facilities; Agricultural Credit Associations (Associations), which are regulated, farmer-owned financial institutions and members of the System; and other businesses that serve agriculture and rural communities. We are the primary funding source for certain Associations serving specified geographic regions in the United States. We collectively refer to these entities as our affiliated Associations. We provide a broad range of loans and other financial services through three operating segments: Agribusiness, Farm Credit Banking and Rural Infrastructure.

CoBank 2020 Annual Report

The accompanying consolidated financial statements exclude financial information of our affiliated Associations. CoBank and our affiliated Associations are collectively referred to as the "District." Additional information about our affiliated Associations is contained in Note 18 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

System annual and quarterly information statements and press releases for the current fiscal year and the two preceding fiscal years, as well as offering circulars relating to Federal Farm Credit Banks Consolidated Systemwide bonds, medium term notes and discount notes (collectively referred to as Systemwide Debt Securities), are available for inspection at, or will be furnished without charge upon request to, the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, 101 Hudson Street, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302; telephone (201) 200-8000. These documents are also available on the Funding Corporation's website at

www.farmcreditfunding.com. This website also provides a link to each System bank's website where financial and other information of each bank can be found.

The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac) is a federally chartered corporation that was formed to provide a secondary market for a variety of loans made to borrowers in rural America. Although Farmer Mac is examined and regulated by the FCA, it is a separate enterprise, and any reference to "the System" herein does not include Farmer Mac. For more information on Farmer Mac and its relationship with System entities, please see "Relationship with the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation" beginning on page 61.

### Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### Overview

CoBank's loans outstanding grew 11 percent to \$120.9 billion as of December 31, 2020, compared to \$108.9 billion at the end of 2019. Our average loan volume was \$112.6 billion during 2020, an increase of 8 percent compared to \$104.4 billion in 2019. The increases in both year-end and average loan volume resulted from growth in lending across all three of our operating segments – Agribusiness, Farm Credit Banking and Rural Infrastructure.

Our net income increased 16 percent to \$1.263 billion in 2020 compared to \$1.091 billion in 2019. This increase primarily resulted from increases in net interest income and noninterest income and a lower provision for loan losses. These items were somewhat offset by a higher provision for income taxes and an increase in operating expenses in 2020.

Our overall loan quality measures remain strong at December 31, 2020 and improved across most key credit quality measures compared to December 31, 2019. Special Mention loans and accrued interest improved primarily due to upgrades in credit quality classification of wholesale loans to two Associations from Special Mention to Acceptable. Adversely classified loans and accrued interest improved to 0.54 percent of total loans and accrued interest at December 31, 2020 compared to 1.30 percent at December 31, 2019 due to improvements in credit quality in our Rural Infrastructure and Agribusiness operating segments. Nonaccrual loans improved to \$117.4 million at December 31, 2020 from \$240.7 million at December 31, 2019 primarily due to payment activity and charge-offs on several nonaccrual loans in our Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments. Nonaccrual loans were 0.10 percent of total loans at December 31, 2020 compared to 0.22 percent of total loans at December 31, 2019.

Our capital and liquidity positions remain strong as of December 31, 2020. Shareholders' equity increased to \$11.9 billion at year-end 2020, compared to \$10.6 billion at year-end 2019. Our total capital ratio was 15.22 percent as of December 31, 2020, compared to the regulatory minimum requirement of 8.00 percent (10.50 percent inclusive of the capital conservation buffer). As of year-end 2020, we held a total of \$36.0 billion in investments, federal funds sold and other overnight funds, and cash primarily as a liquidity reserve, and our days liquidity was 174 days.

A five-year summary of selected consolidated financial data is shown on the following page.

As of and for the Year Ended December 31,		2020		housands) 2019		2018		2017		2016
Consolidated Statement of Income Data		2020		2013		2010		2011		2010
Net Interest Income	\$	1,566,532	\$	1,398,559	\$	1,431,296	\$	1.392.825	\$	1,361,778
Provision for Loan Losses	Ŷ	21,000	ψ	57,000		66,000	ψ	42,000	ψ	63,000
Noninterest Income		281,836		220,913		289,660		175,233		184,885
Operating Expenses		434,519		403,502		363,807		385,673		379,702
Provision for Income Taxes		129,848		67,742		100,374		15,064		158,285
Net Income	\$	1,263,001	\$	1,091,228		1,190,775	\$	1,125,321	\$	945,676
Net Income Distributed	•	.,,	<b>.</b>	1,001,220	+	.,	*	.,.20,02.	÷	010,010
Patronage Distributions:										
Common Stock	\$	131,912	\$	128,428	\$	127,910	\$	118,570	\$	114,258
Cash		489,913		475,341		475,571		491,856		473,853
Special Cash		106,603		39,839		96,187		-		-
Total Patronage Distributions		728,428		643,608		699,668		610,426		588,111
Preferred Stock Dividends		84,160		87,537		86,938		84,704		77,232
Total Net Income Distributed	\$	812,588	\$	731,145	\$	786,606	\$	695,130	\$	665,343
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data										
Total Loans	\$	120,855,800	\$	108,854,253	\$	104,493,855	\$	99,265,505	\$	95,258,281
Less: Allowance for Loan Losses	-	635,426		654,764		621,591		576,927		558,974
Net Loans		120,220,374		108,199,489		103,872,264		98,688,578		94,699,307
Investment Securities, Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds		33,660,003		34,235,944		32,591,720		27,905,378		28,515,188
Cash and Cash Equivalents		2,335,212		948,669		1,368,075		1,313,620		1,660,517
Other Assets		2,370,815		1,619,961		1,183,598		1.303.237		1,255,614
Total Assets	\$	158,586,404	\$	145,004,063	\$	139,015,657	\$	129,210,813	\$	126,130,626
Debt Obligations with Maturities ≤ 1Year	\$	63,618,396	\$	60,398,618		58,797,868	\$	52,568,630	\$	50,788,645
Debt Obligations with Maturities > 1Year	÷	79,765,287	Ŷ	71,831,548		68,834,315	Ŷ	65,837,653	Ψ	64,796,055
Reserve for Unfunded Commitments		96,769		92,302		81,649		93,865		103,496
Other Liabilities		3,196,347		2,114,702		1,766,892		1,650,588		1,868,672
Total Liabilities		146,676,799		134,437,170		129,480,724		120,150,736		117,556,868
Preferred Stock		1,500,000		1,500,000		1,500,000		1,500,000		1,500,000
Common Stock		3,917,740		3,621,577		3,415,654		3,240,445		3,072,232
Unallocated Retained Earnings		5,803,923		5,350,891		4,982,383		4,551,600		4,121,409
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)		5,603,923 687,942		94,425		4,962,363 (363,104)		(231,968)		(119,883)
Total Shareholders' Equity		11,909,605		10.566.893		9,534,933		9,060,077		8.573.758
· ·	•			-,,			<b>^</b>		<b>^</b>	-,,
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$	158,586,404	\$	145,004,063	\$	139,015,657	\$	129,210,813	\$	126,130,626
Key Financial Ratios										
For the Year:		44.00	•/	44.00	0/	44.00	0/	44.00	0/	40.40
Return on Average Common Shareholders' Equity		11.86	%	11.63		14.60	%	14.20	%	12.40
Return on Average Total Shareholders' Equity		11.04		10.77		13.14		12.75		11.25
Return on Average Assets		0.84		0.79		0.90		0.89		0.78
Net Interest Margin		1.07		1.02		1.09		1.12		1.14
Net Charge-offs / Average Loans		0.03		0.01		0.03		0.04		0.00
Patronage Distributions / Total Average Common Stock										
Owned by Active Borrowers		20.58		19.48		22.35		20.70		21.32
At Year-end:										
Debt / Total Shareholders' Equity (: 1)		12.32		12.72		13.58		13.26		13.71
Total Shareholders' Equity / Total Assets		7.51	%	7.29	%	6.86	%	7.01	%	6.80
Allowance for Credit Losses <sup>(1)</sup> / Total Loans		0.61		0.69		0.67		0.68		0.70
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital Ratio <sup>(2)</sup>		12.33		12.70		12.38		11.67		n/a
Tier 1 Capital Ratio <sup>(2)</sup>		14.25		14.83		14.57		13.97		n/a
Total Capital Ratio <sup>(2)</sup>		15.22		15.86		15.58		15.24		n/a
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio <sup>(2)</sup>		7.30		7.51		7.53		7.26		n/a
Permanent Capital Ratio		14.36		14.95		14.69		14.29		15.47
Unallocated Retained Earnings (URE)										
and URE Equivalents Leverage Ratio <sup>(2)</sup>		3.23		3.24		3.19		2.96		n/a

 $^{\left(1\right)}$  Includes the allowance for loan losses and the reserve for unfunded commitments.

<sup>(2)</sup> On January 1, 2017, CoBank implemented revised regulatory capital requirements, as required by the FCA. As a result, this ratio is not applicable for periods ending prior to this date.

#### **Net Interest Income**

Interest income and interest expense for the major categories of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities as well as net interest income and net interest margin are shown in the following table.

Net Interest Income and Net	Inter	est Marg	in										
Year Ended December 31,			2020				2019			2018			
(\$ in Millions)		Average Avera Balance Rat		In	terest come/ opense	Average Balance	Average Rate	In	nterest icome/ kpense	Average Balance	Average Rate	In	iterest come/ cpense
Interest-earning Assets													
Total Loans	\$	112,634	2.43	%\$	2,736	\$ 104,351	3.53	%\$	3,688	\$ 100,644	3.33	%\$	3,349
Investment Securities, Federal Funds													
Sold and Other Overnight Funds		33,884	1.70		576	32,690	2.39		780	30,081	2.27		682
Total Interest-earning Assets	\$	146,518	2.26	\$	3,312	\$ 137,041	3.26	\$	4,468	\$ 130,725	3.08	\$	4,031
Interest-bearing Liabilities													
Bonds and Notes	\$	124,009	1.32	%\$	1,635	\$ 114,807	2.43	%\$	2,787	\$ 107,523	2.19	%\$	2,356
Discount Notes		11,550	0.82		95	10,658	2.39		255	12,448	1.81		225
Other Notes Payable		966	1.55		15	821	3.29		27	1,005	1.89		19
Total Interest-bearing Liabilities	\$	136,525	1.28	\$	1,745	\$ 126,286	2.43	\$	3,069	\$ 120,976	2.15	\$	2,600
Interest Rate Spread			0.98				0.83				0.93		
Impact of Equity Financing	\$	11,445	0.09			\$ 10,135	0.19			\$ 9,068	0.16		
Net Interest Margin and													
Net Interest Income			1.07	%\$	1,567		1.02	%\$	1,399		1.09	%\$	1,431

Changes in our interest income, interest expense and net interest income due to volume and rate variances for interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities are summarized in the table below.

			2	2020			2019					
(\$ in Millions)			•	ecrease) Year Due				•	ecrease) Year Due			
	Vo	Volume		Volume		Yield/Rate		al	Volume	Yie	ld/Rate	Тс
Total Loans		247	\$	(1,199)	\$	(952)	\$ 118	\$	221	\$	33	
Investment Securities, Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds		24		(228)		(204)	60		38		98	
Total Interest Income		271		(1,427)	(1	1,156)	178		259		437	
Total Interest Expense	190			(1,514)	(1	1,324)	84		385		469	
Changes in Net Interest Income	\$	81	\$	87	\$	168	\$ 94	\$	(126)	\$	(32	

(1) The change in interest income or expense not solely due to changes in volume or rate has been allocated in proportion to the absolute dollar amount of the change in volume and rate.

Net interest income increased \$168.0 million, or 12 percent, to \$1.567 billion in 2020, compared to \$1.399 billion in 2019. The increase in net interest income was primarily driven by higher average loan volume, higher earnings on balance sheet positioning, and interest income recognized from the repayment of nonaccrual loans to several agribusiness customers in 2020. Average loan volume increased \$8.3 billion, or 8 percent, to \$112.6 billion in 2020 reflecting growth in lending across all three of our operating segments – Agribusiness, Farm Credit Banking and Rural Infrastructure. Average investment securities, federal funds sold and other overnight funds increased to \$33.9 billion in 2020 from \$32.7 billion in 2019.

Net interest margin improved to 1.07 percent in 2020 from 1.02 percent in 2019, and interest rate spread increased to 0.98 percent in 2020 from 0.83 percent in 2019. The increase in our net interest margin was driven by higher

earnings on balance sheet positioning, the favorable impact of interest income related to several Agribusiness customer nonaccrual loan repayments and an improvement in lending spreads across most sectors of our Agribusiness portfolio. This was partially offset by changes in asset mix, including increased lending to affiliated Associations which has lower spreads commensurate with lower risk.

Net interest income decreased \$32.7 million, or 2 percent, to \$1.399 billion in 2019, compared to \$1.431 billion in 2018. The decrease in net interest income was primarily driven by lower earnings on balance sheet positioning and lower overall spreads in our loan and investment portfolios, partially offset by higher average loan volume and an increase in earnings on invested capital. Average loan volume increased \$3.8 billion, or 4 percent, to \$104.4 billion in 2019 primarily as a result of growth in lending to Associations in our Farm Credit Banking operating segment and to customers in our Agribusiness operating segment. Average investment securities, federal funds sold and other overnight funds increased to \$32.7 billion in 2019 from \$30.1 billion in 2018.

Net interest margin declined to 1.02 percent in 2019 from 1.09 percent in 2018, and interest rate spread decreased to 0.83 percent in 2019 from 0.93 percent in 2018. The reduction in our net interest margin included the impact of lower earnings on balance sheet positioning, lower loan and investment spreads and changes in asset mix, including increased lending to affiliated Associations and agricultural export finance customers and higher levels of investment securities, all of which have lower spreads commensurate with lower risk. Loan spreads also decreased due to higher funding costs and continued competition for the business of our customers. These drivers were somewhat offset by an increase in earnings on invested capital which benefitted net interest margin.

# Provision for Loan Losses and Allowance for Credit Losses

The provision for loan losses reflects our estimate of credit losses inherent in our loan and finance lease portfolios, including unfunded commitments. The allowance for loan losses covers the funded portion of our loans outstanding, while the reserve for unfunded commitments covers losses on unfunded lending commitments. The sum of the allowance for loan losses and the reserve for unfunded commitments is referred to as the allowance for credit losses. We base our allowance for probable and estimable losses on the factors discussed in "Critical Accounting Estimates – Allowance for Credit Losses" on page 68. The table on page 39 summarizes the activity in our allowance for credit losses, by operating segment, for the past five years.

We recorded a \$21.0 million provision for loan losses in 2020. The provision primarily relates to a \$25.6 million provision for loan losses in our Agribusiness operating segment resulting from increased lending and leasing activity partially offset by a decrease in specific reserves for a small number of agribusiness customers. The provision for loan losses in the 2020 period also includes an additional level of reserves to reflect inherent losses in our loan portfolio resulting from deterioration in the macroeconomic environment and business disruptions related to COVID-19. These increases in the provision for loan losses were somewhat offset by a \$4.6 million loan loss reversal in our Rural Infrastructure operating segment due to an improvement in credit quality in most sectors of this portfolio and a decrease in specific reserves for a small number of rural infrastructure customers. As discussed in Note 2 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements. CoBank has not and does not intend to early adopt the Current Expected Credit Losses (CECL) accounting standard prior to the required effective date of January 1, 2023.

We recorded a \$57.0 million provision for loan losses in 2019. The provision primarily reflected deterioration in credit quality in our Agribusiness operating segment in addition to growth in average loan volume. The \$57.0 million total provision for loan losses included a \$53.0 million provision in

our Agribusiness operating segment and a \$4.0 million provision in our Rural Infrastructure operating segment.

Adversely classified loans and accrued interest improved to 0.54 percent of total loans and accrued interest at December 31, 2020, compared to 1.30 percent at December 31, 2019 and 1.21 percent at December 31, 2018. The improvement in adversely classified loans and accrued interest in 2020 was due to payoffs of nonaccrual loans in our Agribusiness operating segment and credit quality upgrades of a limited number of rural energy customers in our Rural Infrastructure operating segment. The increase in adversely classified loans and accrued interest in 2019 was primarily driven by deterioration in credit quality associated with a small number of customers in our Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments.

Total nonaccrual loans improved by \$123.3 million to \$117.4 million, or 0.10 percent of total loans, at December 31, 2020 from \$240.7 million, or 0.22 percent of total loans, at December 31, 2019 primarily due to payment activity and charge-offs on several nonaccrual loans in our Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments. Total nonaccrual loans improved by \$85.6 million to \$240.7 million, or 0.22 percent of total loans, at December 31, 2019 from \$326.3 million, or 0.31 percent of total loans, at December 31, 2018 primarily due to payment activity on nonaccrual loans, somewhat offset by credit quality deterioration impacting a small number of customers in our Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments. We recorded loan chargeoffs, net of recoveries, of \$35.9 million in 2020 compared to \$13.2 million and \$33.6 million in 2019 and 2018, respectively. The charge-offs in 2020 primarily relate to a limited number of communications and rural energy customers in our Rural Infrastructure operating segment who experienced financial distress. The charge-offs in 2019 and 2018 related to a small number of customers in our Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments.

Our allowance for credit losses was \$732.2 million at December 31, 2020, compared to \$747.1 million and \$703.2 million as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively. The allowance for credit losses represented 0.61 percent of total loans as of the end of 2020, compared to 0.69 percent and 0.67 percent of total loans at December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively. At December 31, 2020, our allowance for credit losses represented 1.24 percent of nonguaranteed loans excluding wholesale loans to Associations, compared to 1.40 percent and 1.33 percent at December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

Refer to "Enterprise Risk Profile – Credit Risk Management" beginning on page 44 for further information on nonperforming loans, charge-offs, loan quality trends and the factors considered in determining the levels of our provision for loan losses and allowance for credit losses.

#### Noninterest Income

The following table details our noninterest income for each of the last three years.

Noninterest Income (\$ in Thousa	ands)			
Year Ended December 31,		2020	2019	2018
Net Fee Income	\$	141,190	\$ 108,708	\$ 106,247
Patronage Income		109,098	91,428	75,835
Prepayment Income		75,786	17,221	14,754
Losses on Early				
Extinguishments of Debt		(78,653)	(16,619)	(15,021)
Gains on Sales of				
Investment Securities		20	892	49,074
Gains on Interest Rate Swaps and				
Other Derivatives		19,358	14,046	2,294
Return of Excess Insurance Funds		12,617	13,789	35,045
Other, Net		2,420	(8,552)	21,432
Total Noninterest Income	\$	281,836	\$ 220,913	\$ 289,660

Noninterest income is primarily composed of fee income, patronage income, loan prepayment income and miscellaneous gains and losses, offset by losses on early extinguishments of debt.

Total noninterest income increased in 2020 to \$281.8 million, or by 28 percent, from \$220.9 million in 2019. The increase in noninterest income resulted from increases in prepayment income, net fee income, patronage income and gains on interest rate swaps and other derivatives. These increases were offset by an increase in losses on early extinguishments of debt. Noninterest income also included a return of excess insurance funds returned from the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (Insurance Corporation) related to the Farm Credit Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund).

Our net fee income, which includes arrangement fees and unused commitment fees, among others, increased to \$141.2 million in 2020 compared to \$108.7 million in 2019 primarily due to a higher level of transaction-related lending fees in our Rural Infrastructure operating segment.

Patronage income, which represents patronage received from other System institutions for loans we sold to them, increased to \$109.1 million in 2020 compared to \$91.4 million in 2019. This increase reflects greater levels of loans sold to affiliated Associations and other System institutions as well as higher levels of patronage received from System institutions.

Prepayment income increased to \$75.8 million in 2020 from \$17.2 million in 2019 resulting from a higher level of customer refinancing activity and higher prepayment fees from certain of our affiliated Associations both driven by the lower interest rate environment in 2020. Losses on early extinguishments of Systemwide Debt Securities were \$78.7 million in 2020 compared to \$16.6 million in 2019. During 2020, we extinguished \$1.261 billion of Systemwide Debt Securities compared to \$207.8 million in 2019. While it is our general practice to extinguish debt to offset the current and prospective impact of prepayments in our loan and investment portfolios, the availability in the market of similarly-tenored debt, coupled with the timing of prepayments, do not always allow us to fully offset the impact of prepayments.

During 2020, we sold investment securities for total proceeds of \$3.5 billion which approximated their total book value. In 2019 and 2018, sales of investment securities resulted in gains totaling \$0.9 million and \$49.1 million, respectively. The sale of investment securities is discussed in "Liquidity and Capital Resources" beginning on page 62.

Gains on interest rate swaps and other derivatives increased to \$19.4 million in 2020 compared to \$14.0 million in 2019 due to higher customer derivative transaction activity and related income.

Other net noninterest income increased to \$2.4 million in 2020 from an \$8.6 million loss in 2019 primarily due to a sales tax reserve recorded in 2019.

In 2019, total noninterest income decreased to \$220.9 million, or by 24 percent, from \$289.7 million in 2018. The decline in noninterest income resulted largely from a decrease in gains on sales of investment securities and a lower level of excess insurance funds returned from the Insurance Corporation related to the Insurance Fund. Other net noninterest income also decreased in 2019 due to a sales tax reserve recorded in 2019 and proceeds received in 2018 related to the disposition of warrants obtained in a previous loan restructuring. These decreases in noninterest income were somewhat offset by a higher level of patronage income and an increase in gains on interest rate swaps and other derivatives.

#### **Operating Expenses**

The following table details our operating expenses for each of the last three years.

Analysis of Operating Expe	en	<b>ses</b> (\$ in	The	ous	ands)			
Year Ended December 31,		2020			2019		2018	
Employee Compensation	\$	236,646		\$	203,952		\$ 184,853	
General and Administrative		28,093			30,110		27,482	
Information Services		52,448			46,189		38,138	
Insurance Fund Premium		59,484			52,810		52,100	
Travel and Entertainment		7,062			18,966		18,418	
Farm Credit System Related		15,659			16,284		15,569	
Occupancy and Equipment		16,295			16,718		16,055	
Purchased Services		18,832			18,473		11,192	
Total Operating Expenses	\$	434,519		\$	403,502		\$ 363,807	
Total Operating Expenses/								
(Net Interest Income +								
Net Fee Income)		25.4	%		26.8	%	23.7	%
Operating Expenses, Excluding								
Insurance Fund Premium/								
(Net Interest Income +								
Net Fee Income)		22.0			23.3		20.3	

Total operating expenses increased 8 percent in 2020 to \$434.5 million, compared to \$403.5 million for 2019. The higher level of operating expenses was primarily driven by increases in employee compensation, Insurance Fund premium and information services expenses partially offset by decreases in travel and entertainment and general and administrative expenses. Employee compensation expense, which includes salaries, incentive compensation and employee benefits, increased to \$236.6 million in 2020 from \$204.0 million in 2019. The increase was due to annual merit increases, a higher level of incentive compensation reflective of strong business and financial performance and an increase in the number of employees to support increased investments in our operating and technology platforms and other business initiatives as well as to maintain high levels of customer service. As of December 31, 2020, we had 1,136 employees, compared to 1,115 and 1,050 at December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

General and administrative expenses decreased to \$28.1 million in 2020, compared to \$30.1 million in 2019. General and administrative expenses primarily include charitable contributions, directors' expenses, associate training expenses and other miscellaneous expenses. We believe making charitable contributions and other support provided to civic and other organizations that benefit the residents, communities and industries we serve in rural America, is consistent with our overall corporate social responsibility program and the fulfillment of our mission. The decrease in general and administrative expenses in 2020 was driven by lower directors' expenses, associate training and other miscellaneous expenses associated with the COVID-19 environment partially offset by higher charitable contribution expenses.

Information services expense, which includes the cost of hardware, software, network infrastructure and related support services, increased to \$52.4 million in 2020 from \$46.2 million in 2019 due to greater expenditures to enhance our service offerings, technology platforms and digital banking capabilities.

Insurance Fund premium expenses increased to \$59.5 million in 2020, compared to \$52.8 million in 2019. Insurance Fund premium rates are set by the Insurance Corporation and were 8 basis points of average outstanding adjusted insured debt obligations for the first half of 2020 and 11 basis points for the second half of 2020 compared to 9 basis points throughout 2019. The Insurance Corporation announced a premium rate of 16 basis points of average outstanding adjusted insured debt obligations for the first half of 2021. Changes in the premium rate generally result from increases or decreases in the overall level of System assets and related debt obligations, the amount of assets in the Insurance Fund and the Insurance Corporation's projections of these balances.

Travel and entertainment expenses decreased to \$7.1 million in 2020 from \$19.0 million in 2019 due to a lower level of expenditures for business travel and meeting related expenses due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our travel and entertainment expenses will likely increase in future periods once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and more normal customer-facing activities resume.

Farm Credit System related expenses were \$15.7 million in 2020 compared to \$16.3 million in 2019. These expenses primarily represent our share of costs to fund the operations of the FCA and the Farm Credit Council (FCC), a national trade organization that represents System entities. Each System institution is assessed a pro rata share of the FCA's total expenses based primarily on each institution's average riskadjusted assets. FCC costs are generally allocated based on the number of directors that represent each district (a System bank and its affiliated Associations) and the level of bank assets.

Occupancy and equipment expenses were \$16.3 million in 2020 compared to \$16.7 million in 2019. Occupancy and equipment expenses include rent, maintenance and repairs related to our corporate headquarters and other banking center offices.

Purchased services expenses increased slightly to \$18.8 million in 2020 from \$18.5 million in 2019. Purchased services expenses primarily include professional and consulting fees and costs related to enhancement of our enterprise information management capabilities.

Total operating expenses as a percent of net interest income plus net fee income were 25.4 percent in 2020 compared to 26.8 percent in 2019 and 23.7 percent in 2018. Excluding the impact of Insurance Fund premium expense, operating expenses as a percent of net interest income plus net fee income were 22.0 percent in 2020, compared to 23.3 percent in 2019 and 20.3 percent in 2018. The improvement in operating expense ratios in 2020 was the result of higher net interest income and fee income somewhat offset by higher operating expenses.

Total operating expenses increased 11 percent in 2019 to \$403.5 million, compared to \$363.8 million for 2018. The higher level of operating expenses was primarily driven by increases in employee compensation, information services and purchased services expenses.

## **Provision for Income Taxes**

Our provision for income taxes increased to \$129.8 million in 2020 from \$67.7 million in 2019, and the effective tax rate increased to 9.3 percent for 2020 compared to 5.8 percent in 2019. The increases in our income tax expense and the effective tax rate were primarily due to favorable adjustments recorded in 2019 and an increase in earnings attributable to taxable business activities in 2020. The 2019 provision for income taxes included a \$30.2 million favorable adjustment reflecting amendments to our 2015 through 2017 federal and state tax returns to realize the benefit of certain equipment leasing transactions. In April 2020, the Internal Revenue Service initiated an examination of our amended federal tax returns. The 2019 provision for income taxes also contained a net benefit of \$6.2 million primarily resulting from a change in methodology related to state income tax rates. Excluding the aforementioned 2019 nonrecurring adjustments, the provision for income taxes was \$104.1 million in 2019 and the effective tax rate was 9.0 percent.

Our provision for income taxes was \$100.4 million in 2018 and the effective tax rate was 7.8 percent for that period. The 2018 provision for income taxes included a \$15.8 million tax benefit which resulted from a change in accounting estimate to reflect the full effects of the enactment of federal tax legislation in late 2017. Excluding this non-recurring

adjustment, the provision for income taxes was \$116.2 million in 2018 and the effective tax rate was 9.0 percent.

Our effective tax rates are less than the applicable federal and state statutory income tax rates primarily due to taxdeductible patronage distributions. In addition, as more fully discussed in Note 1 to the accompanying consolidated

# **Operating Segment Financial Review**

We conduct lending operations through three operating segments: Agribusiness, Farm Credit Banking and Rural Infrastructure. All customer activity, including loans and leases and related income, is specifically assigned to the business units that comprise the operating segments. Investment securities and federal funds sold and other overnight funds, which are primarily held as a liquidity reserve to support our banking operations, are not specifically assigned to operating segments; however, the income from investment securities and federal funds sold and other overnight funds is attributed to the operating segments.

In addition to the operating segments described below, our capital markets division supports our lending divisions and manages syndications and loan sales with over 100 financial institutions, including System institutions. In 2020, we syndicated or sold approximately \$22.1 billion of loan commitments to System entities and other financial institutions to help meet customers' credit needs and to effectively diversify risk and manage capital.

We also offer non-credit products and services including cash management, online banking, mobile banking and commercial credit card solutions. Revenues generated from non-credit products and services and by capital markets, as well as all related operating expenses, are attributed to the operating segments. financial statements, a portion of CoBank's activities are statutorily exempt from income taxes. These tax-exempt activities include wholesale lending to Farm Credit Associations and loan participation purchases from other System entities.

Net income by operating segment is summarized in the table below and is more fully disclosed in Note 14 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements. The following tables also provide period-end and average loan amounts by operating segment.

Net Income by Operating Segment (\$ in Thousands)										
Year Ended December 31,	2020 2019 <sup>(1)</sup>					2018 <sup>(2)</sup>				
Operating Segment:										
Agribusiness	\$	608,537	\$	536,795	\$	574,563				
Farm Credit Banking		256,615		222,561		268,957				
Rural Infrastructure		397,849		331,872		347,255				
Total	\$	1,263,001	\$	1,091,228	\$	1,190,775				

<sup>(1)</sup> As discussed in Note 1, the 2019 period included reclassifications between the Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments which had no impact on CoBank's consolidated net income.

<sup>(2)</sup> In 2018, certain corporate and other information to reconcile total reportable segments with total consolidated results were separately disclosed as "Corporate/ Other". In 2020 and 2019, such amounts are allocated to operating segments and 2018 amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation.

Period-end Loan Portfolio by Operating Segment (\$ in Millions)					
December 31,	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Agribusiness	\$ 36,103	\$ 33,168	\$ 32,432	\$ 30,304	\$ 28,660
Farm Credit Banking	60,516	54,459	50,695	47,948	45,994
Rural Infrastructure	24,237	21,227	21,367	21,014	20,604
Total Loans	\$ 120,856	\$ 108,854	\$ 104,494	\$ 99,266	\$ 95,258

Average Loan Portfolio by Operating Segment (\$ in Millions)					
Year Ended December 31,	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Agribusiness	\$ 33,292	\$ 32,119	\$ 31,604	\$ 29,241	\$ 27,563
Farm Credit Banking	56,423	51,313	48,121	46,074	43,924
Rural Infrastructure	22,919	20,919	20,919	20,732	20,092
Total Average Loans	\$ 112,634	\$ 104,351	\$ 100,644	\$ 96,047	\$ 91,579

The following table presents activity in the allowance for credit losses by operating segment.

	2	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	
Beginning of Year	\$	747,066	\$ 703,240	\$ 670,792	\$ 662,470	\$ 601,588	
Charge-offs:							
Agribusiness		(6,472)	(8,782)	(33,575)	(35,675)	(4,276)	
Farm Credit Banking		-	-	-	-	-	
Rural Infrastructure		(32,230)	(7,500)	(2,135)	-	(324)	
Total Charge-offs		(38,702)	(16,282)	(35,710)	(35,675)	(4,600)	
Recoveries:							
Agribusiness		2,248	2,492	1,927	1,644	747	
Farm Credit Banking		-	-	-	-	-	
Rural Infrastructure		583	616	231	353	1,735	
Total Recoveries		2,831	3,108	2,158	1,997	2,482	
Net Charge-offs		(35,871)	(13,174)	(33,552)	(33,678)	(2,118)	
Provision (Reversal) Charged (Credited) to Earnings	:						
Agribusiness		25,600	53,000	54,000	43,650	71,000	
Farm Credit Banking		-	-	-	-	-	
Rural Infrastructure		(4,600)	4,000	12,000	(1,650)	(8,000)	
Total Provision (Reversal) Charged (Credited) to Earnings		21,000	57,000	66,000	42,000	63,000	
End of Year	\$	732,195	\$ 747,066	\$ 703,240	\$ 670,792	\$ 662,470	
Components:							
Allowance for Loan Losses	\$	635,426	\$ 654,764	\$ 621,591	\$ 576,927	\$ 558,974	
Reserve for Unfunded Commitments		96,769	92,302	81,649	93,865	103,496	
Total Allowance for Credit Losses (ACL)	\$	732,195	\$ 747,066	\$ 703,240	\$ 670,792	\$ 662,470	
ACL/Total Loans		0.61 %	0.69 %	0.67 %	0.68 %	0.70	%
ACL/Non-guaranteed Loans (Excluding Loans to Associations)		1.24	1.40	1.33	1.33	1.37	
ACL/Impaired Loans		620	296	214	271	264	
ACL/Nonaccrual Loans		624	310	216	272	320	
Net Charge-offs / Average Loans		0.03	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.00	

Allowance for Credit Losses by Operatin	g Segment (\$ in Thousands)		Allowance for Credit Losses by Operating Segment (\$ in Thousands)											
December 31,	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016									
Agribusiness	\$ 570,342	\$ 548,966	\$ 502,256	\$ 479,904	\$ 470,285									
Farm Credit Banking	-	-	-	-	-									
Rural Infrastructure	161,853	198,100	200,984	190,888	192,185									
Total Allowance for Credit Losses	\$ 732,195	\$ 747,066	\$ 703,240	\$ 670,792	\$ 662,470									

## Agribusiness

## Overview

The Agribusiness operating segment includes loans and other financial services provided to a diverse market of cooperatives and other businesses in various agricultural sectors including grain handling and marketing, farm supply, fruits, nuts, vegetables, forest products, dairy, livestock, biofuels and food processing. Primary products and services include term loans, revolving lines of credit, trade finance, capital markets services, as well as risk management, cash management, leasing and investment products. To enhance portfolio diversification, and to assist System partners in meeting the needs of their increasingly diverse customer base, we purchase participations in agribusiness loans from other System entities and participate in syndicated agribusiness loans with other financial institutions.

A portion of Agribusiness loan volume finances seasonal grain inventories, through the use of lines of credit, for agricultural cooperatives. This seasonal loan volume is affected by a number of factors, including grain volume, commodity prices, producer selling patterns, transportation availability, and the relationship between cash and futures prices in the grain commodities markets. Agribusiness loan volume generally reaches a seasonal low in late summer or early fall. Harvest financing demands result in loan volume increases beginning in the late fall of each year. Peak loan volume typically occurs early in the year when our cooperative customers pay producers' deferred grain payables.

Our Agribusiness customers face challenges resulting from deterioration in the macroeconomic environment and business disruptions related to COVID-19, volatile commodity prices for most major commodities, evolving domestic and global market demand, changing U.S. trade policy and agreements, increasing regulation and the ongoing impact from currency fluctuations. These challenges, along with the need to attract high-quality leadership, manage risk, and remain competitive, have led many of our cooperative customers to consolidate and merge, enter into joint ventures, or form alliances to develop new markets. This consolidation trend has, in some cases, resulted in larger individual and attributed credit commitments. We meet our customers' financing needs by maintaining appropriate credit exposure to individual customers and partnering with System entities and commercial banks in loan syndications and participations. We also focus on serving mission-related entities, including small and start-up cooperatives, and supporting our Farm Credit partners in their lending to young, beginning and small (YBS) farmers and ranchers.

The Agribusiness segment includes our Agricultural Export Finance Division (AEFD), which provides trade finance to support U.S. exporters of agricultural products. Obligors consist primarily of financial institutions in foreign countries (primarily emerging markets) who support our exporting customers in selling and shipping agricultural products to international markets. Expanding the export of U.S. agricultural products is an important component of supporting the U.S. economy and the balance of trade with foreign trading partners. The AEFD utilizes the U.S. government-sponsored export loan guarantee General Sales Manager (GSM) program for a portion of its export financing. As of December 31, 2020, the AEFD had \$6.0 billion in loans outstanding, 22 percent of which were guaranteed by the U.S. government under the GSM program, compared to \$5.9 billion in loans outstanding as of December 31, 2019, 20 percent of which were guaranteed under the GSM program. Over the last five years, the mix of volume in AEFD has shifted toward a higher level of non-guaranteed volume reflecting a decline in the competitiveness of the GSM program coupled with our ability to support an increasing level of non-guaranteed export transactions. We further mitigate our exposure for certain AEFD lending transactions by purchasing credit enhancement from non-government third parties.

The Agribusiness segment also includes Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation (FCL), a wholly-owned subsidiary which provides leases and lease-related products and financial services to agribusinesses, agricultural producers, Association partners, and rural infrastructure companies. As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, FCL had \$4.1 billion and \$3.6 billion, respectively, in leases outstanding.

#### 2020 Performance

Agribusiness loans outstanding increased to \$36.1 billion at December 31, 2020, compared to \$33.2 billion at December 31, 2019. Average loan volume increased 4 percent to \$33.3 billion in 2020 from \$32.1 billion in 2019. Growth in Agribusiness outstanding loan volume reflects increases in leasing activity and lending to food and agribusiness, agricultural export finance and grain and farm supply customers. Growth in average loan volume reflects increases in leasing activity and lending to food and agribusiness and agricultural export finance customers partially offset by a decrease in grain and farm supply lending.

As previously mentioned, the level of seasonal lending within our Agribusiness operating segment can fluctuate significantly from period to period and is impacted by numerous factors, including commodity prices and inventory levels. The following table shows five-year price trends for certain grain commodities. Prices represent the yearly high and low "nearby" futures price per bushel for corn, soybeans and wheat. Nearby futures contracts represent those contracts with the nearest settlement date.

Year Ended					
December 31,	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Commodity					
Corn:					
High	\$ 4.84	\$ 4.55	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.39
Low	3.12	3.40	3.30	3.29	3.01
Soybeans:					
High	13.11	9.40	10.71	10.80	12.09
Low	8.22	7.91	8.11	9.00	8.52
Wheat:					
High	6.41	5.58	5.93	5.75	5.24
Low	4.76	4.18	4.13	3.95	3.60

Our Agribusiness segment generated \$608.5 million in net income for 2020, a \$71.7 million increase from \$536.8 million in net income for 2019. This increase was primarily due to an increase in net interest income, a lower provision for loan losses and an increase in noninterest income. These increases were somewhat offset by a higher provision for income taxes and an increase in operating expenses.

Net interest income in our Agribusiness segment increased \$79.8 million in 2020 as compared to 2019 primarily due to an improvement in lending spreads in most portfolio sectors, interest income recognized on several nonaccrual loans to agribusiness customers that were paid off in 2020, higher earnings on balance sheet positioning and higher average loan volume.

We recorded a \$25.6 million provision for loan losses in our Agribusiness operating segment in 2020, compared to \$53.0 million in 2019. The 2020 provision for loan losses reflects increased lending activity and reserves related to two lease portfolio purchases partially offset by a decrease in specific reserves for a small number of customers in the portfolio. The provision for loan losses in the 2020 period also includes an additional level of reserves to reflect inherent losses in our loan portfolio resulting from deterioration in the macroeconomic environment and business disruptions related to COVID-19. The 2019 provision for loan losses reflected deterioration in overall credit quality and growth in loan volume.

Overall Agribusiness credit quality remains strong. However, we believe deterioration could result from weakening of the macroeconomic environment and business disruptions related to COVID-19, market factors impacting our customers, including an ongoing volatile agricultural commodity price environment, trade disputes between the United States and its trading partners, downward pressure on farm income and weather-related events. In addition, concentrations within our loan portfolio can cause the level of our loan quality, nonaccrual loans, charge-offs and provisions for loan losses or loan loss reversals to vary significantly from period to period. Agribusiness nonaccrual loans improved to \$98.4 million at December 31, 2020 as compared to \$220.4 million at December 31, 2019 primarily due to repayments on several nonaccrual loans to Agribusiness customers during 2020. Agribusiness recorded loan chargeoffs, net of recoveries, of \$4.2 million in 2020 compared to \$6.3 million for 2019. Charge-offs largely related to several Agribusiness customers who experienced financial distress in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Noninterest income in our Agribusiness segment increased by \$16.8 million in 2020 largely due to increased patronage income resulting from a greater level of loans sold to affiliated Associations and other System institutions as well as a higher level of patronage received from other System institutions. Higher customer derivative transaction activity and related income also contributed to increased noninterest income in the 2020 period. Noninterest income also included a return of excess insurance funds from the Insurance Corporation totaling \$7.7 million in the 2020 period compared to \$8.5 million in the 2019 period.

Operating expenses in our Agribusiness segment increased by \$24.4 million in 2020, primarily due to increases in employee compensation, information services and Insurance Fund premium expenses offset by the decrease in travel and entertainment expense as described on pages 37 and 37.

Agribusiness income tax expense increased to \$65.6 million in 2020, as compared to \$37.7 million in 2019. The increase was primarily due to the favorable tax adjustments recorded in 2019 to reflect amendments to our 2015-2017 federal and state tax returns as discussed on page 37 and an increase in earnings attributable to taxable business activities in 2020.

# Farm Credit Banking

## Overview

The Farm Credit Banking operating segment includes wholesale loans from the direct funding relationships we have with our affiliated Association customer-owners and our wholesale funding relationships with other System institutions. As of January 1, 2021, we had 20 affiliated Associations operating in 23 states serving the Northwest, West, Southwest, Rocky Mountains, Mid-Plains, and Northeast regions of the United States. We have seen a number of mergers among affiliated Associations in recent years as Associations look for ways to continue to fulfill their mission in a safe and sound manner, while more efficiently providing value-added products and services to their member owners. As discussed in Note 18 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, two of our affiliated Associations completed a merger effective on January 1, 2021.

Developing and maintaining strong relationships with Farm Credit Associations and other System institutions is an important strategic focus for the Bank. By working together, the Bank and Associations collectively provide credit and noncredit services to a more diverse set of customers. We maximize the value of these strategic relationships by combining the Associations' strong market presence and local relationship management with our complementary product suite and lending capacity. Our relationships with Associations provide an important competitive advantage in attracting and retaining customers and in fulfilling our collective mission to support agriculture, rural infrastructure and rural communities.

## 2020 Performance

As of December 31, 2020, loans in the Farm Credit Banking operating segment totaled \$60.5 billion, compared to \$54.5 billion at December 31, 2019. Average loan volume increased 10 percent to \$56.4 billion in 2020 compared to \$51.3 billion in 2019. The increase in outstanding and average loan volume primarily resulted from greater overall lending to agricultural producers and processers by our affiliated Associations, affiliated Associations funding syndicated loans and purchased participations as well as funding liquidity investment purchases for two affiliated Associations. At yearend 2020 and 2019, these loans included \$55.5 billion and \$49.6 billion, respectively, in wholesale loans to our affiliated Associations and \$5.0 billion and \$4.9 billion, respectively, of participations in wholesale loans made by other System banks to certain of their affiliated Associations. Such participations included \$3.9 billion as of December 31, 2020 and 2019 in loans made by the Farm Credit Bank of Texas (FCBT). The balance of participations of \$1.1 billion and \$1.0 billion as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, represent wholesale loans made by AgFirst Farm Credit Bank.

Farm Credit Banking net income increased to \$256.6 million in 2020, compared to \$222.6 million for 2019. The increase primarily resulted from higher net interest income and noninterest income partially offset by an increase in operating expenses.

Farm Credit Banking net interest income increased to \$290.6 million for 2020 from \$259.1 million for 2019 primarily due to growth in average loan volume.

As a wholesale lender to Associations, we benefit from the diversification of the Association loan portfolios and a strong collateral position. In addition, the earnings, capital and loan loss reserves of the Associations provide an additional layer of protection against losses in their respective loan portfolios. Lower spreads in the Farm Credit Banking operating segment are commensurate with the lower risk profile and lower regulatory capital requirements. Notwithstanding the Special Mention credit quality classifications of two affiliated Association wholesale loans as discussed on page 47, loan quality in Farm Credit Banking remains strong. No provisions for loan losses or allowance for credit losses have been recorded related to any of our wholesale loans to Associations.

Farm Credit Banking noninterest income increased to \$12.4 million in 2020 from \$6.4 million in 2019 resulting from a higher level of prepayment fees from certain of our affiliated Associations, which was not offset by losses on extinguishments of debt in the current period. The availability in the market of similarly-tenored debt, coupled with the timing of prepayments, do not always allow us to fully offset the impact of prepayments in the same period. Higher loan prepayment activity at our affiliated Associations is the result of the lower interest rate environment in 2020. The operating results of Farm Credit Banking in 2020 and 2019 did not benefit from the previously mentioned returns of excess insurance funds from the Insurance Corporation because these amounts were passed on directly to our Association customers since premium assessments are also directly passed on to them.

Operating expenses in 2020 increased to \$46.4 million from \$43.0 million in 2019 primarily due to increases in employee compensation and information services expenses, as described on pages 36 and 37.

Farm Credit Banking has no income tax expense as the earnings on its business activities are statutorily tax-exempt.

## **Rural Infrastructure**

### Overview

The Rural Infrastructure operating segment includes loans and other financial services provided to cooperatives and other companies in the power and energy, communications, water and waste water industries as well as to community facilities in rural America. Primary products and services provided include term loans, bonds, revolving lines of credit, letters of credit, project finance, capital markets services, as well as risk management, cash management and investment products.

There are significant needs for investment in infrastructure to support businesses and residents in rural communities. Traditional sources of investment capital, including public sector financing, may not be available or sufficient to meet those needs. As a part of our congressionally-mandated mission, CoBank provides credit and financial services to meet rural infrastructure needs, in partnership with other System entities, commercial banks and government entities. In particular, CoBank regularly partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through colending, participates in USDA loan guarantees when needed for credit purposes and refinances USDA loans. These activities target rural water and wastewater systems, irrigation districts, community facilities, rural energy projects and rural broadband. CoBank will continue to pursue additional opportunities to invest in rural infrastructure to allow rural businesses to compete in a global marketplace and to improve the quality of life in rural communities.

Power and energy industry customers include rural electric generation and transmission cooperatives, electric distribution cooperatives, renewable energy providers, independent power producers, investor-owned utilities, and midstream energy companies. While demand for electricity has been relatively stagnant over the past decade and has declined more recently in the commercial and industrial sectors since the onset of COVID-19, loan demand continues to grow as our customers make infrastructure enhancements and technology driven investments to meet long-term system requirements, improve system reliability, develop renewable energy and maintain compliance with environmental and regulatory mandates. Growth in renewable energy projects and environmental mandates also contribute to loan demand from project finance customers. In addition, many electric distribution cooperatives are investing in broadband infrastructure to enable smart grid technologies and to provide their local communities with reliable high speed internet.

Communications industry customers include companies providing local wireline and wireless broadband services, long-haul and middle-mile fiber transport, and data center and cloud-based products to rural communities. Our customers also include regional and national communications providers with networks that are globally interconnected, who are essential to bringing services to rural America through their partnerships and contractual relationships with our rural customers. Loan demand is driven by capital spending by wireline and wireless broadband infrastructure providers to meet the growing demand for high speed data. Loan demand also results from merger and acquisition activity, including strategic acquisitions seeking scale, and from private equity and infrastructure funds establishing a greater presence in this competitive but growing industry. Broadband providers have experienced higher demand and a significant increase in internet usage during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Water industry customers include rural water and waste water companies. Capital expenditure growth in this industry continues primarily as a result of the need to replace aging infrastructure and to meet higher standards for water quality. While government programs have traditionally provided grants and financing, private lending opportunities for construction or interim financing have also emerged, often as a bridge to government grants or loans. In 2020, demand for water has also shifted from commercial to residential use, altering needs for many water authorities. With the continuing need for plant upgrades and expected limitations on the availability of government funds, we expect private lending to this industry to continue to grow.

In partnership with other System entities and community banks, we provide funding to rural community facilities including rural health care facilities. We also make investments in certain Rural Business Investment Companies (RBICs). Our investments in RBICs focus on small and middle market companies that create jobs and promote commerce in rural America.

## 2020 Performance

Rural Infrastructure loans outstanding increased to \$24.2 billion at December 31, 2020 compared to \$21.2 billion at December 31, 2019. Average loan volume increased 10 percent to \$22.9 billion in 2020 compared to \$20.9 billion in 2019. The increase in loan volume primarily related to rural energy, communications and water borrowers.

Rural Infrastructure net income increased to \$397.8 million for 2020 from \$331.9 million for 2019. The increase was primarily driven by increases in net interest income and noninterest income and a lower provision for loan losses. These items were partially offset by a higher provision for income taxes and an increase in operating expenses.

Net interest income increased \$56.7 million in 2020 as compared to 2019, primarily due to growth in average loan volume and higher earnings on balance sheet positioning somewhat offset by spread compression in certain portfolio sectors resulting from continued competition for our customers' business from other financial services institutions.

Rural Infrastructure recorded a loan loss reversal of \$4.6 million in 2020 compared to a provision for loan losses of \$4.0 million in 2019. The 2020 loan loss reversal primarily reflects improvements in credit quality in our rural energy, electric distribution and water portfolios as well as a decrease in specific reserves for a small number of Rural Infrastructure customers partially offset by deterioration in credit quality in our communications portfolio. The 2019 provision for loan losses primarily reflected deterioration in credit quality driven by downgrades of a limited number of rural energy customers partially offset by credit quality improvements in our communications portfolio.

Nonaccrual loans in Rural Infrastructure improved to \$19.0 million at December 31, 2020 compared to \$20.3 million at December 31, 2019 primarily due to payment activity and charge-offs of nonaccrual loans to Rural Infrastructure customers during 2020. Our nonaccrual loans are typically composed of a relatively small number of customers, and thus the balances can fluctuate significantly based on a small number of transactions. Rural Infrastructure recorded loan charge-offs, net of recoveries, of \$31.6 million in 2020 as compared to \$6.9 million in 2019. Charge-offs largely related to a limited number of communications and rural energy customers in 2020 and rural energy customers in 2019 who experienced financial distress.

Noninterest income increased by \$38.1 million in 2020 primarily due to an increase in fee income resulting from a higher level of transaction-related lending fees. Higher customer derivative income also contributed to increased noninterest income in the 2020 period. Noninterest income also included a return of excess insurance funds from the Insurance Corporation totaling \$5.0 million in the 2020 period.

Rural Infrastructure operating expenses increased by \$3.2 million in 2020 primarily due to increases in employee

compensation, Insurance Fund premium and information services expenses as described on pages 37 and 37.

Rural Infrastructure income tax expense increased to \$64.2 million in 2020 as compared to \$30.0 million in 2019. The increase was primarily due to the favorable tax adjustments booked in 2019 to reflect amendments to our 2015-2017 federal and state tax returns as discussed on page 37 and an increase in earnings attributable to taxable business activities in 2020.

# **Enterprise Risk Profile**

Managing and optimizing risk to our earnings, capital and enterprise value are essential components of successfully operating the Bank. Our primary risk exposures are: credit, market, liquidity, operational, strategic, reputation, and regulatory and compliance. Credit risk is the risk arising from changes in a customer's or a counterparty's ability or willingness to repay funds borrowed, or otherwise meet agreed-upon obligations. Market risk is potential for losses arising from changes in the value of CoBank's assets and liabilities resulting from movements in interest rates, basis risk, equity positioning, differences between the timing of contractual maturities, re-pricing characteristics, credit spreads, and prepayments on assets and their related liabilities. Liquidity risk is the risk arising from the Bank's inability to repay its obligations, or issue new obligations to fund borrowers. Operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, systems, human factors or from external events. It can include risk of human errors or misconduct, fraud, inadequate data, systems and technology or process failures including external cyber risks impacting our technology platforms and operations or those affecting critical vendors and customers. Strategic risk is the risk arising from adverse business decisions or lack of responsiveness to changes in the banking/operating environment. Reputation risk is the risk arising from negative external perception and loss of public confidence. Regulatory and compliance risk is the risk arising from failure to comply with laws or regulations. If the impacts of COVID-19 continue for an extended period of time or result in sustained economic distress, our credit, liquidity, market and operational risks described below could be negatively impacted.

Business segments and support units have the responsibility of identifying, monitoring and managing these risks. The Risk Management Group is led by the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) and includes the Credit Management, Enterprise Risk Management, Compliance & Financial Crimes, Business Continuity, and Enterprise Security Divisions. The Risk Management Group provides independent oversight and support in the establishment of a risk management framework across the organization. The Risk Management Group works to identify, measure, monitor, control and report the Bank's primary risk exposures against limits and tolerance levels to senior management and the Board of Directors. The following is a discussion of these primary risks, and our approach to managing them.

## Credit Risk Management

Credit risk exists in our lending, leasing, treasury and investing, cash management, custody, settlement, and derivatives activities. Credit risk in these activities arises from changes in a customer's or counterparty's ability or willingness to repay funds borrowed or to meet agreed-upon financial or contractual obligations. Credit risk may be further impacted by changes in collateral values, changes in the prevailing economic environment, fraud, changes in the value of investment securities, changes in the credit-worthiness of investment obligors and decreases in the value of underlying collateral securing investment securities.

We actively manage credit risk through a Board-approved loan portfolio strategy, a structured and centralized credit approval process, a disciplined risk management process, and a sound credit administration program, while considering our responsibility to fulfill our mission of service to rural America. We have established comprehensive credit guidelines and procedures to ensure consistency and integrity of information related to the credit risk in our loan, lease, investment and derivatives portfolios.

Various groups and committees within CoBank have a role in managing credit risk, as described below. Our Board of Directors establishes overall lending and leasing, investment, derivatives and allowance for credit losses policies. It also approves the portfolio strategy and capital adequacy plan and reviews loan volume, loan quality trends, significant high-risk or stressed loans, and the credit quality of our investment and derivatives portfolios.

The CoBank Loan Committee (CLC), which is appointed by the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and includes the Chief Credit Officer (CCO) and senior management of the Credit Management Division and the lending groups, holds ultimate credit authority as authorized by Board policy and provides oversight of all credit activities. The CLC delegates lending authorities to specific committees or groups of individuals based on size of exposure and risk rating. The CLC also approves certain limits for investment obligors and derivative counterparties. It acts on individual credit approvals or administrative matters and approves exceptions if conditions warrant.

The Credit Management Division is led by the CCO, who reports to the CRO. The Credit Management Division oversees the establishment of concentration and portfolio limits and manages the credit approval process within those limits pursuant to Board policies. The Credit Management Division reviews and approves transactions in accordance with certain delegated approval authorities to ensure conformity with our established lending policies and guidelines. It also recommends and approves limits with respect to investment obligors and derivative counterparties and manages significant high-risk or stressed loans.

The Risk Management Group oversees the development of the portfolio strategy, the analysis of the allowance for credit losses and other risk-based modeling and metrics. In addition, the Risk Management Group provides quarterly reporting on the Bank's risk appetite and exposures and an annual risk assessment. Both reports include monitoring and assessment of credit risk.

The heads of Internal Audit and Asset Review have a direct reporting responsibility to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors. They provide independent reporting to the Board of Directors on the quality of the Bank's assets, the Bank's system of internal controls, and material audit and review findings.

The Asset and Liability Committee (ALCO), which includes the CEO, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), CRO, Chief Banking Officer (CBO), CCO, Treasurer, Executive Vice President of Farm Credit Banking, Executive Vice President of Corporate Banking, and Senior Vice President of Capital Markets, monitors credit risk within the investment portfolio and reviews counterparty credit risk arising from derivative transactions.

The Country Risk Committee (CRC) is appointed by the CEO, and includes the CRO, CBO and the CCO. It oversees the methodologies for setting country risk grades and establishing maximum country limits, as well as the approval of individual country risk grades and limits.

#### **Credit Risk Related to Loans**

The key elements of our credit risk management related to lending include our portfolio strategy, the credit approval process, and the use of exposure and concentration limits, each of which is explained below.

## Portfolio Strategy

The portfolio strategy provides overall guidance on lending activities and strategies over the next three years, consistent with our strategic business objectives and the Bank's risk appetite. It articulates how we will fulfill our congressionally-mandated mission in a safe and sound manner by managing to the Board-established financial baselines, optimizing the allocation of our risk appetite and resources, and providing an appropriate return on our shareholders' equity by effectively balancing loan growth with profitability and credit risk. Our mission includes supporting our Associations' YBS farmers, small rural infrastructure entities, start-up cooperatives, local food programs, rural community development, and renewable energy projects. The portfolio strategy helps ensure that CoBank is inclusive in its outreach to all marketplace segments whether it be through lending or investment activities or our corporate social responsibility program.

As part of the annual business and financial planning process, the Board of Directors reviews and approves the Bank's portfolio strategy. Management analyzes performance with respect to the portfolio strategy quarterly and reports the results to the Board of Directors.

#### Credit Approval

The most critical element in managing and controlling credit risk is the initial decision to make a loan and the resulting structure and terms of the relationship with the borrower. We place significant emphasis on the evaluation and understanding of a borrower's business and management in the initial credit analysis and the approval process. We emphasize cash flow and repayment capacity as primary sources for repayment of loans, including cash generated from the sale of agricultural commodities as it relates to seasonal lending. Collateral is normally considered a secondary source of repayment. In circumstances where the credit decision places substantial reliance on collateral to repay the loans, independent appraisals may be used to assist in the collateral valuation. Such appraisals are conducted in accordance with FCA regulations and professional appraisal standards.

For wholesale lending within our Farm Credit Banking operating segment, the earnings, capital and loan loss reserves of Associations provide an additional layer of protection against losses in their respective loan portfolios. Loans to our affiliated Associations are governed by a General Financing Agreement, as described on page 128.

Management assigns a risk rating to each borrower based on two measurements: the probability of default (PD) rating and loss given default (LGD) rating. The PD rating system uses a 14-point scale of 1 (highest quality) to 14 (lowest quality). The PD rating is primarily determined by the financial characteristics of the borrower and reflects the probability of default driven by several factors, including business risk, industry risk, management capability and financial condition. The LGD rating is intended to approximate the degree of potential loss in the event the borrower defaults. During 2020 we migrated to utilizing an approach with a 6 LGD rating scale from a 4 LGD rating scale. This did not materially increase or decrease our allowance for credit losses at December 31, 2020.

## Exposure and Concentration Limits

We use exposure and concentration limits to manage risk and volatility in the loan portfolio. Exposure to individual borrowers and related entities is managed through a risk matrix that considers the dollar exposure, PD, LGD, and type of exposure of the borrower. Individual borrower exposures are typically established at the time of loan origination or renewal, with risk ratings formally reviewed at least annually. The dollar exposure, PD, LGD and type of credit extended further determine the delegated level of authority required to approve the credit. These individual borrower exposures are then further subject to total portfolio limits on exposure to different industries and/or countries. Exposure limits for different industries are reviewed quarterly while exposure limits for different countries are reviewed annually. We allow for more frequent evaluation when appropriate. Exceptions to these exposure limits may be granted by the CLC or the CRC if conditions warrant.

We also manage credit exposures and concentrations in our loan portfolio by syndicating loans and by selling and purchasing loan participations. Our capabilities in syndicating loans and in selling and purchasing loan participations are critical to dynamically managing the loan portfolio, maintaining market discipline, meeting our customers' needs and fulfilling our mission. While we believe these standards, processes and tools are appropriate to manage our credit risk, there is no assurance that significant deterioration in loan quality will not occur, which could reduce our future earnings.

We are limited to making loans and leases, and providing related financial services to eligible borrowers in certain specified industries, as mandated by the Farm Credit Act. As a result, we have a concentration of loans to the agricultural and rural infrastructure industries. The significant risk factors affecting credit conditions in these industries within each of our operating segments are described below.

#### Agribusiness

The relationship of demand for and supply of U.S. agricultural products in the global marketplace can significantly impact the volume, earnings and loan quality of our Agribusiness operating segment. Global trade flows and government policies on trade can impact the pricing of commodities, costs of input products and supply chains of Agribusiness customers.

Volatility in the prices and supplies of agricultural commodities and associated inputs required to produce the commodities can affect the profitability and loan quality of our Agribusiness customers. Such volatility results from, among other factors, seasonal and cyclical weather conditions, domestic and global economic growth expectations, the availability of transportation, global production and supply levels, financial investment in the commodity futures markets by non-agricultural interests, changing export markets and the effect of trade policies, government support programs, and currency exchange rates. Market prices for food products and changing consumer demands also have a significant effect on a number of customers within our Agribusiness operating segment.

Extreme weather conditions can substantially impact harvest volume and prices of agricultural products and, ultimately, impact the credit quality of some of our agribusiness borrowers and our Associations' borrowers as their earnings are affected. Although certain crop losses resulting from weather conditions are mitigated for producers by multi-peril crop insurance, not all crops are covered by insurance. To the extent weather adversely impacts the agricultural sector, the risk of loss in our loan portfolio may increase, which could reduce our earnings. Major international events, including military conflicts, terrorism, political, geopolitical, currency and global economic disruptions, and trade policies and agreements can affect, among other things, the price of commodities or products used or sold by our borrowers or their access to markets. Such events may also impact country risk, cross border risk or repayment ability of foreign counterparties in our agricultural export finance lending portfolio. Country risk is the risk that economic, social, and political conditions and events in a foreign country will affect the current or projected financial condition or resilience of a correspondent customer bank. Cross border risk encompasses convertibility and transfer risks. Convertibility risk exists when the ultimate source of repayment is unable to convert its local currency into the currency of payment due to government restrictions or actions. Similarly, transfer risk is

the possibility that an asset cannot be serviced in the currency of payment because of a government action limiting the transferability of foreign currency. In addition, biological or disease risk in human, livestock or crop populations can impact the supply of and demand for agricultural products as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain customers also have exposure to counterparties in the commodities exchange markets.

U.S. agriculture has historically received financial support from the U.S. government through direct payments, crop insurance and other benefits. The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the Farm Bill) was signed into law in December 2018 and amends and extends major programs for crop insurance, food and nutrition, land conservation, trade promotion, rural development, research, forestry, horticulture, and other miscellaneous programs administered by the USDA for five years through 2023. Although most of our direct customers do not generally receive support payments from federal programs, a significant reduction or elimination of support in the future could have a negative impact on the loan quality of certain borrowers, including Associations, who derive a significant share of their earnings from farmers and other producers who could be affected by such a reduction. Other political, legislative and regulatory activities may also impact the level or existence of certain government programs that support agriculture. In addition, government policies related to climate change may have an impact on agribusiness producers and processors.

#### Farm Credit Banking

The risk factors previously discussed in the "Agribusiness" section can also affect loan quality at Associations; however, the impact of such factors on farmers and other producers served by Associations may not be the same as the impact on cooperatives and other customers served by our Agribusiness operating segment. The loan quality within our Farm Credit Banking operating segment is enhanced by our strong collateral position and the earnings, capital and loan loss reserves of the Associations, which provide an additional layer of protection against losses they may have in their loan portfolios.

## Rural Infrastructure

Downturns in the general economy, and the rural economy in particular, can reduce commercial, industrial and residential demand for services and negatively affect customers in our Rural Infrastructure operating segment. This was particularly evidenced in certain of our Rural Infrastructure sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fluctuating weather conditions, energy efficiency initiatives, changing regulatory constructs, the relative cost and price volatility of various fuel sources, the advent of distributed generation sources and other technological disruptors, the growth and integration of renewable power sources and protracted low growth of electricity demand can adversely affect our customers in the power industry. The pace and degree of the restructuring and optimization of the electric power industry in the United States may also impact future loan quality. Government policies on climate change and investor advocacy may place constraints on generation technologies that produce carbon and favor renewable clean energy technologies.

The communications industry is impacted by intense competition, evolving technology, and changing customer demands. Regulatory and legislative changes may also impact the competitive position of our communications borrowers. These factors may place downward pressure on cash flows, asset valuations and access to capital, which could adversely impact the quality of our loan portfolio. In addition, decreased cash flows and the resultant impact on asset valuations, the inability to successfully integrate acquired companies, or the lack of availability of debt and equity capital could adversely affect certain communications customers.

The water industry faces high capital expenditure requirements due to environmental regulation, aging infrastructure and reduced levels of government support. Topline revenue growth is also a concern for the water industry given the decline in per capita residential water usage resulting from conservation measures and increased use of water efficient appliances. The inability to adjust rate structures and address the misalignment of rising fixed costs and flat to declining variable revenues, without sacrificing affordability, could adversely affect certain water customers.

## Credit Quality Conditions and Measurements in Our Loan Portfolio

The following table presents loans and accrued interest receivable classified by management pursuant to our regulator's Uniform Loan Classification System, as a percent of total loans and accrued interest.

		December 31, 2	2020		December 31, 2019					
	Wholesale Loans <sup>(1)</sup>	Commercia Loans <sup>(2)</sup>	I	Total Bank		Wholesale Loans <sup>(1)</sup>	Commerci Loans <sup>(2)</sup>	al	Total Bank	
Acceptable	97.08 %	6 95.73	%	96.40	%	94.50	% 94.73	3 %	94.61	
Special Mention	2.92	3.20		3.06		5.50	2.6	7	4.09	
Substandard	-	1.05		0.53		-	2.50	3	1.28	
Doubtful	-	0.02		0.01		-	0.04	1	0.02	
Loss	-	-		-		-		-	-	
Total	100.00 %	6 100.00	%	100.00	%	100.00	% 100.00	) %	100.00	

<sup>(1)</sup> Represents loans in our Farm Credit Banking operating segment

<sup>(2)</sup> Represents loans in our Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments

Our overall loan quality measures remain strong at December 31, 2020 and improved in total across most credit quality classification categories compared to December 31, 2019. Special Mention loans and accrued interest in total improved primarily due to upgrades in credit quality classification of a wholesale loan to one of our affiliated Associations and a participation in a wholesale loan made by the FCBT to one of its affiliated Associations from Special Mention to Acceptable. Special Mention loans and accrued interest, excluding wholesale loans to Associations, increased to 3.20 percent of total loans and accrued interest at December 31, 2020 compared to 2.67 percent at December 31, 2019. The level of adversely classified loans ("Substandard", "Doubtful" and "Loss") and related accrued interest as a percent of total loans and accrued interest improved to 0.54 percent at December 31, 2020, compared to 1.30 percent at December 31, 2019 due to improvements in credit quality in our Rural Infrastructure and Agribusiness operating segments.

At December 31, 2020, Special Mention loans included \$1.8 billion in wholesale loans to two of our affiliated Associations. Pursuant to our regulatory requirements, we classify our wholesale loans using the same Uniform Loan Classification System used for our commercial loans. Our loans to Associations are collateralized by substantially all of the Association assets. In addition, the earnings, capital and loan loss reserves of the Associations provide additional layers of protection against losses in their retail loan portfolios. While the Special Mention classification primarily reflects internal control and other operational weaknesses at these Associations, some of which were material weaknesses, as a result of the collateralization and other mitigants described above, we do not anticipate any losses related to these wholesale loans. As of December 31, 2020, CoBank has not made any provision for loan loss or recorded any allowance for credit loss related to any of our wholesale loans to Associations.

December 31,	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Nonaccrual Loans	\$ 117,401	\$ 240,683	\$ 326,288	\$ 246,837	\$ 207,247
Accruing Loans 90 Days or More Past Due	736	5,691	1,685	670	804
Accruing Restructured Loans	-	6,192	-	-	42,575
Total Impaired Loans	118,137	252,566	327,973	247,507	250,626
Other Property Owned	3	3	3	3	19
Total High-Risk Assets	\$ 118,140	\$ 252,569	\$ 327,976	\$ 247,510	\$ 250,645

Total nonaccrual loans improved to \$117.4 million at December 31, 2020 compared to \$240.7 million at December 31, 2019. The decrease was primarily due to payment activity and charge-offs on several nonaccrual loans in our Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments. As noted previously, our nonaccrual loans are typically composed of a relatively small number of customers, and as such, the balances can fluctuate period to period based on a small number of loans and leases. Nonaccrual loans as a percent of our total loan portfolio were 0.10 percent as of December 31, 2020 compared to 0.22 percent at December 31, 2019. Over the past 10 years, nonaccrual loans have averaged 0.22 percent of the total loan portfolio.

Total loan charge-offs, net of recoveries, were \$35.9 million in 2020 compared to \$13.2 million in 2019. Gross charge-offs were \$38.7 million in 2020 compared to \$16.3 million in 2019. Charge-offs have historically resulted from a relatively small number of customers, and as a result, can fluctuate significantly period to period based on a small number of loans and leases. Our allowance for credit losses totaled \$732.2 million and represented 0.61 percent of total outstanding loans at the end of 2020, compared to 0.69 percent at December 31, 2019. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, our allowance for credit losses represented 1.24 percent and 1.40 percent, respectively, of non-guaranteed loans outstanding, excluding wholesale loans to Associations.

As part of our overall assessment of risk in the loan portfolio and the allowance for credit losses as of December 31, 2020, we have considered a wide variety of factors, including the macroeconomic environment and disruptions related to COVID-19; volatile commodity prices and supplies; trade uncertainty; global economic uncertainty; the impact of changes in tariffs; a significant level of industry, borrower and attributed concentration risk resulting from our defined mission of service to rural communities and agriculture; and the imprecision inherent in estimating losses within our loan portfolio.

Although the overall credit quality of our loan portfolio remained strong during 2020, economic conditions in the broader economy deteriorated rapidly beginning in March 2020. The introduction and spread of COVID-19 around the world has caused significant volatility and unfavorable conditions in the U.S. and international markets. There is significant uncertainty around the magnitude and duration of business disruptions related to COVID-19, as well as its impact on the U.S. and international economies. As such, it is uncertain the level of impact COVID-19 business disruptions will have on the Bank's credit quality. Since the onset of COVID-19, we elected to modify a number of our loans and leases to provide short-term relief to borrowers in need of temporary assistance. As of December 31, 2020, loan and lease modifications involving short-term principal and/or interest deferrals related to COVID-19 business disruptions were approximately one percent of our total loans excluding wholesale loans to Associations. At this time, we believe the credit quality impacts within our loan portfolio resulting from the COVID-19 business disruptions will be mixed with certain industries negatively impacted. We have identified certain industries including biofuels, dairy, protein, forest products and fruits/nuts and vegetables as the most likely to be negatively impacted due to lower demand and supply chain disruptions in the current environment. However, there is uncertainty as to the magnitude and severity of the credit quality impacts to our loans in these sectors based on the information available in the marketplace at this time. Unfavorable changes to other industries from COVID-19 business disruptions may also negatively impact our credit quality in future periods. Management performed different levels of stress testing in 2020 to assess the related impact on our earnings and capital under a variety of macroeconomic environments and COVID-19 economic recovery scenarios. These assessments are inherently subject to uncertainty, change and refinement considering the limited information currently available about the long-term impacts from the global and U.S. response to control the spread of COVID-19. Under these stress scenarios, the Bank continues to remain

profitable, albeit at lower levels, and maintains capital above regulatory minimums.

On April 1, 2020, the FCA issued an informational memorandum for reporting troubled debt restructurings (TDRs) for customers affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Pursuant to this guidance, borrowers experiencing short-term economic difficulties arising from the COVID-19 outbreak and who receive loan modifications including payment deferrals, fee waivers or other extensions of repayment terms are not required to be accounted for and reported as TDRs. This guidance covered the period beginning March 1, 2020, and ended on December 31, 2020. None of our COVID-19 related payment deferrals in 2020 were treated as TDRs.

On September 10, 2020, the FCA issued a final rule on criteria to reinstate nonaccrual loans that clarifies the factors that System institutions should consider when categorizing high-risk loans and placing them in nonaccrual status. The rule also revised the criteria by which loans are reinstated to accrual status, and it revised the application of the criteria to certain loans in nonaccrual status to distinguish between the types of risk that cause loans to be placed in nonaccrual status. The application of this rule did not impact the classification of any of our recorded nonaccrual loan balances at December 31, 2020.

See "Critical Accounting Estimates – Allowance for Credit Losses" on page 68 for a more complete description of our process to determine the adequacy of our allowance for credit losses.

#### **Credit Risk Related to Investments and Derivatives**

We minimize credit risk in our investment portfolio by investing primarily in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or a government-sponsored enterprise (U.S. Agency). At year-end 2020, 50 percent of our \$32.8 billion investment portfolio consisted of securities that carry a full faith and credit guarantee of the U.S. government. Such securities include mortgage-backed securities (MBS) issued by the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae), the Export-Import Bank of the United States securities and the U.S. Treasury and other debt securities, including securities backed by guaranteed portions of Small Business Administration loans. Approximately 48 percent of our investment portfolio consisted of securities issued by a U.S. Agency, including MBS issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and U.S. Agency debt issued by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) and the Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLB).

Included within our U.S. Agency MBS portfolio are FHA/VA wrapped "reperformer" MBS where residential mortgage loans serving as collateral were cured after a default. The underlying loans supporting the FHA/VA wrapped reperformer MBS are approximately 90 percent government guaranteed or insured, and are further supported by guarantees from either Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. These FHA/VA wrapped reperformer MBS totaled \$90.8 million at December 31, 2020. Credit risk in our investment portfolio primarily exists in the remaining 2 percent of our investment securities that are not guaranteed by the U.S. government or a U.S. Agency, which currently include asset-backed securities (ABS) backed by pools of prime auto loans and corporate bonds of midstream energy companies. The midstream energy corporate bonds are purchased under lending authorities and not held for liquidity purposes. Our ABS and midstream energy corporate bonds collectively total \$698.2 million of our total investment portfolio as of December 31, 2020. Credit risk in our investment portfolio also arises from counterparties to short-term investments, which include our overnight bank deposits and federal funds sold.

We recorded no other-than-temporary impairment losses on our investment securities in 2020, 2019 and 2018. The credit quality of our investment portfolio as of December 31, 2020 is more fully discussed in "Liquidity and Capital Resources" beginning on page 62.

The use of derivative instruments exposes us to counterparty credit risk. Generally, when the fair value of a derivative contract is positive, we are exposed to credit risk. Our counterparty credit risk arising from derivative transactions is managed within credit methodologies and limits approved by the CLC. Credit risk limits are established based on potential future exposure.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act") requires certain derivative transactions to be cleared through a central clearinghouse and traded on regulated swap execution facilities. The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission has exempted certain qualifying swaps entered into by endusers and financial cooperatives from these requirements. The exemptions do not cover all swaps executed by CoBank and are generally limited to swaps entered into in connection with loans and derivatives for customer-owners. CoBank has also voluntarily chosen to clear some swap transactions for economic and risk management purposes. As a result, certain of our derivative transactions are cleared through a futures commission merchant (FCM) with a clearinghouse or central counterparty (CCP). CCPs have several layers of protection against default including initial and variation margin that is required to be posted by participants. FCMs prequalify counterparties to all cleared swaps, set exposure limits for each counterparty and collect initial and variation margin or settlement payments daily for changes in the value of cleared derivatives. The margin and settlement payments collected from both parties to the swap mitigates credit risk in the event of a counterparty default. Initial and variation margin or settlement payment requirements are set by and held for the benefit of the CCP. Additional initial margin may be required and held by the FCM in some instances. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the notional amount of our cleared derivatives was \$29.0 billion and \$15.7 billion, respectively.

For derivatives with counterparties, other than customers, not cleared through a central clearinghouse, we minimize this risk by diversifying our derivative positions among various financial institution counterparties, using master netting agreements, and requiring collateral with zero thresholds and daily posting to minimize credit exposures. We evaluate the creditworthiness of each counterparty, establishing individual credit exposure limits, and deal exclusively with derivative counterparties that have an investment grade credit rating from a major credit rating agency. In addition, we monitor counterparty credit default swap spreads and other marketrelated information which may indicate reduced creditworthiness of a counterparty. Credit default swap spreads are taken into account in establishing counterparty limits.

The fair value of our derivatives to all of our dealer counterparties was a liability at December 31, 2020 and 2019, and was offset by the collateral we posted to our dealer counterparties. The fair value of our derivatives to certain dealer counterparties at December 31, 2018, was an asset and offset by collateral held by us. The remainder of the fair value of our derivatives to dealer counterparties was a liability at December 31, 2018 and was offset by collateral we posted to our dealer counterparties. The amount of losses related to derivatives we are exposed to in the event of nonperformance by dealer counterparties to our derivative positions is mitigated by collateral posted or held by us.

The forward interest rate curves used to project the future expected cash flows for the derivative positions are modeled under potential scenarios which increase and decrease interest rates within a 99 percent confidence interval. These rate scenarios are then used to further evaluate potential counterparty credit risk and to establish counterparty limits as well as ongoing measurement of overall counterparty or customer exposure (including loans). Employees who are independent of the derivative portfolio management team monitor the derivative exposures against approved limits. Exceptions to approved limits are reported to management. Changes to the counterparty limits must be approved by the appropriate delegated approval authority.

Notwithstanding our credit evaluation process and the maintenance of collateral agreements with our derivative counterparties, the failure of a counterparty to perform on its obligations could negatively impact our earnings. Furthermore, although our credit evaluations consider the possibility of default by a counterparty, our ultimate exposure to default by a counterparty could be greater than expected due to changes in market factors (e.g., interest rates).

Customer derivative transactions are typically secured through our loan agreements. The notional amount of our derivatives and related exposure to customer counterparties were \$12.5 billion and \$635.2 million, respectively, at December 31, 2020 compared to \$10.9 billion and \$258.5 million, respectively, at December 31, 2019.

The FCA and various other federal agencies, known as the Prudential Regulators under the Dodd-Frank Act, jointly adopted final rules which will subject many non-cleared swaps to margin requirements. Such requirements become effective over the next several years. The Prudential Regulators also issued a final rule excluding swaps that qualify for certain exemptions from the scope of the final margin rules. CoBank is eligible for certain regulatory exemptions related to, among other things, transactions with end users and with customerowners. Accordingly, we do not currently anticipate that adoption of these rules will have a material impact on our use of derivatives or our overall financial position.

## Market Risk Management

We are subject to market risk, defined as the risk to current or anticipated earnings or capital arising primarily from movements in interest rates. This risk primarily arises from our equity positioning strategy and differences in the timing between the contractual maturities, repricing characteristics, and prepayments of our assets and the liabilities funding these assets. This risk can also arise from embedded caps or floors in floating-rate investments and loans as well as differences between the interest rate indices used to price and fund our assets. Further, these existing risks may be accentuated during the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) transition to the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR). See further discussion regarding the transition to SOFR beginning on page 60. Our asset/liability management objective is to manage the mix of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities consistent with strategies set by ALCO. A key objective is to stabilize our net interest income while optimizing profitability and insulating shareholders' equity from significant adverse fluctuations in market interest rates. While we actively manage our interest rate risk position within policy limits approved by the Board of Directors using strategies established by our ALCO, and within our risk appetite, there can be no assurance that changes in interest rates will not adversely impact our earnings and capital.

Underwriting risk is another type of market risk that may result from underwritten and committed lending transitions when the distribution and sale of loan inventory is executed at prices below par or expected levels due to changes in interest rates or credit spreads. This underwriting risk is mitigated primarily through the Bank's focus on core industry sectors which we are viewed as a leader, sound market-based transaction structure and pricing with experienced and dedicated investors, and a defined governance framework including limits.

The following is a more detailed description of our primary interest rate risks and strategies used to mitigate those risks.

### **Equity Positioning Risk**

Shareholders' equity serves as an interest-free source of funding for the balance sheet and thus requires that we make decisions about the maturity mix of the assets funded by it. Using equity to fund short-term assets results in increased volatility of net interest income, whereas using equity to fund long-term assets results in increased volatility in the market value of our equity.

#### **Repricing Risk**

Mismatches in interest rate repricing and maturities of assets and liabilities arise from the interaction of customer business needs, our investment portfolio composition and the mix of liabilities funding these assets. In addition, we may also undertake funding strategies designed to maximize earnings on our asset/liability position in certain interest rate environments, including using short-term liabilities to fund longer-term assets. However, funding longer-term assets with shorter-term liabilities exposes the Bank to changes in interest rates and spreads to market indices for debt issuances. If interest rates increase or spreads widen, income would be negatively impacted as higher cost funding is required to continue to fund the longer-term assets.

Exposure to changes in the level and direction of interest rates is managed by adjusting the Bank's mix of interestsensitive assets and liabilities through various strategies and through the utilization of interest rate risk management products, including interest rate swaps and other derivatives. We do not use derivatives for speculative or trading purposes and regulatory requirements prohibit us from taking speculative derivative positions. Refer to page 53 for additional information related to derivatives.

## **Prepayment/Extension Risk**

Prepayment risk in our loan portfolio exists in loans and investment securities (e.g., securitizations) that are considered fully prepayable. Approximately 23 percent of fixed-rate loans are fully prepayable. Prepayment risk in this portfolio results when intermediate and longer-term interest rates fall and prepayments increase as borrowers refinance to a lower rate. Prepayments can adversely impact loan portfolio income to the extent prepayments exceed the level of fixed-rate callable debt in the portfolio. Fixed-rate callable debt can be called in lower-rate environments, thus allowing liabilities to reprice to a lower rate. Approximately 67 percent of our fully prepayable loan portfolio is funded with callable debt, which lowers prepayment risk.

The remaining 77 percent of fixed-rate loans contain, at a minimum, make-whole prepayment penalties. These provisions require a borrower to compensate us for the cost we incur in retiring debt funding associated with loan prepayments. This allows us generally to fund our loan assets with debt of similar maturities to manage the risk of prepayments in the loan portfolio.

Extension risk in the loan portfolio occurs when longterm interest rates rise and prepayments decrease more than expected causing the underlying loans to pay down slower than expected. Loan portfolio income will be negatively impacted as additional higher-rate term funding is required to continue to fund extended loans.

Prepayment risk in the investment portfolio results when long-term interest rates fall and prepayments increase as underlying borrowers refinance their mortgages to a lower rate. Prepayments adversely affect investment portfolio income in a falling interest rate environment because investments are predominately funded with non-callable debt and any proceeds from prepaid investments will be reinvested at a lower interest rate. Prepayment risk in our investment portfolio is moderate but increasing based on the type and average life of securities. Purchases of MBS are subject to a price risk eligibility test based on a stressed interest rate environment. The test is designed to manage our exposure to prepayment risk at the time of investment purchase. Any purchases of MBS that fail this test must be approved by ALCO. In addition, approximately half of our fixed-rate MBS (other than hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage securities), contain some embedded prepayment protection in the form of planned amortization class (PAC) bands. These PAC securities are structured so that principal payments are expected to follow a predetermined schedule as long as the prepayments of the underlying collateral fall within a prescribed band. Over time, these bands may erode resulting in an incremental increase in prepayment risk within the investment portfolio.

We also fund a portion of our fixed-rate prepayable investment portfolio with term fixed-rate callable debt that provides a partial hedge against prepayment risk in certain falling interest rate environments. The rate we pay on these liabilities effectively reprices downward with a drop in shortterm and intermediate-term interest rates. We also use options to hedge our prepayment risk.

Extension risk in the investment portfolio occurs when long-term interest rates rise and prepayments decrease more than expected causing the underlying investment securities to pay down at a slower rate than initially expected. In this scenario, investment portfolio income will be negatively impacted as additional higher-rate term funding is required to continue to fund extended securities. Extension risk in the investment portfolio is moderate based on the type and average life of securities purchased. In the same way PAC bands provide some protectection against prepayment risk, they also serve to limit extension risk as the amortization of these securities is defined as long as prepayments of the underlying collateral fall within a prescribed band.

#### **Cap and Floor Risk**

Cap risk is embedded in the floating-rate MBS in our investment portfolio and to a lesser extent floating-rate loans. When short-term interest rates rise, the interest rate paid by the floating-rate MBS or floating-rate loan may become capped and limit the amount of income earned on the asset while underlying funding costs are not capped. Exposure to cap risk is managed by monitoring the concentration of strike levels in our floating-rate MBS and floating-rate loans and related interest rate shock sensitivities. We also purchase interest rate caps and other derivatives to manage cap risk. Further, we have the ability to reduce cap risk by selling our floating-rate investment securities.

Floor risk exists within our floating-rate loans and investments. During periods of declining interest rates or sustained low interest rates, the interest we receive on floating-rate loans and investments declines or remains low thereby reducing our net interest income. This effect is particularly pronounced during periods of very low or negative interest rates, and adversely impacts our financial condition, cash flows and results of operations. We purchase interest rate floors to mitigate this risk.

## Basis Risk

Basis risk arises due to the differences between the interest rate indices used to price our assets and the indices used to fund those assets. We manage our basis risk through match funding, when possible, and using derivatives (primarily interest rate swaps) and other funding strategies. However, basis risk will always exist as unanticipated loan volume changes cause an excess or shortage of some forms of funding. Further, reform and regulation which impacts LIBOR and other benchmark interest rates could introduce additional basis risks. See further discussion regarding the transition to SOFR beginning on page 60.

#### **Measurement and Monitoring of Market Risk**

The Enterprise Risk Management Division is responsible for the independent measurement, monitoring and reporting of market risk. We utilize several risk measurement and monitoring tools to assist in the management of market risk. These include interest rate gap analysis, duration gap analysis, sensitivity analysis of net interest income and market value of equity, and net interest income forecasting, each of which is described in further detail in the following pages.

## Interest Rate Gap Analysis

The interest rate gap analysis shown in the following table presents a comparison of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities in defined repricing timeframes as of December 31, 2020. The interest rate gap analysis is a static indicator that does not reflect future changes in repricing characteristics and may not necessarily indicate the sensitivity of net interest income in a changing interest rate environment.

## Interest Rate Sensitivity Analysis at December 31, 2020 (\$ in Millions)

	 e Month or Less	Thr	ver One Month ough Six Ionths	N Thro	ver Six Ionths ough One Year	Thre	ver One Year ough Five Years	Ye	ver Five ears and lot Rate ensitive		Total
Interest-earning Assets:											
Floating-rate Loans:											
Adjustable-rate/Indexed-rate Loans	\$ 46,807	\$	4,539	\$	45	\$	9	\$	-	\$	51,400
Administered-rate Loans	11,186		-		-		-		-		11,186
Fixed-rate Loans:											
Fixed-rate Loans <sup>(1)</sup>	1,351		6,663		6,238		15,698		13,918		43,868
Fixed-rate Loans, Prepayable <sup>(2)</sup>	511		3,347		1,202		4,324		4,901		14,285
Nonaccrual Loans	-		-		-		-		117		117
Total Loans	59,855		14,549		7,485		20,031		18,936		120,856
Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds	835		-		-		-		-		835
Investment Securities	10,991		3,893		2,113		9,443		6,385		32,825
Total Interest-earning Assets <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 71,681	\$	18,442	\$	9,598	\$	29,474	\$	25,321	\$	154,516
Interest-bearing Liabilities:											
Callable Bonds and Notes	\$ 51	\$	3,013	\$	2,327	\$	5,586	\$	3,264	\$	14,241
Noncallable Bonds and Notes	65,106		9,182		9,373		27,604		16,419		127,684
Bonds, Medium Term Notes and Discount Notes	65,157		12,195		11,700		33,190		19,683		141,925
Effect of Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives	11,276		(1,575)		(2,127)		(7,169)		(405)		-
Cash Investment Services Payable and Other											
Interest-bearing Liabilities	1,034		-		-		205		220		1,459
Total Interest-bearing Liabilities	\$ 77,467	\$	10,620	\$	9,573	\$	26,226	\$	19,498	\$	143,384
Interest Rate Sensitivity Gap (Total Interest-earning Assets											
less Total Interest-bearing Liabilities)	\$ (5,786)	\$	7,822	\$	25	\$	3,248	\$	5,823	\$	11,132
Cumulative Gap	\$ (5,786)	\$	2,036	\$	2,061	\$	5,309	\$	11,132		
Cumulative Gap/Total Interest-earning Assets	(3.74)	%	1.32	%	1.33 %	%	3.44	%	7.20	%	

<sup>(1)</sup> Prepayment penalties apply that compensate CoBank for economic losses.

<sup>(2)</sup> Freely prepayable or only minimal prepayment penalties apply.

<sup>(3)</sup> Does not include \$2.3 billion in cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2020.

Our cumulative one-year gap position between interestearning assets and interest-bearing liabilities was positive at December 31, 2020. As detailed on page 53, our net interest income will generally be favorably impacted in the near term in rising interest rate environments.

We continually monitor interest rates and have the ability to reposition our balance sheet as a result of anticipated interest rate changes. If we expected a meaningful change to interest rates, we could shift our position in short order.

## **Duration Gap Analysis**

The duration gap is the difference between the estimated durations of assets and liabilities, which is calculated using an asset/liability model. The duration gap summarizes the extent to which estimated cash flows for assets and liabilities are matched, on average, over time. A positive duration gap means there is increased market value exposure to rising interest rates over the long-term because it indicates that the duration of our assets exceeds the duration of our liabilities. A negative duration gap indicates increased exposure to declining interest rates over the long-term because the duration of our assets is less than the duration of our liabilities. We apply the same interest rate methods, prepayment models, and volatility assumptions to generate the portfolio duration gap that we use in our sensitivity analysis, which is discussed below. The duration gap provides a relatively concise and simple measure of the interest rate risk inherent in our balance sheet, but it is not directly linked to expected future earnings performance. Our aggregate positive duration gap was 3.0 months at December 31, 2020 and 2.8 months at December 31, 2019.

## Sensitivity Analysis

We use asset/liability models to evaluate the dynamics of our balance sheet and to estimate earnings volatility under different interest rate scenarios. Our analysis includes calculating the impact of significant increases or decreases in interest rates on net interest income, over a 12 month period, and the estimated market value of equity.

Our analysis typically estimates the effect of immediate and sustained parallel positive (up) and negative (down) shifts in the yield curve (called "shocks") of 100, 200 and 300 basis points, where possible. Pursuant to regulation and our Board policy, when the three-month Treasury rate is below 4 percent, as it was for each of the periods presented, we perform a shock equal to one-half the three-month Treasury rate. This resulted in downward shocks of -4 basis points, -78 basis points and -120 basis points at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. When analyzing net interest income at risk, we also estimate the effect of gradual upward and downward changes in market rates (called "ramps") over a one-year period of 100, 200 and 300 basis points, where possible.

The following tables summarize the impact of interest rate changes on net interest income and the market value of equity. Market value of equity is the net present value of all future cash flows discounted to a valuation date, using discounting factors derived from observed market rates on the same valuation date. In all cases, the underlying assumptions and hedging strategies are held constant so that results are comparable from scenario to scenario. However, actual results would differ to the extent changes in strategy were undertaken to mitigate the unfavorable impact of interest rate changes.

Ne	t Interest Income a	t Risk		
De	cember 31,	2020	2019	2018
Sc	enario:			
-	300 bp shock	n/a	n/a	n/a
-	200 bp shock	n/a	n/a	n/a
-	120 bp shock	n/a	n/a	(0.8) %
-	100 bp shock	n/a	1.2 %	(1.1)
-	78 bp shock	n/a	1.0	n/a
-	4 bp shock	(0.1) %	n/a	n/a
+	100 bp shock	1.8	0.3	1.6
+	200 bp shock	4.3	1.3	3.1
+	300 bp shock	6.7	2.2	4.5
-	300 bp ramp	n/a	n/a	n/a
-	200 bp ramp	n/a	n/a	n/a
-	100 bp ramp	n/a	1.3	(0.2)
+	100 bp ramp	(0.5)	(0.1)	1.3
+	200 bp ramp	(0.6)	0.3	2.0
+	300 bp ramp	(0.4)	0.7	2.7

Market Value of Equity at Risk											
December 31,	cember 31, 2020										
Scenario:											
- 300 bp shock	n/a	n/a	n/a								
- 200 bp shock	n/a	n/a	n/a								
- 120 bp shock	n/a	n/a	4.4 %								
- 100 bp shock	n/a	4.0 %	3.9								
- 78 bp shock	n/a	3.2	n/a								
- 4 bp shock	0.2 %	n/a	n/a								
+ 100 bp shock	(4.4)	(5.1)	(4.8)								
+ 200 bp shock	(8.8)	(10.3)	(9.5)								
+ 300 bp shock	(13.1)	(15.3)	(14.0)								

Our net interest income over the next 12 months is favorably impacted by parallel increases in interest rates as measured at December 31, 2020. However, given the low interest rate environment, our net interest income over the next 12 months is not materially impacted by further decreases in interest rates towards the zero bound. Our equity positioning strategy is designed to reduce volatility of net interest income.

Our market value of equity as measured at December 31, 2020 is negatively impacted in increasing interest rate scenarios. Our use of equity to fund intermediate term assets results in a decline in our market value of equity when interest rates increase. Our Board limits the amount of adverse change to net interest income and market value of equity under a down regulatory shock and an up 200 basis point rate shock. The limit for market value of equity was 15 percent and the limit for net interest income was 10 percent for all three years presented. At December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, we were within our policy limits as detailed in the preceding tables.

## Forecasting

We update our asset/liability model monthly with information on loans, investment securities, bonds and notes, and derivatives. This "current position" is the starting point for all analysis. The current position data is then combined with assumptions and market implied forward rates, to derive our estimates of future net interest income. Generally, we set assumptions on pricing, maturity characteristics and funding mix using trend analysis of actual asset and liability data.

Net interest income projections are derived utilizing different interest rate scenarios to assess the sensitivity of net interest income to changing interest rates. We utilize market implied forward interest rates and also review the impact on net interest income of parallel and nonparallel shifts in the yield curve over different time horizons.

#### Use of Derivatives

We use derivatives as an integral part of our market risk management activities. To achieve risk management objectives and satisfy the financing needs of our borrowers, we execute derivative transactions with other financial institutions. Derivatives (primarily interest rate swaps) are used to manage liquidity and the market risk arising from maturity and repricing mismatches between assets and liabilities. We also hedge cap and floor risk embedded within our floating-rate investments and loans by entering into derivative transactions. In addition, we execute foreign exchange spot and forward contracts to manage currency risk on our relatively nominal amount of loans denominated in foreign currencies. We also enter into derivatives for our customers as a service to enable them to transfer, modify or reduce their interest rate risk and foreign exchange risk. The notional amounts of derivatives, weighted average interest rates to be received and paid, and fair values at December 31, 2020, are shown in the following table. We also discuss derivatives in Note 10 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

## Derivatives at December 31, 2020 (\$ in Millions)

Derivative Product	Notional Amount	Weighted Average Receive Rate	Weighted Average Pay Rate	Fair Value
Receive Fixed Swaps	\$ 17,461	1.97 %	0.16 %	\$ 149
Receive Fixed				
Amortizing Swaps	6,282	2.01	0.19	413
Pay Fixed Swaps	16,641	0.12	0.96	(146)
Pay Fixed				
Amortizing Swaps	6,282	0.19	1.88	(188)
Interest Rate Options	6,435	-	-	41
Foreign Currency				
Spots and Forwards	157	-	-	(2)
Total	\$ 53,258	1.07 %	0.68 %	\$ 267

The following section includes a summary of our derivatives portfolio by strategy and further explanation of each strategy.

Notional Amounts of De	Notional Amounts of Derivatives by Strategy (\$ in Millions)									
December 31,	:	2020		2019	2018					
Liquidity Management	\$	9,724	\$	10,298	\$	9,587				
Equity Positioning		1,846		2,212		952				
Options Risk Management <sup>(1)</sup>		5,669		5,824		3,862				
Basis Risk Management		10,750		-		-				
Customer Transactions		25,113		21,755		18,443				
Foreign Currency Risk										
Management <sup>(2)</sup>		156		187		80				
Total	\$	53,258	\$	40,276	\$	32,924				

<sup>(1)</sup> Excludes \$766 million, \$921 million and \$498 million of interest rate options at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively, which are classified as customer transactions.

<sup>(2)</sup> Excludes \$1 million, \$5 million and \$5 million of foreign currency spot and forward contracts at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively, which are classified as customer transactions.

## Liquidity Management

Interest rate swaps are executed to improve liquidity, primarily by effectively converting specific longer-term fixedrate bonds and notes into floating-rate debt indexed to LIBOR or similar short-term rates. The fixed rate received on the swap largely offsets the fixed rate paid on the associated debt leaving a net floating-rate payment on the swap. This allows us to issue longer-term fixed-rate debt and still match fund the predominantly short-term repricing nature of our interestsensitive asset portfolio. Liquidity risk management is discussed further on the following page.

#### Equity Positioning

We also use interest rate swaps to manage market risk as it relates to investment of our equity. If the cash flows of loans and investments on the balance sheet do not create the targeted maturity for the investment of our equity, we enter into receive-fixed interest rate swaps to produce the desired equity investment maturity profile.

#### **Options Risk Management**

In the course of managing risk in our investment and loan portfolios, we periodically hedge cap and floor risk embedded within our floating-rate investments and loans by entering into derivative transactions.

## Basis Risk Management

We use short-term interest rate swaps indexed to SOFR to manage basis risk exposure in certain of our floating rate administered loans to our Associations. Beginning in 2020, we began to transition a significant portion of our Association floating rate administered loans from a LIBOR based index to a SOFR based index. Simultaneously, we began funding these floating rate administered loans with debt indexed to SOFR and executing SOFR swaps. The SOFR pay rate on our debt is fully offset by a SOFR receive rate in the interest rate swap leaving a net fixed rate payment on the swap.

## Customer Transactions

Derivatives are offered to customers as a service to enable them to modify or reduce their interest rate and foreign exchange risk by transferring such risk to us. We offset this risk transference by concurrently entering into offsetting transactions with counterparties.

#### Foreign Currency Risk Management

We enter into foreign exchange spot and forward contracts to manage currency risk on our relatively nominal amount of loans denominated in foreign currencies. Typically, foreign currency contracts are purchased to fund the principal cash flows of the loan and simultaneously sold to lock in the principal and interest cash flows upon the repricing or maturity date of the loan.

## Liquidity Risk Management

Liquidity risk is the risk arising from an inability to repay maturing debt obligations or issue obligations to fund borrowers and operations on a timely basis. We must continually raise funds to provide credit and related services to customers, repay maturing debt obligations and meet other obligations. Our primary sources of liquidity are the ability to issue Systemwide Debt Securities and the use of available cash. As a result of the System's credit quality and standing in the capital markets as a GSE, we have traditionally maintained ready access to debt-funding, notwithstanding volatility in the credit markets. Additionally, if necessary, we could convert high credit quality liquid investments to cash. As more fully discussed on page 62, we experienced some disruption in the debt capital markets for several months beginning in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which caused us to increase our cash position and liquidity reserves.

One of the ways in which we measure and monitor our liquidity position is by assuming no ability to issue debt and calculating the number of days into the future we could meet maturing debt obligations by using available cash and eligible investments. System banks are required by regulation to maintain a minimum of 90 days of liquidity (cash and readily marketable investments generally discounted by 5 to 10 percent of market value) on a continuous basis and to establish an incremental liquidity reserve. At December 31, 2020, our days of liquidity was 174 days, compared to 176 days at December 31, 2019. During 2020, we averaged 183 days of liquidity compared to an average of 177 days in 2019.

FCA regulations require each System bank to maintain a three-tiered liquidity reserve. The first tier consists of a sufficient amount of cash and cash-like instruments to cover each bank's maturing debt for 15 days. The second and third tiers contain highly liquid instruments sufficient to cover each bank's maturing debt for the next 15 and subsequent 60 days, respectively. In addition, the banks are required to establish an incremental liquidity reserve composed of eligible investments, which can be drawn upon during an emergency and which is sufficient to cover each bank's liquidity needs beyond 90 days. CoBank has established a minimum liquidity standard of 150 days, which is 60 days greater than the 90 days regulatory standards.

Our liquidity management objectives are to provide a reliable source of funding to borrowers, meet maturing debt obligations, provide additional liquidity if market conditions deteriorate and to fund operations on a cost-effective basis. Approximately 65 percent of our interest-earning assets mature or reprice in one year or less with 46 percent maturing or repricing in one month or less. Match-funding these assets from a maturity perspective would create an unacceptable concentration of short-term liabilities. Instead, we manage this risk by issuing longer-term fixed-rate debt and swapping this debt from a fixed to floating rate using derivative transactions, as previously described, or by issuing term floating-rate debt. By so doing, we reduce the need to fund maturing liabilities on any given business day to a more manageable level. While we believe that sufficient resources are available to meet liquidity management objectives through our debt maturity structure, holdings of liquid assets and access to the capital markets via the Funding Corporation, the volatility of our loan volume and the cash flow requirements from our cash management program causes our liquidity needs to vary significantly from day to day.

The amounts and maturities of our debt obligations are set forth in the table below.

	Book	Par
	Value	Value
1 Day	\$ 1,033	\$ 1,033
2-7 Days	1,966	1,966
8-30 Days	4,739	4,739
31-90 Days	10,585	10,583
91-180 Days	15,186	15,183
181-365 Days	30,109	30,078
1-5 Years	57,148	56,927
Over 5 Years	22,618	22,568
Total	\$ 143,384	\$ 143,077

See Notes 5 and 15 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements for information regarding interest rates and maturities of Systemwide Debt Securities, and contingencies.

As more fully discussed in Note 5 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, in May 2020, we closed on \$250.0 million of Series D funding pursuant to a bond guarantee program offered by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. We had previously received \$250.0 million of Series A funding from RUS. While the Series A facility has been fully drawn, the Series D facility allows us to access funding for certain rural infrastructure loans through September 2024. As of December 31, 2020 we had \$250.0 million and \$175.0 million outstanding on the Series A and Series D funding from RUS, respectively.

Due to the often volatile funding needs of certain customers, in particular Agribusiness customers impacted by seasonal borrowing requirements and changing commodity prices and supplies, we provide a significant amount of revolving loan commitments. At December 31, 2020, commitments to extend credit and commercial letters of credit were \$33.3 billion and \$64.7 million, respectively. In addition, we provide standby letters of credit, which guarantee payment or performance of an obligation. As of December 31, 2020, the maximum amount of future payments that could potentially be required under standby letters of credit was \$1.5 billion. Since many of these commitments may expire without being drawn, the total commitments do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. Our exposure to many of these commitments is mitigated by borrowing base requirements contained in loan agreements. See Note 9 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements for a full discussion of financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk.

Our liquidity plan covers certain contingencies in the event our access to normal funding sources is disrupted. We purchase only high credit quality investments to ensure our investment portfolio is readily marketable and available to serve as a source of contingent funding. Our investment portfolio may also be used as collateral to borrow funds to cover maturing liabilities and other needs, including through a sponsored repurchase agreement facility we have with a commercial bank providing us access to the Fixed Income Clearing Corporation as a collateral provider. We are required by FCA regulations to exclude from our liquidity reserve ABS that are no longer rated triple-A by at least one major rating agency, corporate bonds that do not carry one of the two highest ratings by at least one major rating agency or any investment whose market value is less than 80 percent of book value. As a result, as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, \$477.6 million and \$472.7 million, respectively, of securities were not included in our liquidity reserve.

We have identified certain portions of our loan portfolio that we believe could be sold or participated out in the event our access to normal funding mechanisms is disrupted. These loans serve as an additional source of contingent funding. We also maintain uncommitted lines of credit with various financial institutions that could provide liquidity during unanticipated short-term disruptions in funding. However, it is uncertain whether we would be able to sell or participate loans or fully utilize uncommitted lines of credit in the event of a systemic funding disruption.

An additional source of liquidity is cash provided by our operating activities (primarily generated from net interest income in excess of operating expenses), which totaled \$1.3 billion, \$1.1 billion and \$1.4 billion in 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

The assets of the Insurance Fund would be used to repay maturing Systemwide Debt Securities, to the extent available, if no other sources existed to repay such debt. The Insurance Corporation has an agreement with the Federal Financing Bank, a federal instrumentality subject to the supervision and direction of the U.S. Treasury, pursuant to which the Federal Financing Bank would advance funds to the Insurance Corporation. Under its existing statutory authority, the Insurance Corporation may use these funds to provide assistance to the System banks in exigent market circumstances that threaten the banks' ability to pay maturing debt obligations. The agreement provides for advances of up to \$10 billion and terminates on September 30, 2021, unless otherwise extended. The decision whether to seek funds from the Federal Financing Bank is at the discretion of the Insurance Corporation, and each funding obligation of the Federal Financing Bank is subject to various terms and conditions and, as a result, there can be no assurance that funding would be available if needed by the System.

## **Operational Risk Management**

Operational risk is the risk arising from human errors or misconduct, failures in human capital objectives, inadequate enterprise information management, systems and technology or process failures, and external cyber risk and data security impacting the Bank, our critical vendors or our customers. We utilize a risk management framework, business policies and processes, and employee training and disclosures to manage operational risk. Under this framework, business segments and support units have direct and primary responsibility and accountability for identifying, controlling and monitoring operational risk. Managers maintain controls with the objective of providing proper transaction authorization and execution, proper system operations, safeguarding of assets from misuse or theft, fraud monitoring and ensuring access, reliability and security of financial and other data. Employees receive regular training on business ethics, fraud identification and prevention, compliance with laws and regulations, and information security. Employees are also subject to standards of conduct requirements in the performance of their job responsibilities, including the periodic disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. We also mitigate operational risk through the use of insurance coverages.

Business continuity and disaster recovery planning are important mitigants to potential operational risks. Critical business and supporting units are required to develop, maintain and test such plans at least annually to ensure that continuity and recovery activities, if needed, could sustain critical functions including systems and information supporting customers and business operations. While we believe that we have designed effective business continuity policies and procedures, there is no absolute assurance that business disruption or operational losses would not occur in the event of a disaster. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 15, 2020 we activated our business continuity plan and required the substantial majority of our employees to begin working from home. Throughout the remainder of 2020 and into 2021, we continue to operate the Bank under this remote-work environment and follow our business continuity plan.

The Enterprise Risk Management Division is responsible for coordinating the completion of the quarterly and annual risk assessment and reports results to senior management and the Board of Directors. Our internal audit function validates internal controls through risk-based, regular audits, and reports on the effectiveness of internal controls to executive management and the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors. In addition, the head of Internal Audit reports annually to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors on the current state of the Bank's risks and controls. The asset review function evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of the Bank's internal control processes related to loan quality, collateral, credit administration and risk identification. The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors reviews, modifies as necessary, and approves the scope and level of review performed by the internal audit and asset review functions.

The Enterprise Risk Management Division is responsible for aggregating and monitoring enterprise-wide risk. This Division is also responsible for the maintenance and development of the model and third-party risk management programs. As with other risks, business segments and support units have direct and primary responsibility and accountability for identifying, controlling and monitoring these risks.

To enhance our governance and internal controls, we apply policies and procedures that mirror many of the material provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, including section 404, Management Assessment of Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting.

## Strategic and Reputation Risk Management

Strategic risk is the risk to current or anticipated earnings, capital, or enterprise value arising from adverse business decisions or lack of responsiveness to changes in the banking/operating environment. Reputation risk is the risk arising from negative external perception about CoBank. The Bank is subject to a wide variety of reputation risks both within and outside its control, including, among other things, credit difficulties with individual customers or industries, business disputes, lawsuits, credit market disruptions, regulatory events, public criticism by competitors, public allegations of misconduct and misunderstanding of our lending authorities or congressionally-mandated mission. As a member of the System, CoBank could be indirectly impacted by events that damage the reputation of another System entity.

Effective Board governance, strong management, solid business plan execution and business practices ensuring conformity with laws and regulations and consistency with CoBank's mission are key controls in ensuring strategic alignment and managing and mitigating the Bank's reputation risk.

The Board has adopted leading industry practices in its governance of CoBank. Consistent with these practices, CoBank directors are required to meet prescribed qualifications standards prior to standing for election. Directors are required to complete initial training upon election and subsequent training during their tenure. The Board conducts annual self-evaluations and a periodic peer evaluation. As part of its ongoing processes, the Board is required to convene a restructuring committee at least once every five years to study the composition of the Board and consider other factors to strengthen governance. In 2020, a Board restructuring committee comprised of Board members and customer representatives was convened to examine key aspects of governance at CoBank, including board size and composition, director terms, the number and geography of voting regions, the types of director seats and eligibility requirements for director candidates. The restructuring committee delivered its report and recommendations to the Board in May 2020. The committee did not recommend material changes to the Board's current governance structure and processes.

The Bank regularly communicates with customer-owners to ensure they have the information they need to accurately evaluate the Bank's overall business and financial performance. Furthermore, customers, System partners and others have access to members of the Board of Directors and management through customer and industry meetings and events held by the Bank throughout the year, which helps to ensure the Bank is aligned with the interests of its members. Although certain of these customer meetings were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, many other meetings were held by the Bank virtually.

CoBank's executive management team possesses the requisite banking skills and experience, financial expertise and

sophistication to run the Bank. CoBank identifies and develops leaders from within the organization through talent management and development processes, and attracts highquality talent from external sources.

The controls and processes surrounding credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk and operational risk mitigate reputation risk by lowering the likelihood of significant problems in each of those areas. In addition, the Bank has a formal crisis communications plan in place in order to help it manage communications with stakeholders if an unplanned, reputation-impacting event occurs.

We place considerable emphasis on ethical behavior and ensure that our directors and employees receive regular training related to business ethics, fraud identification and prevention, compliance with laws and regulations, and information security. In addition, as discussed on page 175, each year all employees certify their compliance with our Associate Responsibilities and Conduct Policy. Senior officers and other senior professionals who are involved with the preparation and distribution of our financial statements and related disclosures also annually certify compliance with the Bank's code of ethics.

As a mission-based lender, CoBank is committed to mission objectives that expand market penetration into an increasingly diverse customer base. Our Board-directed activities include supporting causes and programs that support the health and welfare of rural communities and the industries we serve across rural America. By strengthening relationships with key stakeholders and enriching service to agriculture, rural infrastructure and rural communities, CoBank's corporate social responsibility program aims to make a positive impact in our marketplace. The Bank also supports and participates in various committees which manage the System's reputation and business practices. These committees, which consist of representatives from Farm Credit banks and Associations, coordinate business and operational issues across System institutions.

## **Regulatory and Compliance Risk Management**

Regulatory and compliance risk is the risk to current or anticipated earnings, capital, or reputation arising from failure to comply with laws or regulations. We are subject to a variety of regulatory and compliance risks. We actively manage and mitigate these risks through quarterly evaluation and monitoring within the Bank's Enterprise Risk Management framework. We have a Regulatory function that reports to the Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel and a Compliance function that reports to the CRO. These functions, together with the CRO and CCO roles, act as an integrated second line of defense. CoBank's Legal and Regulatory Group monitors and comments on emerging regulatory requirements. Our Compliance Group provides assistance to business lines with the implementation of new requirements, and performs internal reviews of the Bank's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements on an as-needed basis or to address complex compliance areas. The Bank's management of regulatory risk is under the supervision of the Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel to address potential litigation risk that may arise from ongoing business activities. Our Fraud and Anti-Money Laundering program utilizes a risk-based approach to monitor transactional activity. Our internal audit and asset review divisions also review compliance with regulatory requirements. In addition, we are subject to review by the FCA and other governmental authorities, which could lead to enforcement actions, fines and penalties or the assertion of private litigation claims and damages. While we believe that we have adopted appropriate risk management and compliance programs, legal and compliance risks will continue to exist. Further, additional legal proceedings and other contingencies, the outcome of which cannot be predicted with certainty, will arise from time to time.

# **Other Risk Factors**

## **Uncertain Impact of COVID-19 on Our Business**

Because the severity, magnitude and duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences are uncertain, continually changing and difficult to predict, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business, results of operations and financial condition, as well as its impact on our ability to execute on our business strategies and initiatives, remain uncertain.

If the impacts of COVID-19 continue for a protracted period of time or result in sustained economic distress, our credit, liquidity, market and operational risks described beginning on page 43, could be exacerbated. COVID-19 is creating significant stress for many industries in our loan portfolio because of lower demand and disruptions to employees, markets, transportation, supply chains and other factors important to their operations. The credit quality in our loan portfolio may be adversely impacted and, in some cases, severely adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19. Our liquidity and ability to issue debt to fund lending to customers and the operations of the business could also be unfavorably impacted by COVID-19. The types of debt products and maturity structures that CoBank has historically issued could become more limited if economic, market and social developments from COVID-19 create a higher level of investor uncertainty. If the impact of COVID-19 and its economic consequences result in more volatile and unstable market conditions, CoBank funding costs and market risk mitigation strategies could also be negatively impacted. Lastly, the continuation of our business continuity plan, including the remote-work policy, could cause our networks, information systems, applications and other tools available to employees to become strained and less reliable than our inoffice technology. In addition, the remote-work arrangements present additional cybersecurity, vendor and third party risks.

Our efforts to manage and mitigate these risks and other risks may be unsuccessful. Furthermore, the effectiveness of our mitigation efforts and the extent to which COVID-19 affects our business, results of operations and financial condition may depend on factors beyond our control. Accordingly, CoBank is currently unable to accurately assess the full extent of the effects of COVID-19 on its business operations or the global economy as a whole, but it could materially and adversely affect CoBank's business, results of operations and financial condition.

# Joint and Several Liability for the Debt of the Farm Credit System

Farm Credit System banks and Associations are not authorized to accept deposits and therefore cannot use deposits as a funding source. Instead, banks raise funds for their operations primarily through Systemwide Debt Securities issued on the banks' behalf by the Funding Corporation. Systemwide Debt Securities are the joint and several liabilities of the System banks and are not obligations of, nor are they guaranteed by, the U.S. government or a U.S. Agency or instrumentality thereof, other than the System banks. Under the Farm Credit Act, each System bank is primarily liable for the portion of the Systemwide Debt Securities issued on its behalf. At December 31, 2020, we were primarily liable for \$141.9 billion of Systemwide Debt Securities. Additionally, each System bank is contingently liable for Systemwide Debt Securities of the other System banks. At December 31, 2020, the total aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Systemwide Debt Securities was \$322.7 billion.

Although the System banks have established mutual covenants and measures, which are monitored on a quarterly basis, there is no assurance that these would be sufficient to protect a System bank from liability should another System bank default and the Insurance Fund be insufficient to cure the default. See Note 5 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements for a more complete description of the interbank agreements among the System banks.

The Insurance Fund, which totaled \$5.5 billion as of December 31, 2020, is available from the Insurance Corporation to ensure the timely payment by each System bank of its primary obligations on Systemwide Debt Securities and can also be used by the Insurance Corporation for its operating expenses and for other mandatory and permitted purposes. Under the Farm Credit Act, before joint and several liability can be invoked, available amounts in the Insurance Fund would first be exhausted. There is no assurance. however, that the Insurance Fund would have sufficient resources to fund a System bank's defaulted obligations. If the Insurance Fund was insufficient, then the remaining System banks would be required to pay the default amount in proportion to their respective available collateral positions. Available collateral approximates the amount of total shareholders' equity of the System banks. The Insurance Corporation does not insure any payments on our other debt obligations, preferred stock or common stock. See Note 5 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements for more information about the Insurance Fund.

The System does not have a guaranteed line of credit from the U.S. Treasury or the Federal Reserve. However, the Insurance Corporation has an agreement with the Federal Financing Bank, a federal instrumentality subject to the supervision and direction of the U.S. Treasury, pursuant to which the Federal Financing Bank would advance funds to the Insurance Corporation. Under its existing statutory authority, the Insurance Corporation may use these funds to provide assistance to the System banks in exigent market circumstances that threaten the banks' ability to pay maturing debt obligations. The agreement provides for advances of up to \$10 billion and terminates on September 30, 2021, unless otherwise extended. The decision whether to seek funds from the Federal Financing Bank is at the discretion of the Insurance Corporation, and each funding obligation of the Federal Financing Bank is subject to various terms and conditions and, as a result, there can be no assurance that funding would be available if needed by the System.

To the extent we must fund our allocated portion of another System bank's portion of the Systemwide Debt Securities due to a default, our earnings and total shareholders' equity would be reduced, possibly materially.

#### **Reforms Impacting Government Sponsored Enterprises Could Have an Adverse Impact on our Business**

The System is a GSE and, as a member of the System, CoBank benefits from ready access to debt funding and favorable debt-funding costs. Our individual credit ratings are also positively impacted by the GSE status of the System. In addition, as provided in our charter, portions of our business activities, including lending to Associations and loan participation purchases from other System institutions, are exempt from many forms of taxation, including federal income taxes.

As a direct result of the financial difficulties experienced by the housing-related GSEs, with both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac having been placed into conservatorship by the U.S. government, GSE status has been and will continue to be a topic of debate and concern to various stakeholders, including the public and Congress. Congressional deliberations over structural reform of the housing-related GSEs are likely to continue. The Bank and the System are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture and thus have not been the subject of this specific congressional scrutiny. Any changes in the System's status as a GSE or the general perception by investors of GSEs could have a significant adverse impact on the System's ability to issue debt at favorable rates and terms, which could negatively impact CoBank's funding costs.

## Our Funding Costs Could Be Negatively Impacted by Downgrades of the Long-Term U.S. Sovereign Credit Rating and the System's Long-Term Debt Rating

As a member of the System, we have historically benefited from the favorable funding costs and funding flexibility associated with the debt securities issued through the Funding Corporation. The credit ratings of GSEs, including the System, are influenced by the sovereign credit rating of the United States. S&P Global Ratings (S&P) currently maintains the long-term sovereign credit rating of the United States of AA+, which continues to drive its AA+ long-term debt rating of the System. Both Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) and Fitch Ratings Inc. (Fitch) currently maintain the long-term sovereign credit rating for the United States and its agency securities of AAA, which continues to drive their AAA long-term debt rating of the System. However, in 2020, Fitch revised the U.S. outlook to negative from stable. Any future downgrades could negatively impact funding costs, earnings and funding flexibility for CoBank and other System institutions.

# Our Funding is Dependent Upon the System's Ability to Access the Capital Markets

The primary source of liquidity for CoBank and the other System institutions is the ability to issue Systemwide Debt Securities. This access has provided the System with a dependable source of funding. The System's ability to continue to issue Systemwide Debt Securities depends, in part, on the conditions in the capital markets, which are outside the System's control. As a result, the System cannot make any assurances that it will be able to fund itself by issuing Systemwide Debt Securities. If the System cannot issue Systemwide Debt Securities or cannot access the capital markets, CoBank's funding would be negatively impacted, which would have a negative effect on our financial condition and results of operations, which could be material.

## We are Subject to Liquidity Risk with Respect to Certain Investments and Derivatives

We are subject to liquidity risk in the course of our investing activities, particularly with respect to our investments in ABS and corporate bonds, which together represent approximately 2 percent of our investment securities held for liquidity or other purposes as of December 31, 2020. In volatile market conditions, it could be difficult to sell such investments, if the need arises, and the discounts from face value would likely be significant. In addition, because of the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of a small portion of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for the investments.

Our over-the-counter derivative contracts require CoBank or our counterparties to post cash or securities as collateral when the fair values of the derivatives change based on changes in interest rates. Collateral is exchanged between parties daily with zero posting thresholds for all counterparties. Likewise, CoBank is required to pledge initial margin and make daily settlement payments related to our cleared derivative transactions. As a result of these derivative contracts, we are exposed to liquidity risk when changes in interest rates require us to post collateral to our counterparties, or make settlement payments for changes in the fair value of cleared derivatives. As of December 31, 2020, we posted \$268.3 million in cash as collateral with our counterparties. Additionally, initial margin and settlement payments totaling \$50.6 million and \$161.7 million, respectively, were held by our CCP for our cleared derivatives as of December 31, 2020.

#### **Uncertainty Surrounding the Future of LIBOR**

CoBank recognizes the discontinuance of LIBOR presents significant risks and challenges that could have an impact on its businesses. Accordingly, CoBank established a LIBOR governance and implementation program that includes senior management involvement.

In 2017, the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority (UKFCA), which regulates LIBOR, announced its intention to stop persuading or compelling the group of major banks that sustains LIBOR to submit rate quotations after 2021. The UKFCA announced that it intends to make a formal announcement about the timing and manner of LIBOR cessation prior to the end of 2021. The UKFCA has the authority and may announce that LIBOR, as of a future date, will no longer be representative of the underlying funding markets. This announcement by the UKFCA could be a triggering event for the purposes of LIBOR cessation under certain of our contracts and may require that the parties, as of such future date, cease use of LIBOR as their reference rate and apply a fallback rate as determined under such contracts.

On November 30, 2020, the Intercontinental Exchange Benchmark Administration (IBA) announced that it would consult on its plan to cease the publication of one-week and two-month USD LIBOR immediately after December 31, 2021 and to cease the publications of the remaining tenors of USD LIBOR (one, three, six and twelve-month) immediately after June 30, 2023. IBA's consultation for feedback was released on December 4, 2020 and closed on January 25, 2021. In addition to the proposal related to USD LIBOR, the IBA also asked for comments on the cession of publication of all GBP, EUR, CHF, and JPY LIBOR tenors after December 31, 2021.

On November 30, 2020, the U.S. Prudential Regulators (Federal Reserve, FDIC, OCC) issued a statement to encourage banks to transition away from LIBOR as soon as practicable. The Prudential Regulators believe entering into new contracts that use LIBOR as a reference rate after December 31, 2021, would create safety and soundness risks and will examine bank practices accordingly. Therefore, the Prudential Regulators encourage banks to cease entering into new contracts that use LIBOR as a reference rate as soon as practicable and in any event by December 31, 2021. New contracts entered into before December 31, 2021 should either utilize a reference rate other than LIBOR or have robust fallback language that includes a clearly defined alternative reference rate after LIBOR's discontinuation. On December 18, 2020, the FCA issued an informational memorandum with similar LIBOR transition guidance as the Prudential Regulators, but applicable to Farm Credit System institutions, including CoBank. In accordance with the informational memorandum, System institutions should adopt 2021 transition plans with steps and timeframes to accomplish the following: reduce LIBOR exposures; stop the inflow of new LIBOR volume; develop and implement loan products with alternative reference rates; assess, and if necessary, revise fallback language on legacy LIBOR indexed loans and contracts; adjust operational processes, including accounting and management information systems, to handle alternative reference rates; and communicate pending or imminent changes to customers as appropriate.

We have exposure to various LIBOR-indexed financial instruments that mature after 2021. This exposure includes loans that we make to our customers, investment securities that we purchase, Systemwide Debt Securities that are issued by the Funding Corporation on the Bank's behalf, preferred stock that we issue and our derivative transactions. Alternative reference rates that replace LIBOR may not vield the same or similar economic results over the terms of the financial instruments, which could adversely affect the value of, and return on, instruments held by us. The transition from LIBOR could result in us paying higher interest rates on our current LIBOR-indexed Systemwide Debt Securities, adversely affect the yield on, and fair value of, the instruments we hold that reference LIBOR, and increase the costs of or affect our ability to effectively use derivative instruments to manage interest rate risk. In addition, to the extent that we cannot successfully transition our LIBOR-indexed financial instruments to an alternative rate-based index that is endorsed or supported by regulators and generally accepted by the market as a replacement to LIBOR, there could be other ramifications including those that may arise as a result of the need to redeem or terminate such instruments. Disputes and litigation with counterparties, investors and borrowers relating to the transition are also possible. Due to the uncertainty regarding the transition from LIBOR-indexed financial instruments, including when it will happen, the manner in which an alternative reference rate will apply, and the mechanisms for transitioning our LIBOR-indexed instruments to instruments with an alternative rate, we cannot yet reasonably estimate the expected financial impact of the LIBOR transition.

The following table presents our LIBOR-indexed financial instruments by contractual maturity.

LIBOR-Indexed Fina	incial	nstrumen	ts at		
December 31, 202	<b>0</b> (\$ in N	1illions)			
		Due in	Due	e in 2022	
		2021	ar	nd After	Total
Commercial Loans <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	10,552	\$	21,141	\$ 31,693
Wholesale Loans <sup>(2)</sup>		7,217		1,141	8,358
Investment Securities		4		6,291	6,295
Debt		24,695		1,831	26,526
Derivatives (Notional					
Amounts)		7,344		35,008	42,352
Preferred Stock (3)		-		1,300	1,300

LIBOR-Indexed Financial Instruments at

<sup>(1)</sup> Represents loans in our Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments.

<sup>(2)</sup> Represents loans in our Farm Credit Banking operating segment.

(3) Represents our non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock with a fixed-to floating rate dividend feature indexed to 3-month USD LIBOR, and does not have a contractual maturity date. Includes \$225 million that pays a dividend currently indexed to 3-month USD LIBOR plus a spread as of December 31, 2020. Dividends on an additional \$400 million, \$300 million, and \$375 million of preferred stock convert from a fixed rate to 3-month USD LIBOR plus a spread in 2022, 2025, and 2026, respectively.

In the United States, efforts to identify a set of alternative U.S. dollar reference interest rates include proposals by the Alternative Reference Rates Committee (ARRC) of the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Specifically, the ARRC has proposed SOFR as the recommended alternative to LIBOR and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York began publishing SOFR on April 3, 2018.

On September 11, 2018 the FCA issued guidance for System institutions to follow as they prepare for the expected phase-out of LIBOR. Pursuant to the guidance, we have developed a LIBOR transition plan. The FCA identified the following as important considerations in the development of transition plans:

- a governance structure to manage the transition,
- an assessment of exposures to LIBOR,
- an assessment of the fallback provisions in contracts and the impact of a LIBOR phase-out under those provisions,
- the establishment of strategies for reducing each type of LIBOR exposure,
- assessment of operational processes that need to be changed,
- communication strategies with customers and stakeholders,
- the establishment of a process to stay abreast of industry developments and best practices,
- the establishment of a process to ensure a coordinated approach, to the extent possible, across the Bank, and

• a timeframe and action steps for completing key objectives.

As more fully described in Notes 5 and 10 to our accompanying consolidated financial statements, in October 2020, we completed both the mandatory transition of our LIBOR-indexed cleared derivatives with our clearinghouse (CCP) to SOFR discounting as well as a debt exchange of a significant portion of our LIBOR-indexed floating rate debt maturing beyond December 31, 2021 to insert ARRC reference rate contractual fallback language in the event LIBOR is discontinued or no longer remains a representative rate index.

We continue to analyze potential risks associated with the LIBOR transition, including financial, market, accounting, operational, legal, tax, reputational and compliance risks. At this time, we are unable to predict when LIBOR will cease to be available or become unrepresentative, or if SOFR or any other alternative reference rate will become the benchmark to replace LIBOR. Because we routinely engage in transactions involving financial instruments that reference LIBOR, these developments could have a material impact on us, our borrowers, investors, customers and counterparties.

## **CoBank and Our Affiliated Associations Face Intense Competition in a Rapidly Changing Financial Services Industry**

CoBank and our affiliated Associations face intense competition from commercial banks, thrift institutions, insurance companies, finance companies, mortgage banking companies, other GSEs, U.S. Agencies and the U.S. government. Future results may become increasingly sensitive to fluctuations in the volume and cost of lending activities. Furthermore, continued expansion of the digital economy, technological advances and the introduction of disruptive technologies have altered how many financial services get delivered to customers and have introduced new competitors for certain services. There can be no assurance that CoBank or our affiliated Associations will be able to continue to successfully compete in the markets we serve or to effectively adapt to technological or other changes impacting the financial services marketplace.

# Relationship with the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation

Farmer Mac is a federally chartered corporation that was established to create a secondary market for agricultural mortgages and other loans. Although Farmer Mac is statutorily defined as an institution of the System and is examined and regulated by the FCA, it is financially and operationally separate and distinct from the System, and any reference to "the System" herein does not include Farmer Mac. Neither CoBank nor any other System entity is liable for any debt or obligation of Farmer Mac. Further, the assets of the Insurance Fund do not support any debt or obligation of Farmer Mac nor do the System's independent credit ratings apply to Farmer Mac. Except for contractual obligations arising from business transactions between Farmer Mac and certain System institutions, Farmer Mac is not liable for any debt or obligation of any System entity, including Systemwide Debt Securities, either directly or on a joint and several basis.

In 2019 we entered into a master participation agreement with Farmer Mac under which each party may purchase from the other participation interests in eligible loans. During 2020 and 2019 we sold non-patronage, electric distribution loans to Farmer Mac and we remain the servicer of these loans. During 2018, we sold all of our remaining agricultural MBS guaranteed by Farmer Mac as described on page 64.

We believe that if Farmer Mac, as an institution of the System, were to experience financial difficulty, it could create financial, reputational, political and/or regulatory risk for CoBank and the System.

## We Are Subject to Cybersecurity Risks that Could Negatively Affect Our Ability to Conduct and Manage Our Business

Information security risk at financial institutions has increased in recent years as a result of the proliferation of new technologies and the increased activities of organized crime, hackers and other external parties. CoBank and its customers, like many other financial institutions and their customers, have been the target of cyber-attacks aimed at committing fraud. Companies across many industries, including financial institutions, have reported being victims of cyber-attacks, resulting in, among other things, compromise of customer or other confidential data, theft of funds or resources and disruption of services. Cybersecurity and the continued development and enhancement of our controls, processes, and systems to protect our information systems and data remain a priority for CoBank. To date, we have not experienced any material losses relating to cyber-attacks. Although we believe we have robust information security procedures and controls, our information systems, as well as those of our customers, used to access our services, may become the target of cyberattacks, which could result in material losses. Our risk and exposure to cyber-attacks remain high due to the evolving nature of such attacks. We also rely on third-party service providers to conduct various aspects of our business operations and face similar risks relating to them. While we conduct security reviews on these third parties, these vendors may also become targets of cyber-attacks resulting in material losses to CoBank.

## Failures of Critical Vendors and Other Third-Party Service Providers Could Disrupt our Ability to Conduct and Manage our Business

CoBank relies on vendors and other third-party service providers to perform certain critical services. A failure in, or an interruption to, one or more of those services provided could negatively affect our business operations and services provided to our customers. If one or more of these key external parties were not able to perform their functions for a period of time at an acceptable service level, our business operations could be constrained, disrupted, or otherwise negatively affected.

## We Are Subject to Risks Arising From Changes to Our Collaborative Partnerships With Other System Entities

CoBank's collaborative partnerships with other System entities are key to the Bank's financial growth, strength and stability. These collaborations are rooted in the philosophy that working constructively together optimizes our ability to fulfill our collective mission to serve rural America. In addition, we continue to collaborate with our affiliated Associations on business model solutions that further strengthen the ability to fulfill our mission, including through the more efficient use of capital. Notwithstanding the importance of these relationships and collaborations, CoBank is exposed to reputation risk, regulatory risk, and inter-related financial risks arising from other System entities. The failure to maintain effective System cooperation in mitigating these exposures could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and ability to meet the needs of our customers.

## Our Ability to Attract and Retain Qualified Board Members, Senior Officers and Employees is Critical to Successfully Fulfilling Our Mission

The success of CoBank is dependent on the talents and efforts of our Board members, senior officers and employees, and the competition for individuals who possess the requisite knowledge of the banking, agricultural, finance and other relevant industries is intense. The failure to attract and retain qualified Board members, senior officers and employees could adversely affect our business performance, competitive position and the ability to fulfill our mission.

# Liquidity and Capital Resources

## Funding

We use our capital in addition to short-term and long-term debt to fund our assets. Our debt consists primarily of Systemwide Debt Securities issued on CoBank's behalf by the Funding Corporation. Refer to Note 5 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements for additional information regarding our debt obligations.

As a member of the System, CoBank has traditionally maintained ready access to debt funding. As of December 31, 2020, Systemwide Debt Securities were rated AAA by Moody's and Fitch, and AA+ by S&P.

Beginning in March 2020, market conditions deteriorated resulting from the spread of COVID-19 and our access to the debt capital markets was negatively impacted. While we continued to have access to the capital markets and issue debt in the marketplace to meet our customers' borrowing needs and fund our operations, the availability of certain types of debt products and maturity structures, particularly longer term bullet debt, were more limited for a period of several months than under normal market conditions. Our access to a broader set of debt products and maturity structures resumed by June 2020 and have remained stable and consistent with more historical funding markets through the end of 2020.

## Investment Securities, Cash, Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds

We hold investment securities, cash, federal funds sold and other overnight funds primarily to maintain a liquidity reserve and to manage short-term surplus funds. In accordance with Board-approved policies, we purchase high credit quality investment securities with the objective of ensuring that the investment portfolio is readily marketable and available to serve as a source of liquidity in the event of disruption to our normal funding sources.

As result of the deterioration in market conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, management significantly increased the Bank's liquidity position in March 2020 to ensure we had the ability to meet our customers' borrowing needs. This higher liquidity position, which included increased cash held at the Federal Reserve Bank, was maintained for several months prior to returning to a lower and more historical liquidity position as market conditions improved by June 2020. While cash and liquidity levels have remained at more normal and historical levels through the end of 2020, the higher cash and liquidity position for several months during 2020 had an unfavorable impact on our net interest income.

Our investment securities increased to \$32.8 billion at December 31, 2020 compared to \$32.4 billion at December 31, 2019. The following tables summarize our investment securities and related unrealized gains/losses by asset class.

Investment Securities (\$ i	n Millio	ns)				
December 31, 2020		ortized Cost	Fair Value	Net Unrealized Gains		
U.S. Treasury Debt	\$	13,853	\$ 14,362	\$	509	
U.S. Agency Debt		2,795	2,960		165	
Residential Mortgage-Backed:						
Ginnie Mae		862	886		24	
U.S. Agency		2,333	2,365		32	
Commercial Mortgage-Backed:						
U.S. Agency		11,404	11,554		150	
Corporate Bonds		364	394		30	
Asset-Backed and Other		304	304		-	
Total	\$	31,915	\$ 32,825	\$	910	

#### Investment Securities (\$ in Millions)

December 31, 2019	An	nortized Cost	Fair Value	Net nrealized Gains Losses)
Certificates of Deposit	\$	400	\$ 400	\$ -
U.S. Treasury Debt		15,908	16,062	154
U.S. Agency Debt		2,804	2,854	50
Residential Mortgage-Backed:				
Ginnie Mae		2,310	2,337	27
U.S. Agency		4,355	4,385	30
Commercial Mortgage-Backed:				
U.S. Agency		4,951	4,946	(5)
Corporate Bonds		363	373	10
Asset-Backed and Other		1,068	1,069	1
Total	\$	32,159	\$ 32,426	\$ 267

At each reporting period, we perform impairment assessments of our investment securities based on evaluations of both current and future market and credit conditions and expected cash flows. Subsequent changes in market and credit conditions or expected cash flows could change these evaluations.

As all of our investment securities are classified as "available for sale", we recognize changes in the fair value of our investment securities in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of shareholders' equity, unless losses are credit-related and considered other-than-temporary, in which case that portion of the loss is recorded in earnings. We recorded unrealized gains on our investment securities of \$910.1 million and \$266.9 million in 2020 and 2019, respectively. The unrealized gains recorded in both periods primarily related to the impact of market interest rate changes on the valuations of fixed-rate securities.

Approximately 98 percent of our investment securities carry an explicit or implicit government guarantee. Credit risk in our investment portfolio primarily exists in the remaining 2 percent of our investment securities that are not guaranteed by the U.S. government or a U.S. Agency, which currently include ABS and corporate bonds of midstream energy companies. Our ABS and midstream energy corporate bonds collectively total \$698.2 million of our total investment securities as of December 31, 2020. Credit risk in our investment portfolio also arises from counterparties to shortterm investments, which include our overnight bank deposits and federal funds sold. We recorded no other-than-temporary impairment losses for our investment securities in 2020, 2019 and 2018.

In 2020, we sold eleven U.S. Treasury debt securities for total proceeds of \$3.5 billion, which approximated their combined book value. We sold these securities to manage liquidity.

In 2019, we sold fourteen U.S. Treasury debt securities and our remaining non-agency MBS and home equity ABS portfolios for total proceeds of \$2.3 billion resulting in gains of \$0.9 million. We sold these securities to manage liquidity and credit exposure, and to take advantage of favorable market conditions. In 2018, we sold five U.S. Treasury debt securities for total proceeds of \$1.4 billion which approximated their combined book value. The U.S. Treasury debt securities were primarily sold to manage liquidity. We also sold all of our remaining FHA/VA non-wrapped reperformer MBS for total proceeds of \$262.1 million and eight non-agency debt securities for total proceeds of \$30.1 million resulting in gains of \$37.8 million and \$11.1 million, respectively. These MBS and non-agency debt securities were acquired in our 2012 merger with U.S. AgBank and were credit-impaired. We sold these securities to manage credit exposure and take advantage of favorable market conditions. Lastly, we sold our Farmer Mac MBS for total proceeds of \$61.0 million resulting in gains of \$0.1 million. The Farmer Mac securities were also acquired in the 2012 merger with U.S. AgBank.

#### Derivatives

We use derivatives for the purposes described beginning on page 53. Derivatives are recorded at fair value as assets or liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. Derivative assets totaled \$877.9 million at December 31, 2020 compared to \$380.7 million at December 31, 2019. Derivative liabilities totaled \$610.4 million at December 31, 2020 compared to \$263.1 million at December 31, 2019. The increases in derivative assets and derivative liabilities at December 31, 2020 are primarily the result of higher levels of customer derivative and liquidity management hedging activity, as well as lower interest rates compared to December 31, 2019.

Changes in the fair value of our derivatives are accounted for as gains or losses through current period earnings or as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), depending on the use of the derivatives and whether they qualify for hedge accounting treatment. Net changes in the fair value of derivatives and hedged items designated as hedging instruments are recorded in interest income and interest expense in the accompanying consolidated statements of income and totaled net losses of \$13.9 million and \$13.0 million for 2020 and 2019, respectively. Net changes in the fair value of derivatives not designated as hedging instruments are recorded in noninterest income in the accompanying consolidated statements of income and totaled net gains of \$19.4 million and \$14.0 million for 2020 and 2019, respectively. Changes in the fair value of derivatives recorded as other comprehensive income (loss) totaled a gain of \$20.1 million in 2020 and a loss of \$38.0 million in 2019.

#### Capital

We believe that a sound capital position is critical to our long-term financial success and future growth. Our shareholders' equity is primarily composed of preferred and common stock, retained earnings and other comprehensive income (loss), and totaled \$11.9 billion, \$10.6 billion and \$9.5 billion at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. Growth in shareholders' equity in 2020 resulted from \$1.263 billion in earnings as well as \$593.5 million in other comprehensive income, partially offset by \$596.5 million in cash patronage and \$84.2 million in preferred stock dividends. Other comprehensive income for 2020 was due to increases in unrealized gains on investment securities driven by market interest rate changes.

Under the FCA's regulatory capital requirements, common equity tier 1 (CET1), which includes common stock and retained earnings, is the largest component of the Bank's capital structure. Preferred stock is also included in tier 1 regulatory capital, subject to certain limitations. In addition, our allowance for credit losses is included in tier 2 regulatory capital, subject to certain limitations. See "Capital Regulations" below for detailed discussion related to the FCA's capital adequacy regulations which require us to maintain certain minimum capital requirements.

All of our outstanding preferred stock is included in tier 1 capital and permanent capital for regulatory capital purposes. All of our outstanding preferred stock ranks equally, both as to dividends and upon liquidation, and senior to all of our outstanding common stock.

We may from time to time seek to retire our outstanding debt or equity securities through calls, tender offers and/or exchanges, open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions or otherwise. Such calls, tender offers, exchanges, open market purchases or new issuances, if any, will depend on prevailing market conditions, the Bank's capital position and liquidity requirements, contractual restrictions, changes to capital regulations and other factors.

#### **Capital Regulations**

The FCA's capital regulations set the following minimum risk-based requirements:

- A CET1 capital ratio of 4.5 percent;
- A tier 1 capital ratio (CET1 capital plus additional tier 1 capital) of 6 percent; and
- A total capital ratio (tier 1 capital plus tier 2) of 8 percent.

The capital regulations also set a minimum tier 1 leverage ratio (tier 1 capital divided by total assets) of 4 percent, of which at least 1.5 percent must consist of unallocated retained earnings (URE) and URE equivalents, which are nonqualified allocated equities with certain characteristics of URE.

The capital regulations establish a capital cushion (capital conservation buffer) of 2.5 percent above the risk-based CET1, tier 1 and total capital requirements. In addition, the capital regulations establish a leverage capital cushion (leverage buffer) of 1 percent above the tier 1 leverage ratio requirement. If capital ratios fall below the regulatory minimum plus buffer amounts, capital distributions (equity redemptions, cash dividend payments, and cash patronage payments) and discretionary senior executive bonuses are restricted or prohibited without prior FCA approval.

## **Proposed Capital Regulation**

On September 10, 2020, the FCA issued a proposed rule that would amend certain sections of FCA's regulations to provide technical corrections, amendments, and clarification to certain provisions in FCA's tier 1/tier 2 capital framework for the Farm Credit System. The proposed rule incorporates guidance previously provided by the FCA related to its tier 1/tier 2 capital framework as well as ensures that the FCA's capital requirements continue to be comparable to the standardized approach that the other federal banking regulatory agencies have adopted. The public comment period ended on November 9, 2020.

On September 23, 2019, the FCA issued a proposed rule to address changes to its capital regulations and certain other regulations in response to the CECL accounting standard. The proposed rule identifies which credit loss allowances under CECL are eligible for inclusion in a System institution's regulatory capital. Credit loss allowances related to loans, lessor's net investments in leases, and held-to-maturity debt securities would be included in a System institution's tier 2 capital up to 1.25 percent of the System institution's total riskweighted assets. Credit loss allowances for available-for-sale debt securities and purchased credit impaired assets would not be eligible for inclusion in a System institution's tier 2 capital. In addition, the proposed regulation does not include a transition phase-in period for the CECL day 1 cumulative effect adjustment to retained earnings on a System institution's regulatory capital ratios. The public comment period ended on November 22, 2019.

As shown in the following table, our capital and leverage ratios exceeded regulatory minimums at December 31, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017. If these capital standards are not met, the FCA can impose restrictions, including limiting our ability to pay patronage distributions, retire equities and pay preferred stock dividends.

		December 31, 2020			December 31, 2019 December 31, 2018					December 31, 2017											
	Regulatory	_	Actual		Actual		tual Actual		Actual			Actual			Ī	Required					
	Minimums	F	Actual		Buffer		Actual		Buffer		Actual		Buffer		Actual		Buffer		Buffer	Buffer	
Common Equity Tier 1																					
Capital Ratio	4.5	%	12.33	%	7.83	%	12.70	%	8.20	%	12.38	%	7.88	%	11.67	%	7.17	%	2.5	%	
Tier 1 Capital Ratio	6.0		14.25		8.25		14.83		8.83		14.57		8.57		13.97		7.97		2.5		
Total Capital Ratio	8.0		15.22		7.22		15.86		7.86		15.58		7.58		15.24		7.24		2.5		
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio <sup>(2)</sup>	4.0		7.30		3.30		7.51		3.51		7.53		3.53		7.26		3.26		1.0		
Permanent Capital Ratio	7.0		14.36		n/a		14.95		n/a		14.69		n/a		14.29		n/a		n/a		
Unallocated Retained Earnings (URE) and URE Equivalents																					
Leverage Ratio	1.5		3.23		n/a		3.24		n/a		3.19		n/a		2.96		n/a		n/a		

<sup>(1)</sup> The capital conservation buffer was phased in over three years and reached its full value of 2.5 percent at December 31, 2019.

<sup>(2)</sup> At least 1.5 percent must be URE and URE equivalents.

See pages 135 through 144 for more information on required regulatory capital disclosures, including the components of the ratios displayed above.

## **Previous Capital Regulations**

FCA regulations in effect through December 31, 2016 included requirements to maintain regulatory capital at or above minimum levels for our permanent capital ratio, total surplus ratio, core surplus ratio, and net collateral ratio. Our capital and collateral ratios calculated in accordance with the FCA regulations effective through December 31, 2016 are summarized as follows:

- The permanent capital ratio is quarterly average permanent capital (generally shareholders' equity and subordinated debt subject to certain limitations, excluding accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) and other deductions) as a percentage of quarterly average risk-adjusted assets.
- The total surplus ratio is quarterly average total surplus (quarterly average permanent capital, net of purchased stock) as a percentage of quarterly average risk-adjusted assets.

- The core surplus ratio is quarterly average core surplus (generally URE, non-cumulative preferred stock and a portion of common stock) as a percentage of quarterly average risk-adjusted assets.
- The net collateral ratio is net collateral (generally net loans, cash and investments) divided by total liabilities, as adjusted to exclude subordinated debt (subject to certain limitations) and the fair value of certain derivatives.

Pursuant to FCA guidance effective through December 31, 2016, a portion of our common stock was included in core surplus, subject to certain conditions. Through December 31, 2016, the FCA required us to also calculate our core surplus ratio excluding common stock and had established a 3.0 percent minimum for such ratio. As of December 31, 2016, our core surplus ratio excluding common stock was 9.55 percent. As displayed in the following table, at December 31, 2016 we exceeded the minimum regulatory capital requirements effective through December 31, 2016, which are noted parenthetically.

Previous Regulatory Capital Requirements and	Ratios
December 31,	2016
Permanent Capital Ratio (7.0%)	15.47 %
Total Surplus Ratio (7.0%)	14.52
Core Surplus Ratio (5.59%) <sup>(1)</sup>	11.02
Net Collateral Ratio (104.0%) <sup>(2)</sup>	106.94

<sup>(1)</sup> Through December 31, 2016, the regulatory minimum core surplus ratio was 3.5 percent, but the FCA required the higher 5.59 percent during a period in which we included a portion of our common stock as core surplus.

<sup>(2)</sup> Through December 31, 2016, the regulatory minimum net collateral ratio was 103.0 percent, but the FCA required the higher 104.0 percent during a period in which we had subordinated debt outstanding.

## **Capital Adequacy and Business Planning**

In conjunction with the annual business and financial planning process, the Board of Directors reviews and approves a capital adequacy plan which includes target levels for capital and capital ratio baselines. When reviewing the capital adequacy plan and setting an appropriate target equity level, the Board considers the following: the Bank's overall risk assessment and profile; capital composition; loan volume and earnings projections; anticipated future capital needs; and the Bank's capital levels in comparison to commercial banks and regulatory minimum capital standards. The Board-established baselines under the capital regulations are 8 percent for the CET1 capital ratio, 9.5 percent for the tier 1 capital ratio, 11.5 percent for the total capital ratio and 5.5 percent for the tier 1 leverage ratio.

The Board balances the amount required to properly capitalize the Bank with the desire to distribute a level of patronage that provides appropriate returns to our customerowners. The Board may increase or decrease these patronage levels (provided we remain within the regulatory capital minimums) based on its ongoing evaluation of the Bank's business.

As part of our business planning process, we perform stress tests to examine the Bank's financial condition and performance, including capital levels, under a variety of market and economic environments, including unanticipated loan growth and prolonged periods of financial and loan quality stress. These stress tests illustrate the Bank's ability to continue to maintain compliance with regulatory requirements through severe market conditions while continuing to fulfill our mission. Results of these stress tests are reviewed with the Board of Directors and the FCA.

## **Capital Plans**

In accordance with the Farm Credit Act, cooperatives and other eligible borrowers are required to purchase equity in CoBank as a condition of borrowing. Eligible borrowers that borrow on a patronage basis have voting rights while they are active borrowers. Generally, for borrowers other than affiliated Associations, the minimum initial borrower investment is equal to the lesser of one thousand dollars or 2 percent of the amount of the loan. The minimum initial investment for borrowers other than affiliated Associations is generally received by CoBank in cash at the time the borrower receives the loan proceeds. Affiliated Associations provide an initial and ongoing voting stock investment of 4 percent of their average outstanding loan balance. Collectively, the customer-owners that hold voting stock elect our Board of Directors.

We operate on a cooperative basis and return a significant portion of our earnings to our customer-owners in the form of patronage distributions. All patronage payments and retirements of equity require the prior approval of our Board of Directors, which may increase or decrease such payments based upon the Bank's current or projected business performance and capital levels. In addition, patronage payments can only be made if the Bank is in compliance with minimum regulatory capital requirements and preferred stock dividends for the immediately preceding period have been paid in full.

Patronage distributions are made in the form of cash and/or common stock, as shown in the following table. Eligible shareholders will receive patronage distributions from CoBank for 2020 in the first quarter of 2021.

Patronage Distributions (\$ in Thousands)										
Year Ended December 31,	2020				2019			2018		
Common Stock	\$	131,912		\$	128,428		\$	127,910		
Cash		489,913			475,341			475,571		
Special Cash		106,603			39,839			96,187		
Total Patronage Distributions	\$	728,428		\$	643,608		\$	699,668		
Patronage Distributions/										
Total Average Common Stock										
Owned by Active Borrowers		20.58	%		19.48	%		22.35	%	

In December 2020 and 2019, the Bank's Board of Directors approved special cash patronage distributions of \$106.6 million and \$39.8 million, respectively, to eligible customer-owners. The distributions reflect the Bank's strong financial performance and robust capital levels. The special cash patronage approved in 2020 will be paid in March 2021 while the special cash patronage approved in 2019 was paid in March 2020. In September 2018, we made a special cash patronage distribution of \$96.2 million to eligible customerowners. The 2018 distribution reflected the Bank's plan to share with eligible borrowers and other key stakeholders the benefits of federal tax reform legislation effective in 2018, along with earnings from significant nonrecurring items. The special patronage distributions for 2020, 2019 and 2018 were incremental to patronage program payments the Bank had initially targeted to make to customer-owners under its various patronage programs.

Our capital plans govern the level of capital investment required by customer-owners. We made changes to our capital plans that went into effect on January 1, 2018 which included, among other things, the creation of two separate capital plans for cooperative and other eligible direct borrowers. Previously, cooperative and other eligible direct borrowers were all in one capital plan. Pursuant to the new capital plans, agribusiness, communications and project finance customers are in one plan, while rural electric and water customers are in a separate plan. The targeted patronage levels and cash/equity splits under these new plans are more equitably balanced between the earnings generated by different customer portfolios and the use of the Bank by its patronage-eligible members. In addition, target patronage levels for all customers and partners were reduced under the new plans. No changes were made to target equity requirements for any borrower or commercial partner and the capital plan for financial service members remains unchanged.

Capital plans and patronage programs for each customer or loan type are summarized in the following table.

			Target Pat	ronage <sup>(2)</sup>		Cash / E Split	
	Equity	2020	2019	2018	2017	2020 - 2018	2017
Customer or Loan Type	Requirement <sup>(1)</sup>	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan
Agribusiness, Communications and Project Finance	8 %	95 bps	95 bps	95 bps	100 bps	75/25 %	75/25 %
Rural Electric and Water	8	80	80	80	100	60 / 40	75 / 25
Loans Purchased from Farm Credit Institutions	8	95	95	95	100	75 / 25	75 / 25
Affiliated Associations	4	36	40	45	45	100 / 0	100 / 0
Nonaffiliated Farm Credit and Other Financing Institutions	4	26	30	35	45	20 / 80	20 / 80

(1) Cooperatives and other eligible direct borrowers fulfill their equity requirement over time through the equity portion of their annual patronage distributions, as do loans purchased from other Farm Credit entities, and nonaffiliated Farm Credit and other financing institutions. Affiliated Associations capitalize their wholesale loans from the Bank in full on an annual basis.

<sup>(2)</sup> Target patronage is the level of patronage the Bank initially targets to make under its patronage programs, and is defined as the number of basis points (bps) of current-year average loan volume for eligible borrowers.

<sup>(3)</sup> Once borrowers reach their target equity requirement, they effectively receive 100 percent of their patronage distribution in cash.

For agribusiness, communications, project finance, rural electric and water customers and loans purchased from other Farm Credit institutions, the new target patronage levels took effect for 2018. Affiliated Associations and nonaffiliated Farm Credit entities and other financing institutions transitioned to their new targeted patronage levels over a multi-year period ending in 2020. Patronage distributions, if approved by the Board of Directors in its sole discretion, are made in March following the calendar year to which they relate.

The targeted equity requirement for the agribusiness, communications and project finance capital plan is 8 percent of the 10-year historical average loan volume. Additionally, when a borrower's loans are paid in full, stock is retired over a 10-year loan base period beginning in the year following loan payoff, subject to Board approval and compliance with minimum regulatory capital requirements. The targeted patronage rate was 95 basis points for the 2020, 2019 and 2018 plan years and 100 basis points for the 2017 plan year. For all plan years presented, the cash portion of patronage was 75 percent with the remaining portion of 25 percent paid in common stock.

The targeted equity requirement for the rural electric and water capital plan is 8 percent of the 10-year historical average loan volume. Additionally, when a borrower's loans are paid in full, stock is retired over a 10-year loan base period beginning in the year following loan payoff, subject to Board approval and compliance with minimum regulatory capital requirements. The targeted patronage rate was 80 basis points for the 2020, 2019 and 2018 plan years and 100 basis points for the 2017 plan year. The cash portion of patronage was 60 percent for all rural electric and water capital plan members with the remaining portion of 40 percent paid in common

stock for the 2020, 2019 and 2018 plan years. For the 2017 plan year, the cash portion of patronage was 75 percent with the remaining portion of 25 percent paid in common stock.

The key tenets of the capital plan for loan participations purchased from Farm Credit institutions are identical to the agribusiness, communications and project finance capital plan described above.

The targeted equity requirement for the affiliated Association capital plan is 4 percent of the one-year historical average loan volume. The targeted patronage rate for the affiliated Association capital plan was 36 basis points for the 2020 plan year, with all patronage being paid in cash. For the 2019, 2018 and 2017 plan years, the targeted patronage rate was 40, 45 and 45 basis points, respectively, with all patronage being paid in cash.

The targeted equity requirement for the nonaffiliated Farm Credit and other financing institutions capital plan is 4 percent of the 10-year historical average loan volume. Additionally, when these borrowers' loans are paid in full, stock is retired over a 10-year loan base period beginning in the year following loan payoff, subject to Board approval and compliance with minimum regulatory capital requirements. The targeted patronage rate for the nonaffiliated Farm Credit and other financing institutions capital plan was 26 basis points for the 2020 plan year. For the 2019, 2018 and 2017 plan years, the targeted patronage rate was 30, 35 and 45 basis points, respectively. For all plan years presented, the cash portion of patronage was 20 percent with the remaining portion of 80 percent paid in common stock.

## Other

## **Senior Officer Changes**

The following provides information on senior officer changes that will occur subsequent to December 31, 2020. Brenda K. Frank will become the Executive Vice President of Farm Credit Banking in the second quarter of 2021. Ms. Frank was formerly the President and CEO of Yankee Farm Credit, ACA, one of CoBank's affiliated Associations. Ms. Frank will succeed F. William Davis who currently serves in this leadership role and will retire in the third quarter of 2022.

## **Critical Accounting Estimates**

Management's discussion and analysis of the financial condition and results of operations are based on the Bank's consolidated financial statements, which we prepare in accordance with GAAP. In preparing these financial statements, we make estimates and assumptions. Our financial position and results of operations are affected by these estimates and assumptions, which are integral to understanding reported results.

Note 1 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements contains a summary of our significant accounting policies. We consider certain of these policies to be critical to the presentation of our financial condition, as they require us to make complex or subjective judgments that affect the value of certain assets and liabilities. Some of these estimates relate to matters that are inherently uncertain. Most accounting policies are not, however, considered critical. Our critical accounting policies relate to determining the level of our allowance for credit losses and the valuation of financial instruments with no ready markets (primarily derivatives and certain investment securities). Management has reviewed these critical accounting policies with the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

Certain of the statements below contain forward-looking statements, which are more fully discussed on page 71.

#### Allowance for Credit Losses

Our allowance for loan losses is an adjustment to the value of our total loan and finance lease portfolio for inherent credit losses related to outstanding balances. We provide line of credit financing to customers to cover short-term and variable needs, the usage of which, particularly for farm supply and grain marketing customers, is influenced by a number of factors, including changing commodity prices and supplies. As a result, we have significant unfunded commitments for which we maintain a separate reserve. This reserve is reported as a liability on the Bank's consolidated balance sheet. We refer to the combined amounts of the allowance for loan losses and the reserve for unfunded commitments as the "allowance for credit losses."

Our allowance for credit losses reflects our assessment of the risk of probable and estimable loss as related to outstanding balances and unfunded commitments in our loan and finance lease portfolio. The allowance for credit losses is maintained at a level consistent with this assessment, considering such factors as loss experience, portfolio quality, portfolio concentrations, agricultural production conditions, modeling imprecision, our mission, and economic and environmental factors specific to our business segments.

The allowance for credit losses is based on our regular evaluation of our loan and finance lease portfolio. We establish the allowance for credit losses via a process that begins with estimates of probable loss within the portfolio. Our methodology consists of analysis of specific individual credits and evaluation of the remaining portfolio. We evaluate significant individual credit exposures, including adversely classified loans, based upon the borrower's overall financial condition, resources, payment record and projected viability. We also evaluate the prospects for support from any financially viable guarantors and the estimated net realizable value of any collateral. Senior-level committees approve specific credit and reserve-related activities. The Audit and Risk Committees of the Board of Directors review the allowance for credit losses on a quarterly basis, and the Board of Directors approves the year-end allowance for credit losses. The allowance for credit losses estimation process is also governed by model risk management and is periodically reviewed and validated in accordance with our policies.

Our determination of the allowance for credit losses for commercial loans is sensitive to the assigned risk ratings and probabilities of default, assumptions surrounding loss given default and loss emergence timing and the overall level of exposure within our loan portfolio. Management evaluates and updates its assumptions around probabilities of default and loss given default on a periodic basis or more frequently as needed. Changes in these components underlying this critical accounting estimate could increase or decrease our provision for loan losses. Such a change would increase or decrease net income and the related allowance for loan losses and reserve for unfunded commitments, which could have a material effect on the Bank's financial position and results of operations.

To analyze the impact of assumptions on our provision for loan losses and the related allowance for credit losses, we changed a critical assumption to reflect the impact of deterioration or improvement in loan quality. In the event that 10 percent of loans (calculated on a pro-rata basis across all risk ratings), excluding wholesale loans to Associations and guaranteed loans, experienced downgrades or upgrades of one risk rating category, the provision for loan losses and related allowance for credit losses would have increased or decreased by \$43.2 million and \$28.3 million at December 31, 2020, respectively.

No significant changes were made to our methodology for estimating the allowance for credit losses for loans and finance leases in 2020, 2019 or 2018.

## Valuation of Financial Instruments with No Ready Markets and Other-Than-Temporary Impairment Analyses

We use fair value measurements to record fair value adjustments to certain financial instruments and to determine fair value disclosures. All of our investment securities and derivative instruments are reported at their estimated fair value on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. We also estimate the amount of other-than-temporary impairment for certain investment securities.

As discussed in Note 11 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements, we maximize the use of observable inputs when measuring fair value. Observable inputs reflect market-derived or market-based information obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs primarily reflect our estimates about market data.

The fair value of our interest rate swaps and other derivatives is the estimated amount to be received to sell a derivative asset or paid to transfer or extinguish a derivative liability in active markets among willing participants at the reporting date. Estimated fair value is determined through internal market valuation models. These models use an income approach and incorporate benchmark interest rate curves, volatilities, counterparty credit quality, and other inputs that are observable directly or indirectly in the marketplace. For derivative transactions with dealers, we compare internally calculated derivative valuations to counterparty results. The fair value of collateral assets and liabilities related to derivative contracts is their face value, plus accrued interest, as these instruments are cash balances; therefore, fair value approximates face value.

The fair value of nearly all investment securities is determined by a third-party pricing service that uses valuation models to estimate current market prices. For a small portion of our ABS and other investment securities market value is calculated internally using third-party models. Inputs and assumptions related to all of these models are typically observable in the marketplace. Such models incorporate prepayment assumptions and underlying mortgage- or assetbacked collateral information to generate cash flows that are discounted using appropriate benchmark interest rate curves and volatilities. These third-party valuation models also incorporate information regarding non-binding broker/dealer quotes, available trade information, historical cash flows, credit ratings, and other market information. Such valuations represent an estimated exit price, or price to be received by a seller in active markets to sell the investment securities to a willing participant.

Credit risk in our portfolio of investment securities is primarily limited to the 2 percent of securities that do not carry an explicit or implied government guarantee. In instances where the fair value of investment securities is less than the carrying value, we estimate the component of unrealized losses attributable to credit losses. During 2020, we enhanced our investment credit loss modeling and methodology related to our midstream energy corporate bonds in response to market volatility in energy commodity prices and market uncertainty associated with COVID-19. No other significant changes were made to our models or methodology for estimating credit losses for investment securities in 2020, 2019 or 2018. All models used for financial instruments valuation estimates included in the financial statements or for independent risk monitoring purposes are periodically reviewed and validated in accordance with our policies.

The degree of management judgment involved in determining the fair value and impairment of a financial instrument is dependent upon the availability of observable market inputs. For financial instruments that trade actively and have observable market prices and inputs, there is minimal subjectivity involved. When observable market prices and inputs are not fully available, management judgment is necessary to estimate fair value and impairment. Changes in market conditions may reduce the availability of market prices or observable data. For example, reduced liquidity in the capital markets or changes in secondary market activities could result in observable market inputs becoming unavailable. When market data is not available, we use valuation techniques requiring more management judgment to estimate the appropriate fair value measurement and level of impairment, if any. Changes in assumptions could affect these estimates.

At December 31, 2020, approximately 22 percent of total assets, or \$34.9 billion, consisted of financial instruments recorded at fair value. Over 99 percent of these financial instruments used valuation methodologies involving marketbased or market-derived information to measure fair value. The remaining financial instruments were measured using model-based techniques, consisting of a small portion of our ABS and other investments. At December 31, 2020, less than 1 percent of total liabilities, or \$0.6 billion, consisted of financial instruments recorded at fair value, the substantial majority of which are valued using methodologies involving market-based or market-derived information.

## **Business Outlook**

While CoBank achieved outstanding financial results despite the challenging COVID-19 operating environment in 2020, it remains uncertain how the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences will impact CoBank's business, results of operations and financial condition, as well as our ability to execute our business strategies and initiatives, going forward.

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a global public health crisis although vaccines have been developed and are in various stages of deployment. The American economy continues its recovery and to adapt to the constraints and obstacles of COVID-19. However, numerous impediments to a full recovery remain across many sectors of the economy, unemployment levels remain elevated, and economic output remains challenged. The U.S. presidential and congressional elections are behind us, providing clarity about the direction of federal policy for at least the next two years. The new administration, Congress and Federal Reserve will likely continue to deploy economic stimulus tools to ensure the economy and financial system continues to function. However, it remains to be seen how effective such stimulus measures and policy responses will be given the unique attributes of the pandemic and the current economic environment.

Although agricultural commodity prices have risen markedly in recent months, buoying hopes for recovery in the nation's farm sector, many challenges still exist. Food supply chains continue to adapt from foodservice consumption to a higher share of grocery store food purchases. The power sector is grappling with weakening electricity consumption by the commercial and industrial sectors as well as significant volatility in fuel prices. Demand for water has also shifted from commercial to residential use, altering needs for many water authorities. Broadband providers are keeping up with a massive increase in residential internet usage. Exports could be challenged by logistics, volatility of the U.S. dollar and any changes to trade agreements by the new administration. Risks to protein processors and dairy producers remain uncertain. The U.S. ethanol complex is navigating through an extremely difficult environment. The financial distress that is being experienced by our customers due to the impacts of COVID-19 could have an adverse impact on CoBank in the event that our customers are unable to fulfill their obligations to us.

The U.S. government has instituted various programs in support of the COVID-19 economic recovery. In late March 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Among other provisions, the CARES Act made funds available for small businesses under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which is a guaranteed loan program administered by the Small Business Administration. In December 2020, Congress passed the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits and Venues Act, which, among other provisions, allocated additional funding for PPP loans and allows certain existing PPP borrowers to apply for additional loans or draws on existing loans. CoBank obtained approval from the Small Business Administration in early April 2020 to participate as a lender in the PPP and successfully processed approximately \$349 million in PPP loans for our agribusiness, energy, communications and water customers. While CoBank will participate in additional PPP lending to our customers in 2021 until funding of this government program lapses, the level and amount of CoBank PPP loan activity is not expected to be as significant as 2020. Congress also provided additional funding for small business disaster loans and direct payments to farmers and ranchers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as making purchases of agriculture products. The impact of these and other U.S. government support programs and stimulus on the broader agricultural economy and our customers in particular is uncertain at this time.

Like every other business enterprise, CoBank has been focused on responding to this crisis and protecting the health and safety of our employees while continuing to serve our customers and fulfill our mission in rural America. We have been actively contacting customers across all the industries we finance to understand what their needs for credit and services will be as the crisis continues, and to make sure they know CoBank will be there to support them. While our board and executive team are hopeful that the pandemic will subside in the coming year and that the economy will rebound, we are also realistic and prepared for a potentially drawn-out recovery.

Our Board of Directors and executive team remain focused, now as much as ever, on upholding the long-term financial strength and capacity of the Bank to continue fulfilling the needs of our customer-owners with excellence, and fulfilling our mission to serve rural America.

CoBank cannot predict the severity and duration of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, CoBank is currently unable to accurately assess the full extent of the effects of COVID-19 on its business, operations or the global economy as a whole, but it could materially and adversely affect CoBank's business, results of operations and financial condition.

# **Forward Looking Statements**

Certain of the statements contained in this annual report that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Our actual results may differ materially and adversely from our expectations expressed in any forwardlooking statements. Forward-looking statements are typically identified by words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "estimate," "plan," "project," "target," "may," "will." "should," "would," "could" or similar expressions. Although we believe that the information expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements is reasonable, we can give no assurance that such projections and expectations will be realized or the extent to which a particular plan, projection or expectation may be realized. These forward-looking statements are based on current knowledge and are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to:

- Adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and related business disruptions;
- Government trade policies in the United States and other countries, including tariffs and other restrictions that impact markets for agricultural and other products;
- Changes in economic, marketplace or regulatory environments that negatively impact the agricultural, power, communications, water and leasing industries;
- The level of interest rates and relationships between various interest rate indices and actions taken by the Federal Reserve to manage the monetary policy of the United States;
- Replacement of LIBOR and the implementation of SOFR or another benchmark rate index;
- Currency fluctuations that impact the value of the U.S. dollar in global markets;
- Adverse food safety and weather events, disease, and other unfavorable conditions that periodically occur and impact agricultural productivity and income;
- Adverse effect of wildfires, floods and other natural disasters which may have a direct or indirect impact on certain of our borrowers;
- Changes in levels of global crop production, exports, usage and inventories;
- Credit performance of the loan portfolio;
- Performance of underlying collateral, including farmland values and specialized property that secures rural infrastructure credits;
- Loan portfolio growth and seasonal factors;
- Weakening domestic and global economic conditions;
- Volatility in agricultural and energy commodity prices;
- Government policies and political developments in the United States and other countries in which we do business;
- Disruptions caused by societal unrest in the United States;

- Geopolitical uncertainties throughout the world that may impact the industries we lend to, or, economic, fiscal or monetary conditions;
- Changes in the U.S. government's support of the System, the agricultural industry, agricultural exports, rural infrastructure and rural economies;
- Legislative or regulatory actions that affect current and ongoing operations of the System or the banking, financial services, agricultural, power, communications, water and leasing industries;
- Legislative or regulatory actions that affect our relationships with our employees;
- Actions taken by the U.S. Congress relative to other government-sponsored enterprises, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the FHLBs and Farmer Mac;
- Actions taken by the U.S. government to manage U.S. immigration or fiscal policies;
- Changes to tax laws;
- A decrease in the credit outlook or ratings of U.S. government debt and agency debt, including Systemwide Debt Securities;
- Cybersecurity risks, including a failure or breach of our operational or security systems or infrastructure, that could adversely affect our business, financial performance and reputation;
- Disruptive technologies impacting the banking and financial services industries or implemented by our competitors which negatively impact our ability to compete in the marketplace;
- Changes in assumptions underlying the valuations of financial instruments;
- Changes in estimates underlying the allowance for credit losses, including the implementation of the CECL accounting standard;
- Failure of our investment portfolio to perform as expected or deterioration in the credit quality of such investments;
- The resolution of legal proceedings and related matters;
- Environmental-related conditions or laws impacting our lending activities;
- Nonperformance by counterparties under our derivative and vendor contracts;
- Success of business model solutions focused on strengthening our ability to fulfill the System's collective mission, including through the more efficient use of capital; and
- Our ability to continue to partner with various System and other entities in light of ongoing consolidation within the System and the industries we serve.

We expressly disclaim any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.



# Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of CoBank, ACB

# **Opinions on the Financial Statements and Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of CoBank, ACB and its subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, and the related consolidated statements of income, of comprehensive income, of changes in shareholders' equity and of cash flows for the years then ended, including the related notes (collectively referred to as the "consolidated financial statements"). We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* (2013) issued by the COSO.

# **Basis for Opinions**

The Company's management is responsible for these consolidated financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting appearing on page 131 of the 2020 Annual Report to Shareholders. Our responsibility is to express opinions on the Company's consolidated financial statements and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit, which include standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Code of Professional Conduct and the Farm Credit Administration's independence rules set forth in 12 CFR Part 621, Accounting and Reporting Requirements, Subpart E, Auditor Independence.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the auditing standards of the PCAOB and in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud, and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects.

Our audits of the consolidated financial statements included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and

operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

# Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

# **Critical Audit Matters**

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current period audit of the consolidated financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that (i) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the consolidated financial statements and (ii) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the consolidated financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

# Allowance for Credit Losses - Loans and Unfunded Commitments Collectively Evaluated for Impairment

As described in Notes 1 and 3 to the consolidated financial statements, the allowance for credit losses was \$732.2 million, of which \$708.1 million is related to loans and unfunded commitments collectively evaluated for impairment as of December 31, 2020. As disclosed by management, the allowance for credit losses reflects management's assessment of the risk of probable and estimable losses related to outstanding balances and unfunded commitments in the Company's loan portfolio. To determine the allowance for credit losses related to loans and unfunded commitments collectively evaluated for impairment generally considers default rates from industry data, probabilities of default, loss given default assumptions, loss emergence timing, historical recovery rates, specific industry conditions, weather conditions, general economic and political conditions, and changes in the character, composition and performance of the portfolio, among other factors and assumptions. Additionally, management considers borrower, industry, geographic and portfolio concentrations, including current developments within operating segments, and modeling imprecision.

**CoBank 2020 Annual Report** 

The principal considerations for our determination that performing procedures relating to the allowance for credit losses - loans and unfunded commitments collectively evaluated for impairment is a critical audit matter are (i) the estimate of the allowance for credit losses related to loans and unfunded commitments collectively evaluated for impairment involved significant judgment by management, which in turn led to a high degree of auditor judgment, subjectivity and effort in performing audit procedures and evaluating audit evidence relating to default rates from industry data, probabilities of default, loss given default assumptions, loss emergence timing, and borrower, industry, geographic and portfolio concentrations, including current developments within operating segments; and (ii) the audit effort involved the use of professionals with specialized skill and knowledge.

Addressing the matter involved performing procedures and evaluating audit evidence in connection with forming our overall opinion on the consolidated financial statements. These procedures included testing the effectiveness of controls relating to management's allowance for credit losses estimation process, which included controls over the factors and assumptions used within the allowance for credit losses related to loans and unfunded commitments collectively evaluated for impairment. These procedures also included, among others, testing management's process for determining the allowance for credit losses, which included testing the completeness and accuracy of certain data used in the estimate and the involvement of professionals with specialized skill and knowledge to assist in (i) evaluating the appropriateness of the methodology and models and (ii) evaluating the reasonableness of management's factors and assumptions related to the default rates from industry data, probabilities of default, loss given default assumptions, loss emergence timing, and borrower, industry, geographic and portfolio concentrations, including current developments within operating segments, used in determining the allowance of credit losses related to loans and unfunded commitments collectively evaluated for impairment.

Pricewatechase Coopes LLP

Denver, Colorado March 2, 2021

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1989.

# Consolidated Balance Sheets CoBank, ACB

(\$ in Thousands)

As of December 31,	2020	 2019	 2018
Assets			
Total Loans	\$ 120,855,800	\$ 108,854,253	\$ 104,493,855
Less: Allowance for Loan Losses	635,426	654,764	621,591
Net Loans	120,220,374	108,199,489	103,872,264
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,335,212	948,669	1,368,075
Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds	835,000	1,810,000	1,300,000
Investment Securities	32,825,003	32,425,944	31,291,720
Accrued Interest Receivable	404,438	453,530	454,396
Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives	877,874	380,715	255,926
Other Assets	1,088,503	785,716	473,276
Total Assets	\$ 158,586,404	\$ 145,004,063	\$ 139,015,657
Liabilities			
Bonds and Notes	\$ 143,383,683	\$ 132,230,166	\$ 127,632,183
Accrued Interest Payable	329,068	425,648	433,300
Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives	610,420	263,134	154,841
Reserve for Unfunded Commitments	96,769	92,302	81,649
Patronage Payable	616,775	536,664	496,767
Other Liabilities	1,640,084	889,256	681,984
Total Liabilities	146,676,799	134,437,170	129,480,724
Commitments and Contingent Liabilities (Note 15)			
Shareholders' Equity			
Preferred Stock	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Common Stock	3,917,740	3,621,577	3,415,654
Unallocated Retained Earnings	5,803,923	5,350,891	4,982,383
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	687,942	94,425	(363,104)
Total Shareholders' Equity	11,909,605	10,566,893	9,534,933
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 158,586,404	\$ 145,004,063	\$ 139,015,657

# Consolidated Statements of Income CoBank, ACB

# (\$ in Thousands)

Year Ended December 31,	2020 2019					
Interest Income						
Loans	\$ 2,736,175	\$	3,687,926	\$	3,348,737	
Investment Securities, Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds	576,231		780,172		682,396	
Total Interest Income	3,312,406		4,468,098		4,031,133	
Interest Expense	1,745,874		3,069,539		2,599,837	
Net Interest Income	1,566,532		1,398,559		1,431,296	
Provision for Loan Losses	21,000		57,000		66,000	
Net Interest Income After Provision for Loan Losses	1,545,532		1,341,559		1,365,296	
Noninterest Income (Expense)						
Net Fee Income	141,190		108,708		106,247	
Patronage Income	109,098		91,428		75,835	
Prepayment Income	75,786		17,221		14,754	
Losses on Early Extinguishments of Debt	(78,653)		(16,619)		(15,021)	
Gains on Sales of Investment Securities	20		892		49,074	
Gains on Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives	19,358		14,046		2,294	
Return of Excess Insurance Funds	12,617		13,789		35,045	
Other, Net	2,420		(8,552)		21,432	
Total Noninterest Income	281,836		220,913		289,660	
Operating Expenses						
Employee Compensation	236,646		203,952		184,853	
General and Administrative	28,093		30,110		27,482	
Information Services	52,448		46,189		38,138	
Insurance Fund Premium	59,484		52,810		52,100	
Travel and Entertainment	7,062		18,966		18,418	
Farm Credit System Related	15,659		16,284		15,569	
Occupancy and Equipment	16,295		16,718		16,055	
Purchased Services	18,832		18,473		11,192	
Total Operating Expenses	434,519		403,502		363,807	
Income Before Income Taxes	1,392,849		1,158,970		1,291,149	
Provision for Income Taxes	 129,848		67,742		100,374	
Net Income	\$ 1,263,001	\$	1,091,228	\$	1,190,775	

# Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income CoBank, ACB

# (\$ in Thousands)

Year Ended December 31,	2020	2019	2018
Net Income	\$ 1,263,001	\$ 1,091,228	\$ 1,190,775
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), Net of Tax:			
Net Change in Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment			
Securities Not Other-Than-Temporarily Impaired	566,652	504,230	(136,193)
Net Change in Unrealized Losses on			
Other-Than-Temporarily Impaired Investment Securities	-	(102)	(3,404)
Net Change in Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Interest Rate			
Swaps and Other Derivatives	20,090	(38,001)	28,842
Net Pension Adjustment	6,775	(8,769)	6,233
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	593,517	457,358	(104,522)
Comprehensive Income	\$ 1,856,518	\$ 1,548,586	\$ 1,086,253

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

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# Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity CoBank, ACB

(\$ in Thousands)

	Pre	ferred Stock	Co	mmon Stock		Unallocated ained Earnings	C	cumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)		l Shareholders' Equity
Balance at December 31, 2017	\$	1,500,000	\$	3,240,445	\$	4,551,600	\$	(231,968)	\$	9,060,077
Balance Sheet Reclassification of Stranded Tax Effects from										
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) to Retained										
Earnings (Note 2)						26,614		(26,614)		-
Balance at January 1, 2018, as adjusted	\$	1,500,000	\$	3,240,445	\$	4,578,214	\$	(258,582)	\$	9,060,077
Comprehensive Income (Loss)						1,190,775		(104,522)		1,086,253
Preferred Stock:										
Dividends						(86,938)				(86,938)
Common Stock:										
Issuances				78,463						78,463
Redemptions				(31,164)						(31,164)
Patronage Distribution:										
Cash						(475,571)				(475,571)
Special Cash						(96,187)				(96,187)
Common Stock				127,910		(127,910)				-
Balance at December 31, 2018	\$	1,500,000	\$	3,415,654	\$	4,982,383	\$	(363,104)	\$	9,534,933
Cumulative Effect Adjustments from Changes in Accounting Princip	les <sup>(1)</sup>					8,425		171		8,596
Balance at January 1, 2019, as adjusted	\$	1,500,000	\$	3,415,654	\$	4,990,808	\$	(362,933)	\$	9,543,529
Comprehensive Income	,	,,		- , - , ,		1,091,228		457,358	,	1,548,586
Preferred Stock:						,, -		- ,		,,
Dividends						(87,537)				(87,537)
Common Stock:						(- , ,				(- / /
Issuances				121,522						121,522
Redemptions				(44,027)						(44,027)
Patronage Distribution:										
Cash						(475,341)				(475,341)
Special Cash						(39,839)				(39,839)
Common Stock				128,428		(128,428)				-
Balance at December 31, 2019	\$	1,500,000	\$	3,621,577	\$	5,350,891	\$	94.425	\$	10,566,893
Comprehensive Income	•	.,,	*	-,,	Ŧ	1,263,001	•	593,517	*	1,856,518
Preferred Stock:						.,,		,		1,000,010
Dividends						(84,160)				(84,160)
Common Stock:						(,,				(••,•••)
Issuances				203,582						203,582
Redemptions				(39,331)		2,619				(36,712)
Patronage Distribution:				(,,		_,				(,-,
Cash						(489,913)				(489,913)
Special Cash						(106,603)				(106,603)
Common Stock				131,912		(131,912)				(,500)
Balance at December 31, 2020	\$	1,500,000	\$	3,917,740	\$	5,803,923	\$	687,942	\$	11,909,605

<sup>(1)</sup> Effective January 1, 2019, we adopted changes in lease accounting pursuant to ASU "Leases (Topic 842)" and derivative accounting pursuant to ASU "Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815)", as described in Note 2.

# Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows CoBank, ACB

# (\$ in Thousands)

Year Ended December 31,	2020	2019	2018
Cash Flows Provided by Operating Activities			
Net Income	\$ 1,263,001	\$ 1,091,228	\$ 1,190,775
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:	, , ,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	, , , , , ,
Provision for Loan Losses	21,000	57.000	66,000
Remeasurement of Deferred Tax Liabilities / Deferred Tax Assets	-	-	(15,782)
Deferred Income Taxes	140,852	32,198	103,289
Depreciation and Amortization/Accretion, Net	52,665	20,605	6,772
Losses on Early Extinguishments of Debt	78,653	16,619	15,021
Net Gains on Sales of Investment Securities	(20)	(892)	(49,074)
Decrease (Increase) in Accrued Interest Receivable	49,092	866	(72,852)
(Increase) Decrease in Other Assets	(207,836)	(51,478)	80,948
(Decrease) Increase in Accrued Interest Payable	(96,580)	(7,652)	123,960
Increase (Decrease) in Other Liabilities	3,258	28,096	(42,406)
Net Losses on Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives	10,696	10,941	16,463
Proceeds from Termination of Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives	426	-	3,124
Purchase of Interest Rate Cap and Floor Derivatives		(47,017)	(808)
Payments on Operating Lease Liabilities	(9,991)	(9,804)	(000)
Other, Net	3.373	(585)	(3,741)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	1,308,589	1,140,125	1,421,689
Cash Flows Used in Investing Activities	.,,	.,,	.,,
Net Increase in Loans	(12,053,793)	(4,389,715)	(5,286,186)
Investment Securities:	(12,000,100)	(4,000,710)	(0,200,100)
Purchases	(36,664,097)	(17,606,457)	(21,687,411)
Proceeds from Maturities and Prepayments	33,958,770	14,656,031	15,533,807
Proceeds from Sales	3,499,919	2,351,723	1,752,299
Net Decrease (Increase) in Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds	975,000	(510,000)	(265,000)
Other. Net	52,614	(510,000)	(205,000)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(10,231,587)	(5,498,418)	(9,952,491)
Cash Flows Provided by Financing Activities	(10,201,007)	(0,+30,+10)	(0,002,401)
Bonds and Notes Proceeds	122,139,390	99,317,711	82,111,925
Bonds and Notes Retired	(111,463,334)	(94,735,778)	(72,914,602)
Payments on Early Extinguishments of Debt	(78,653)	(16,619)	(12,914,002) (15,021)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Notes Payable and Other Interest-bearing Liabilities	273,866	(127,681)	(13,021)
Preferred Stock Dividends Paid	(85,088)	(87,746)	(86,386)
Common Stock Issued	203,582	121,522	78,463
Common Stock Retired		,	(31,164)
	(36,712)	(44,027)	(494,220)
Cash Patronage Distribution Paid	(475,638)	(475,073)	(494,220) (96,187)
Special Cash Patronage Distribution Paid	(39,839)	(010.000)	
Cash Collateral (Paid) Received (to) from Derivative Counterparties, Net	(152,800)	(212,260)	48,910
Variation Margin Received on Cleared Derivatives, Net	24,767	198,838	42,642
Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities	10,309,541	3,938,887	8,585,257
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,386,543	(419,406)	54,455
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	948,669	1,368,075	1,313,620
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	\$ 2,335,212	\$ 948,669	\$ 1,368,075

# Supplemental Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows Information CoBank, ACB

# (\$ in Thousands)

Year Ended December 31,	 2020	 2019	 2018
Supplemental Noncash Investing and Financing Activities			
Net Change in Accrued Purchases of Securities	\$ (533,960)	\$ -	\$ 84,395
Net Change in Receivables from Investment Securities	(5,479)	61,258	(174,365)
Change in Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment Securities, Before Taxes	643,129	569,428	(148,507)
Patronage in Common Stock	131,912	128,428	127,910
Cash Patronage Payable	489,913	475,341	475,571
Special Cash Patronage Payable	106,603	39,839	-
Reclassification of Stranded Tax Effect from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income			
to Retained Earnings (Note 2)	-	-	26,614
Supplemental Noncash Fair Value Changes Related to Hedging Activities			
Increase in Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivative Assets	\$ (497,159)	\$ (124,789)	\$ (75,081)
Increase in Bonds and Notes Related to Hedging Activities	165,001	219,338	36,284
Increase in Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivative Liabilities	347,286	108,293	68,109
Supplemental Noncash Information Related to Leases			
Addition of Right-of-Use Assets and Operating Lease Liabilities to Balance Sheet (Note 2)	\$ -	\$ 82,290	\$ -
Right-of-Use Assets Obtained in Exchange for Operating Lease Liabilitiies	8,150	8,070	-
Reclassification of Deferred Gains Associated with Sale-Leaseback Transaction (Note 2)	-	8,596	-
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information			
Interest Paid	\$ 1,918,776	\$ 3,185,625	\$ 2,420,343
Income Taxes Paid	46,318	9,932	12,222

# Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

CoBank, ACB

(\$ in Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts and as Noted)

# Note 1 – Description of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### **Description of Business**

CoBank, ACB (CoBank or the Bank) is one of the four banks in the Farm Credit System (System). CoBank provides loans, leases and other financial services to support agriculture, rural infrastructure and rural communities across the United States. The System is a federally chartered network of borrower-owned lending institutions composed of cooperatives and related service organizations. The System was established in 1916 by the U.S. Congress and is a Government Sponsored Enterprise (GSE). We are federally chartered under the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (the Farm Credit Act), and are subject to supervision, examination and safety and soundness regulation by an independent federal agency, the Farm Credit Administration (FCA).

We provide a broad range of loans and other financial services through three operating segments: Agribusiness, Farm Credit Banking and Rural Infrastructure. We are cooperatively owned by our U.S. customers. Our customers consist of agricultural cooperatives; other food and agribusiness companies; rural power, communications and water cooperatives and companies; rural community facilities; Agricultural Credit Associations (Associations), which are regulated, farmer-owned financial institutions and members of the System; and other businesses that serve agriculture and rural communities. We are the primary funding source for certain Associations serving specified geographic regions in the United States. We collectively refer to these entities as our affiliated Associations.

Our wholly-owned leasing subsidiary, Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation (FCL), specializes in lease financing and related services for a broad range of equipment, machinery, vehicles and facilities.

In conjunction with other System entities, the Bank jointly owns three service organizations: the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation (Funding Corporation), the FCS Building Association and the Farm Credit System Association Captive Insurance Corporation. The Funding Corporation issues, markets and processes Federal Farm Credit Banks Consolidated Systemwide bonds, medium term notes and discount notes (collectively referred to as Systemwide Debt Securities) and also provides financial management and reporting services for the combined entities of the System. The FCS Building Association leases premises and equipment to the FCA as required by the Farm Credit Act. The Farm Credit Association Captive Insurance Company is a reciprocal insurer that provides insurance services such as directors and officers liability, fiduciary liability and a bankers bond to System organizations.

We have a minority ownership interest in AgVantis, Inc., which is chartered under the Farm Credit Act as a service organization to provide a range of support and technology services to certain Associations. We also have small equity interests in certain other System banks and Associations as required in connection with the purchase and sale of participation loans.

Copies of CoBank's financial reports are available on request by calling or visiting one of our banking center locations and through our website at www.cobank.com. Copies of financial reports of our affiliated Associations and the System are available on their respective websites.

## Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation and Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of CoBank and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, CoBank, FCB and FCL. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements exclude financial information of our affiliated Associations. CoBank and our affiliated Associations are collectively referred to as the "District." Additional information about our affiliated Associations is contained in Note 18.

We prepare our financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and prevailing practices within the financial services industry. These principles require us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates. Significant estimates are discussed in these notes to the consolidated financial statements, as applicable. Certain reclassifications have been made to amounts reported in previous years to conform to the 2020 presentation. Noninterest income and the provision for income taxes in the 2019 period included a reclassification between the Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments in the segment information in Note 14.

# Loans

We report loans, excluding leases, at their principal amount outstanding and accrue interest income based upon the daily principal amount outstanding. For loans purchased at a discount, we amortize unearned income using the straight-line method, which approximates the interest method. We defer loan origination fees and costs, and amortize them over the life of the related loan as an adjustment to yield. Most of our fixed-rate loans provide borrowers with the option to prepay their loans for a fee. When such loans are refinanced, loan prepayment fees are recognized upon extinguishment of the original loan and issuance of a new loan. For a refinancing determined to be a modification of the original loan, we defer and amortize loan prepayment fees over the life of the modified loan. This determination is based on the change in cash flows resulting from the refinancing.

Except as otherwise noted, leases in which we are the lessor are included with loans in the consolidated financial statements and related notes. We record these leases as either direct financing or operating leases. Under direct financing leases in which we are the lessor, unearned finance income from lease contracts represents the excess of gross lease receivables over the cost of leased equipment, net of estimated residual values. Residual values, which are reviewed at least annually, represent the estimated amount to be received at lease termination from the disposition of leased assets. We amortize net unearned finance income to interest income using the interest method. Under operating leases in which we are the lessor, property is recorded at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over the lease term to an estimated residual or salvage value. We recognize revenue as earned ratably over the term of the operating lease.

In the normal course of business, we manage lending credit exposures by selling or syndicating loans to System entities and other financial institutions. Such transactions include the transfer of participating interests, as defined pursuant to GAAP. We account for these transactions as sales and, accordingly, the assets transferred are not recognized in our consolidated balance sheets. We earn and recognize fees, which are reflected in net fee income in the accompanying consolidated statements of income, for acting as arranger or agent in these transactions and upon satisfying certain retention, timing and yield criteria.

## Impaired Loans

Impaired loans are loans for which it is probable that not all principal and interest will be collected according to the contractual terms of the loans. Impaired loans include loans that are in nonaccrual status, accruing restructured, or past due 90 days or more and still accruing interest.

A loan is considered contractually past due when any principal repayment or interest payment required by the loan instrument is not received on or before the due date. A loan remains contractually past due until it is formally restructured or until the entire amount past due, including principal, accrued interest, and penalty interest incurred as the result of past due status, is collected or otherwise discharged in full.

We do not accrue interest income on impaired loans unless they are adequately secured and in the process of collection. When interest accruals are suspended, accrued and unpaid interest income is reversed with current year accruals charged to earnings and prior-year amounts charged off against the allowance for loan losses.

For nonaccrual loans, we primarily apply cash receipts against the outstanding principal balance. If collectability of the loan balance is fully expected and certain other criteria are met, we recognize interest payments as interest income. We may return such loans to accrual status when the borrower is current, has demonstrated payment performance, collection of future payments is fully expected and there are no unrecovered charge-offs. Generally, troubled debt restructurings (TDRs) are reported as either performing or nonperforming loans. Accruing restructured loans, which represent performing TDRs, are those for which the contractual terms and conditions have been amended or otherwise revised to incorporate certain monetary concessions because the borrower was experiencing financial difficulty at the time of restructuring. Such a loan that is subsequently refinanced at a current market rate with no concessionary terms is accounted for as a new loan and is no longer reported as a TDR. We place the loan in nonaccrual status if the borrower's ability to meet the revised contractual terms is uncertain.

We establish an impairment reserve if the fair value of assets held for operating leases in which we are the lessor decreases to below book value and such difference is not recoverable.

# Allowance for Loan Losses and Reserve for Unfunded Commitments

Our allowance for loan losses is an adjustment to the value of our total loan and finance lease portfolio for inherent credit losses related to outstanding balances. We also maintain a separate reserve for unfunded commitments which is reported as a liability on the Bank's consolidated balance sheet. The reserve for unfunded commitments represents an additional reserve for binding commitments to extend credit and for commercial letters of credit. We had \$33.3 billion and \$64.7 million of commitments to extend credit and commercial letters of credit, respectively, at December 31, 2020. The amount of our allowance for loan losses and reserve for unfunded commitments can fluctuate based on the seasonal nature of borrowings in the agriculture industry, which is impacted by various factors including changing commodity prices and supplies. We refer to the combined amounts of the allowance for loan losses and the reserve for unfunded commitments as the "allowance for credit losses." At December 31, 2020, our allowance for credit losses totaled \$732.2 million, of which \$635.4 million related to the allowance for loan losses and \$96.8 million related to the reserve for unfunded commitments.

The allowance for credit losses is maintained at a level we consider sufficient to absorb losses inherent in the loan and finance lease portfolio and in unfunded commitments. We base the allowance for credit losses on our regular evaluation of these portfolios.

To determine our allowance for credit losses, we divide our loans and finance leases into two broad categories: those that are impaired and those that are not. A loan or finance lease is impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that we will not collect all amounts due under the contractual terms. Impairment of loans and finance leases is measured based on the fair value of the collateral, if the loan or finance lease is collateral dependent, or the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the effective interest rate of the contract. In limited cases, we base the impairment on observable market prices. Changes in the financial condition of our borrowers and in the general economy will cause these estimates, appraisals and evaluations to change.

For loans and finance leases that are not individually assessed for impairment, we establish an allowance for credit losses for losses that are both probable and estimable as of the balance sheet date. The evaluation of this portion of our portfolio generally considers default rates from industry data, probability of default, loss given default assumptions, loss timing, historical recovery rates, specific industry conditions, weather conditions, general economic and political conditions, and changes in the character, composition and performance of the portfolio, among other factors. We also consider overall portfolio indicators, including trends in internally risk-rated exposures, classified exposures, and historical charge-offs and recoveries. Additionally, we consider borrower, industry, geographic and portfolio concentrations, including current developments within operating segments, and modeling imprecision. Changes in these factors, or our assumptions and estimates thereof, could result in a change in the allowance for credit losses and could have a direct and material impact on the provision for loan losses and our results of operations. The total allowance for credit losses is available to absorb probable and estimable credit losses within our entire portfolio.

We increase or decrease the allowance for credit losses by recording a provision or reversal for loan losses in the statement of income. We record loan losses against the allowance for loan losses when management determines that any portion of the loan or finance lease is uncollectible. We add subsequent recoveries, if any, to the allowance for loan losses. Transfers between the allowance for loan losses and the reserve for unfunded commitments can occur in conjunction with funding a seasonal line of credit or other loan and decreasing a related unfunded commitment or, conversely, receiving a loan payment and increasing a related unfunded commitment. Newly-executed loan commitments will also increase this liability.

We also assess the credit risk associated with off-balance sheet loan commitments and letters of credit and determine the appropriate level of reserve for unfunded commitments that should be recorded.

No significant changes were made to our methodology for estimating the allowance for credit losses in 2020, 2019 or 2018.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of these financial statements, cash represents demand deposits at banks and deposits in the process of clearing, which are used for operating or liquidity purposes.

## Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds

Federal funds sold transactions involve lending excess reserve balances on a short-term basis, generally overnight. The Bank also places deposits with commercial banks, which funds are returned to the Bank the following day and earn interest overnight. Such investments are reported at their estimated fair value.

#### Investment Securities

We classify investment securities as available-for-sale and report them at their estimated fair value. We have no trading or held-to-maturity securities. We amortize or accrete purchased premiums and discounts using the constant yield method, which approximates the interest method, over the terms of the respective securities. We report unrealized gains and losses, net of applicable income taxes and credit losses, in the accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) component of shareholders' equity on the consolidated balance sheets. We report realized gains and losses on sales of investments in noninterest income in our consolidated statements of income. We use the specific identification method for determining cost in computing realized gains and losses on sales of investment securities.

We evaluate investments in a loss position to determine if such a loss is other-than-temporary. If losses are deemed to be other-than-temporary, we record the portion related to credit losses in earnings and the portion related to all other factors in other comprehensive income (loss). For additional information, refer to Note 4.

# Premises and Equipment

We carry premises and equipment at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization. We provide for depreciation and amortization on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. We record gains and losses on dispositions in current operating results. We record maintenance and repairs to operating expenses when incurred and capitalize improvements.

We capitalize leased property and equipment meeting certain criteria and depreciate such assets using the straightline method over the terms of the respective leases.

In 2016, the Bank completed a sale-leaseback transaction associated with our corporate headquarters in Greenwood Village, Colorado. Upon completion of this sale-leaseback transaction, the building asset was removed from the balance sheet. On January 1, 2019, we recorded a right-of-use (ROU) asset and lease liability related to this building lease with the adoption of the new lease accounting standard, which is described in Note 2. As of December 31, 2020, rental payments associated with the headquarters lease total approximately \$70.9 million over the remaining term of 10 years.

#### Mineral Rights

As a result of our 2012 merger with U.S. AgBank, FCB (AgBank), we own mineral rights in Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Utah. As required by the merger agreement, the net earnings from these mineral rights are passed on directly to certain Associations. Mineral income is primarily generated from royalties on natural gas and crude oil production, leasing bonuses and rental payments. This income may vary from year to year based on fluctuations in energy demand, prices and production. In 2020, net mineral income passed directly to these Associations totaled \$6.3 million compared to \$9.4 million in 2019 and \$8.6 million in 2018. As a result of the agreement to pass the net earnings from mineral rights to certain Associations, these mineral rights have no carrying value in our consolidated balance sheet.

#### Other Investments

We apply the equity method of accounting to certain equity investments classified within other assets in which we do not control the investee, but have limited influence over the operating and financial policies of the investee. This primarily includes our investments in which we are a limited partner in Rural Business Investment Companies (RBICs) and unincorporated business entities (UBEs), as well as our investments in the FCS Building Association and Farm Credit System Association Captive Insurance Corporation. We also hold an equity investment as a result of the bankruptcy of a former customer which is accounted for at cost less any impairment as there is no readily determinable fair value.

## **Derivatives and Hedging Activities**

We record derivatives as assets or liabilities at their fair value on the consolidated balance sheets. We record changes in the fair value of a derivative in current period earnings or accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), depending on the use of the derivative and whether it qualifies for fair value or cash flow hedge accounting. For derivatives not designated as hedging instruments, we record the related change in fair value in current period earnings.

We formally document all relationships between derivatives and hedged items, as well as risk management objectives and strategies for undertaking various hedge transactions. This process includes linking all derivatives that are designated as fair value or cash flow hedges to assets and liabilities on the consolidated balance sheet or to forecasted transactions.

We also formally assess (both at the hedge's inception and on an ongoing basis) whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions have been effective in offsetting changes in the fair value or cash flows of hedged items and whether those derivatives are expected to remain effective in future periods. We typically use regression analyses or other statistical analyses to assess the effectiveness of hedges. Hedge accounting is discontinued prospectively if: (i) it is determined that the derivative is no longer effective in offsetting changes in the fair value or cash flows of a hedged item; (ii) the derivative expires or is sold, terminated or exercised; or (iii) management determines that the fair value or cash flow hedge designation is no longer appropriate.

If we determine that a derivative no longer qualifies as an effective fair value or cash flow hedge, or if management removes the hedge designation, we continue to carry the derivative on the balance sheet at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized in current period earnings as part of noninterest income. For discontinued cash flow hedges, we amortize the component of other comprehensive income (loss) to net interest income over the original term of the hedge contract. For cash flow hedges in which the forecasted transaction is not probable of occurring, we immediately reclassify amounts in other comprehensive income (loss) to current period earnings. For additional information, refer to Note 10.

#### Systemwide Debt Securities

We, along with the other System banks, obtain funds for lending activities and operations primarily from the sale of debt securities issued by System banks through the Funding Corporation. These debt securities are composed of bonds, medium-term notes and discount notes and are collectively referred to as Systemwide Debt Securities. Pursuant to the Farm Credit Act, Systemwide Debt Securities are the general unsecured joint and several obligations of the System banks, and each System bank is primarily liable for the portion of the Systemwide Debt Securities issued on its behalf. CoBank accounts for its joint and several liabilities for all Systemwide Debt Securities as a contingent liability. We do not record a liability unless it is probable that we will be required to pay an amount and that amount can be reasonably estimated. At December 31, 2020, CoBank was primarily liable for \$141.9 billion of Systemwide Debt Securities, which was recorded as a liability on our consolidated balance sheet. For additional information, refer to Note 5.

#### Fair Value Measurements

Our fair value measurements represent the estimated amount to be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer or extinguish a liability (an exit price) in active markets among willing participants at the reporting date. We maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The classification of assets and liabilities measured at fair value within the disclosure hierarchy is based on three levels of inputs to the fair value measurement process, which are described in Note 11.

## Fair Value of Guarantor's Obligations

We provide standby letters of credit, which are irrevocable undertakings to guarantee payment of a specified financial obligation. As a guarantor, we recognize a liability for the fair value of the obligation undertaken in issuing the guarantee. Our liability for the fair value of these obligations is determined by applying a risk-adjusted spread percentage to those obligations.

## Employee Benefit Plans

Our employee benefit plans are described in Note 7. The net expense for employee benefit plans is recorded as employee compensation expense. For defined benefit pension plans, we use the "Projected Unit Credit" actuarial method for financial reporting and funding purposes.

The anticipated costs of benefits related to postretirement health care and life insurance are accrued during the period of the employees' active service and are classified as employee compensation expense.

## Income Taxes

CoBank operates as a non-exempt cooperative, which qualifies for tax treatment under Subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, amounts distributed as qualified patronage distributions to borrowers in the form of cash or stock may be deducted from taxable income and are generally included in the recipients' taxable income. We base provisions for income taxes for financial reporting purposes only on those taxable earnings that will not be distributed as qualified patronage distributions. Substantially all of the Bank's statutorily tax-exempt activities reside in CoBank, FCB, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CoBank.

We record deferred tax assets and liabilities for temporary differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases except for our nontaxable entity. We measure these deferred amounts using the current marginal statutory tax rate on the taxable portion of our business activities. Calculating deferred tax assets and liabilities involves various management estimates and assumptions as to future taxable earnings. We expect to fully realize deferred tax assets based on the projected level of future taxable income and other factors.

# Note 2 – Recently Issued or Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act"), which provides relief from certain requirements under U.S. GAAP, was signed into law. Section 4013 of the CARES Act gives entities temporary relief from the accounting and disclosure requirements for troubled debt restructurings (TDRs) and if certain criteria are met these loan modifications may not need to be classified as TDRs. In response to the CARES Act, the FCA issued guidance to System institutions allowing for temporary relief from the accounting and disclosure requirements for TDRs. This TDR guidance from the FCA applied to loan modifications made beginning March 1, 2020 and terminated on December 31, 2020. While we adopted this TDR accounting and disclosure relief for qualifying loan and lease modifications, it was not material to our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In March 2020, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU), "Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848): Facilitation of the Effects of Reference Rate Reform on Financial Reporting." The update provides optional expedients and exceptions for applying generally accepted accounting principles to contracts, hedging relationships, and other transactions affected by reference rate reform. The update simplifies the accounting evaluation of contract modifications that replace a reference rate affected by reference rate reform and contemporaneous modifications of other contract terms related to the replacement of the reference rate. With respect to hedge accounting, the update allows amendment of formal designation and documentation of hedging relationships in certain circumstances as a result of reference rate reform and provides additional expedients for different types of hedges, if certain criteria are met. The optional amendments were effective for all entities as of March 12, 2020, through December 31, 2022. We applied the optional accounting expedients available under this ASU to our debt and derivative contract modifications related to the LIBOR transition in the fourth quarter of 2020 as more fully described in Notes 5 and 10. We have also begun to apply the optional accounting expedients to our loans as we incorporate fallback language into these agreements.

In January 2021, the FASB issued ASU 2021-01, "Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848): Scope." The update allows certain derivative instruments to be modified to change the rate used for margining, discounting, or contract price alignment. An entity may elect to apply the optional amendments from March 12, 2020 to December 31, 2022. We are currently evaluating the impact of this ASU.

In December 2019, the FASB issued ASU 2019-12, "Simplifying the Accounting for Income Taxes (Topic 740)."

This guidance eliminates certain intraperiod tax allocations, foreign deferred tax recognition and interim period tax calculations. In addition, the guidance simplifies disclosure regarding capital and franchise taxes, the allocation of goodwill in business combinations, subsidiary financial statements and other disclosures. The new guidance is intended to eliminate or simplify certain aspects of income tax accounting that are complex or that require significant judgement in application or presentation. The guidance will be effective for fiscal years after December 15, 2021. Early adoption of the guidance is permitted and we adopted the new standard on January 1, 2020. The adoption of this guidance did not impact our consolidated financial position or results of operations; nor did the guidance impact the presentation of taxes for prior periods in the 2020 interim or year-end financial statements.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU, "Intangibles -Goodwill and Other -- Internal-Use Software (Subtopic 350-40): Customer's Accounting for Implementation Costs Incurred in a Cloud Computing Arrangement That Is a Service Cost." The guidance aligns the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred in a hosting arrangement that is a service contract with the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred to develop or obtain internaluse software (and hosting arrangements that include an internal-use software license). The accounting for the service element of a hosting arrangement that is a service contract is not affected by this guidance. The guidance also requires an entity (customer) to expense the capitalized implementation costs of a hosting arrangement that is a service contract over the term of the hosting arrangement. It further specifies where to present expense and payments in the financial statements. We adopted this new standard on January 1, 2020. The adoption did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU, "Compensation – Retirement Benefits – Defined Benefit Plans – General (Topic 715): Disclosure Framework – Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Defined Benefit Plans." This ASU modifies the disclosure requirements for employers that sponsor defined benefit pension or other postretirement plans. For public business entities, the ASU becomes effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2020, with early adoption permitted. We adopted this guidance as of December 31, 2020. The adoption of this guidance did not impact the Bank's financial condition or its results of operations, but resulted in removal or modification of certain of the employee benefit plan disclosures, which are contained in Note 7.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU, "Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosure Framework – Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement." This ASU eliminates, adds and modifies certain requirements to improve effectiveness of fair value measurement disclosures. This guidance becomes effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is permitted and an entity is permitted to early adopt any removed or modified disclosures and delay adoption of the additional disclosures until their effective date. The adoption of this guidance did not impact the Bank's financial condition or its results of operations, but did impact the fair value measurements disclosures, which are contained in Note 11. The Bank early adopted the removed and modified disclosures in 2018.

New U.S. tax laws resulting from legislation commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) were enacted in late 2017. Among other things, the TCJA reduced the federal corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. In accordance with GAAP, the change to a lower corporate tax rate led to a remeasurement of our deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets in the period of enactment (2017). For deferred tax amounts originally recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), this remeasurement resulted in a disproportionate effect of \$26.6 million which remained "stranded" in accumulated other comprehensive loss as of December 31, 2017. In February 2018, the FASB issued ASU, "Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income." The guidance provided entities the option to reclassify the stranded tax effects of the TCJA from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) to retained earnings. We adopted this guidance in 2018. As a result, the stranded tax effect was reclassified in 2018 resulting in increases to accumulated other comprehensive loss and retained earnings of \$26.6 million. The Bank utilizes the item-by-item approach for releasing income tax effects from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). The reclassification by component of accumulated other comprehensive loss is presented in Note 6.

In August 2017, the FASB issued ASU, "Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815): Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities." The new guidance will make more financial and non-financial hedging strategies eligible for hedge accounting. It also amends the presentation and disclosure requirements and changes how companies assess effectiveness. It is intended to more closely align hedge accounting with companies' risk management strategies, simplify the application of hedge accounting, and increase transparency as to the scope and results of hedging programs. We adopted the new standard on January 1, 2019 and recorded a cumulative-effect adjustment to retained earnings of \$0.2 million to reflect the removal of previously recorded hedge ineffectiveness on cash flow hedges. In addition, we adopted certain new derivative disclosures required under the ASU, which are included in Note 10.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU, "Leases (Topic 842)." This guidance is intended to improve financial reporting about leasing transactions and affects all organizations that lease assets. The ASU establishes a right-ofuse (ROU) model that requires organizations that lease assets, referred to as lessees, to recognize on the balance sheet the ROU assets and liabilities created by those leases. The accounting for organizations that own the assets leased by the lessee, also known as lessor accounting, remains largely unchanged under the new lease accounting standard except for certain initial direct costs previously deferred and amortized are expensed under the new lessor accounting provisions. In July 2018, the FASB issued additional guidance which provided a new and optional transition method whereby an

entity initially applies the leasing standard at the adoption date and recognizes a cumulative-effect adjustment to opening retained earnings. We adopted the new lease accounting standard effective January 1, 2019, under the optional transition method. The new standard provides a number of optional practical expedients in transition. We elected certain of the practical expedients, which among other things, allowed us to carry forward our historical lease classification. On adoption, we recorded ROU assets of \$82.3 million, with offsetting lease liabilities of the same amount, on our consolidated balance sheet. The most significant ROU assets and lease liabilities are related to operating leases, in which the Bank is the lessee, for our corporate headquarters and banking center offices. Upon adoption, the Bank also recognized a cumulative effect adjustment of \$8.6 million to increase the beginning balance of retained earnings for remaining deferred gains associated with the sale-leaseback of our corporate headquarters which occurred in a prior period. From a lessor standpoint, the new lease accounting standard increased our compensation expense related to lease originations by \$7.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2019 as a result of expensing certain initial direct costs that were previously deferred and amortized. In addition, we adopted certain new lessee disclosures required under the ASU, which are included in Note 12. Information related to FCL's direct financing leases and property on operating leases in which we are the lessor is included in Note 3.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU, "Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments." The ASU introduces a new model for recognizing credit losses on financial instruments based on an estimate of current expected credit losses. The new model will apply to: (1) loans, accounts receivable, trade receivables, and other financial assets measured at amortized cost; (2) loan commitments and certain other off-balance sheet credit exposures; (3) debt securities and other financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (loss); and (4) beneficial interests in securitized financial assets. For public business entities that are not U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filers the ASU becomes effective in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2020, including interim periods within those fiscal years, and early application is permitted. In October 2019, the FASB deferred the effective date of the ASU by two years to fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2022 for business entities that do not meet the definition of an SEC filer. CoBank has not and does not intend to early adopt this ASU prior to the required effective date of January 1, 2023. While we continue to review the guidance and evaluate assumptions and models, we believe the ASU may result in a change in the allowance for credit losses given the change to estimated losses over the contractual life with an anticipated impact from longer duration portfolios, as well as the addition of an allowance for investment securities and other financial instruments. The amount of the increase or decrease, if any, will be impacted by the composition of our portfolios and credit quality at the adoption date as well as economic conditions and forecasts at that time. In addition, we

# Note 3 – Loans, Loan Quality and Allowance for Credit Losses

# **Loans Outstanding**

Loans outstanding by operating segment are shown below.

### (\$ in Millions)

December 31,		2020				2019				\$ 32,432 31 50,695 49 21,367 20		
	A	mount	%		Α	mount	%		Α	mount	%	
Agribusiness	\$	36,103	30 %	<b>)</b>	\$	33,168	30	%	\$	32,432	31 %	
Farm Credit Banking		60,516	50			54,459	50			50,695	49	
Rural Infrastructure		24,237	20			21,227	20			21,367	20	
Total	\$	120,856	100 %	5	\$	108,854	100	%	\$	104,494	100 %	
Loans Purchased	\$	20,820			\$	18,734			\$	17,616		
Loans Sold		24,979				21,081				18,895		

We have loans outstanding in all 50 states as well as certain foreign countries and a limited number of U.S. territories. Our agricultural export finance loan portfolio, which is part of our Agribusiness operating segment, includes U.S. government-sponsored trade financing programs which guarantee payment in the event of default by the borrower of generally 98 percent of loan principal outstanding and varying percentages of interest due. Of the \$6.0 billion in agricultural export finance loans outstanding as of December 31, 2020, 22 percent were guaranteed by the U.S. government under one of these trade financing programs, primarily the General Sales Manager program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation. We further mitigate our exposure for certain agricultural export finance lending transactions by purchasing credit enhancement from non-government third parties. We make loans to customers in various industries. For the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, total loans outstanding (excluding wholesale loans to Associations) did not exceed 10 percent for any specific industry.

Wholesale loans to our affiliated Associations represented 46 percent, 45 percent and 44 percent of total loans outstanding at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. As of December 31, 2020, our affiliated Associations provided financing and other financial services to farmer-owners for rural real estate, equipment, working capital, agricultural production and operating purposes in the Northwest, West, Southwest, Rocky Mountains, Mid-Plains and Northeast regions of the United States. Participations in loans made by other System banks to their affiliated Associations represented 4 percent of our total loans outstanding at December 31, 2020 and 5 percent of our total loans outstanding at December 31, 2019 and 2018.

Unamortized loan premiums and discounts, and unamortized deferred loan fees and costs totaled \$107.1 million, \$99.7 million and \$95.3 million as of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

## **Allowance for Credit Losses**

The following tables present changes in the components of our allowance for credit losses and details of ending balances. The allowance for credit losses includes the allowance for loan losses and the reserve for unfunded commitments. The elements of our allowance for credit losses are presented by operating segment.

			Fa	rm Credit		Rural		
	Ag	ribusiness	Banking <sup>(1)</sup>		h	nfrastructure	Total	
December 31, 2020								
Allowance for Loan Losses								
Beginning Balance	\$	471,495	\$	-	\$	183,269	\$ 654,764	
Charge-offs		(6,472)		-		(32,230)	(38,702	
Recoveries		2,248		-		583	2,831	
Provision for Loan Losses (Loan Loss Reversal)		25,600		-		(4,600)	21,000	
Transfers to Reserve for Unfunded Commitments <sup>(2)</sup>		(3,446)		-		(1,021)	(4,467	
Ending Balance		489,425		-		146,001	635,426	
Reserve for Unfunded Commitments								
Beginning Balance	\$	77,471	\$	-	\$	14,831	\$ 92,302	
Transfers from Allowance for Loan Losses <sup>(2)</sup>		3,446		-		1,021	4,467	
Ending Balance		80,917		-		15,852	96,769	
Allowance for Credit Losses	\$	570,342	\$	-	\$	161,853	\$ 732,195	
Allowance for Credit Losses								
Ending Balance, Allowance for Credit Losses Related to Loans and Unfur	ded Commitments:							
Individually Evaluated for Impairment	\$	20,821	\$	-	\$	3,300	\$ 24,121	
Collectively Evaluated for Impairment		549,521		-		158,553	708,074	
Total	\$	570,342	\$	-	\$	161,853	\$ 732,195	
Loans								
Ending Balance for Loans and Related Accrued Interest:								
Individually Evaluated for Impairment	\$	98,401	\$	60,601,584	\$	19,000	\$ 60,718,985	
Collectively Evaluated for Impairment		36,110,902				24,293,020	60,403,922	
Total	\$	36,209,303	\$	60,601,584	\$	24,312,020	\$ 121,122,907	

<sup>(1)</sup> As a result of our strong collateral position with respect to loans to Associations, along with the earnings, capital, portfolio diversification and loss reserves of Associations that serve as an additional layer of protection against losses, no allowance for credit losses is recorded in our Farm Credit Banking operating segment.

<sup>(2)</sup> These transfers generally occur as a result of advances on or repayments of seasonal lines of credit or other loans.

				Farm Credit		Rural		
	Ag	ribusiness		Banking <sup>(1)</sup>	h	nfrastructure		Total
December 31, 2019								
Allowance for Loan Losses								
Beginning Balance	\$	438,804	\$	-	\$	182,787 \$	\$	621,591
Charge-offs		(8,782)		-		(7,500)		(16,282
Recoveries		2,492		-		616		3,108
Provision for Loan Losses		53,000		-		4,000		57,000
Transfers (to) from Reserve for Unfunded Commitments <sup>(2)</sup>		(14,019)		-		3,366		(10,653
Ending Balance		471,495		-		183,269		654,764
Reserve for Unfunded Commitments								
Beginning Balance		63,452		-		18,197		81,649
Transfers from (to) Allowance for Loan Losses <sup>(2)</sup>		14,019		-		(3,366)		10,653
Ending Balance		77,471		-		14,831		92,302
Allowance for Credit Losses	\$	548,966	\$	-	\$	198,100 \$	\$	747,066
Allowance for Credit Losses								
Ending Balance, Allowance for Credit Losses Related to Loans and Unfunded Col	mmitments:							
Individually Evaluated for Impairment	\$	49,567	\$	-	\$	15,047 \$	\$	64,614
Collectively Evaluated for Impairment		499,399		-		183,053		682,452
Total	\$	548,966	\$	-	\$	198,100 \$	\$	747,066
Loans								
Ending Balance for Loans and Related Accrued Interest:								
Individually Evaluated for Impairment	\$	220,398	\$	54,588,499	\$	20,285 \$	\$	54,829,182
Collectively Evaluated for Impairment		33,082,091		-		21,280,383		54,362,474
Total	\$	33,302,489	\$	54,588,499	\$	21,300,668 \$	\$	109,191,656
December 31, 2018								
Allowance for Loan Losses								
Beginning Balance	\$	411,078	\$	-	\$	165,849 \$	\$	576,927
Charge-offs		(33,575)		-		(2,135)		(35,710
Recoveries		1,927		-		231		2,158
Provision for Loan Losses		54,000		-		12,000		66,000
Transfers from Reserve for Unfunded Commitments <sup>(2)</sup>		5,374		-		6,842		12,216
Ending Balance		438,804		-		182,787		621,591
Reserve for Unfunded Commitments								
Beginning Balance		68,826		-		25,039		93,865
Transfers to Allowance for Loan Losses <sup>(2)</sup>		(5,374)		-		(6,842)		(12,216
Ending Balance		63,452		-		18,197		81,649
Allowance for Credit Losses	\$	502,256	\$	-	\$	200,984 \$	\$	703,240
Allowance for Credit Losses								
Ending Balance, Allowance for Credit Losses Related to Loans and Unfunded Con	mmitments:							
Individually Evaluated for Impairment	\$	64,289	\$	-	\$	22,797 \$	\$	87,086
Collectively Evaluated for Impairment		437,967		-		178,187		616,154
Total	\$	502,256	\$	-	\$	200,984 \$	\$	703,240
Loans								
Ending Balance for Loans and Related Accrued Interest:								
Individually Evaluated for Impairment	\$	288,125	\$	50,825,304	\$	38,163 \$	5	51,151,592
Collectively Evaluated for Impairment	Ŧ	32,290,633	4		Ŧ	21,406,885		53,697,518
		32,578,758		50,825,304		,,		104,849,110

<sup>(1)</sup> As a result of our strong collateral position with respect to loans to Associations, along with the earnings, capital, portfolio diversification and loss reserves of Associations that serve as an additional layer of protection against losses, no allowance for credit losses is recorded in our Farm Credit Banking operating segment.

(2) These transfers generally occur as a result of advances on or repayments of seasonal lines of credit or other loans.

The information in the tables under the Credit Quality, Aging Analysis and Impaired Loans captions is presented by operating segment, with guaranteed and non-guaranteed loans in our Agribusiness segment separately identified.

# **Credit Quality**

The following table presents our loans and accrued interest classified, by management, pursuant to our regulator's Uniform Loan Classification System.

	Ag	gribusiness	Agı	ribusiness	l	Farm Credit		Rural	
December 31, 2020	Nor	-Guaranteed	Gι	uaranteed		Banking	In	frastructure	Total
Acceptable	\$	32,397,637	\$	1,497,512	\$	58,830,561	\$	24,041,710	\$ 116,767,420
Special Mention		1,743,097		-		1,771,023		191,725	3,705,845
Substandard		564,493		-		-		73,483	637,976
Doubtful		6,564		-		-		5,102	11,666
Loss		-		-		-		-	-
Total	\$	34,711,791	\$	1,497,512	\$	60,601,584	\$	24,312,020	\$ 121,122,907
December 31, 2019									
Acceptable	\$	29,723,483	\$	1,198,721	\$	51,583,749	\$	20,800,575	\$ 103,306,528
Special Mention		1,297,856		-		3,004,750		159,563	4,462,169
Substandard		1,074,366		-		-		326,963	1,401,329
Doubtful		8,063		-		-		13,567	21,630
Loss		-		-		-		-	-
Total	\$	32,103,768	\$	1,198,721	\$	54,588,499	\$	21,300,668	\$ 109,191,656
December 31, 2018									
Acceptable	\$	29,678,071	\$	1,075,376	\$	50,295,238	\$	21,034,895	\$ 102,083,580
Special Mention		877,840		-		471,155		138,826	1,487,821
Substandard		941,973		-		58,911		271,327	1,272,211
Doubtful		5,498		-		-		-	5,498
Loss		-		-		-		-	-
Total	\$	31,503,382	\$	1,075,376	\$	50,825,304	\$	21,445,048	\$ 104,849,110

# **Aging Analysis**

The following tables present an aging of past due loans and accrued interest.

		Agribusiness	A	gribusiness	Farm Credit		Rural	
December 31, 2020	Ν	on-Guaranteed	(	Guaranteed	Banking	h	nfrastructure	Total
30-89 Days Past Due	\$	35,635	\$	-	\$ -	\$	11,691	\$ 47,326
90 Days Past Due		29,519		-	-		5,102	34,621
Total Past Due	\$	65,154	\$	-	\$ -	\$	16,793	\$ 81,947
Current		34,646,637		1,497,512	60,601,584		24,295,227	121,040,960
Total	\$	34,711,791	\$	1,497,512	\$ 60,601,584	\$	24,312,020	\$ 121,122,907
Accruing Loans 90 Days								
or More Past Due	\$	736	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 736
December 31, 2019								
30-89 Days Past Due	\$	12,111	\$	-	\$ -	\$	31,360	\$ 43,471
90 Days Past Due		43,329		-	-		14,943	58,272
Total Past Due	\$	55,440	\$	-	\$ -	\$	46,303	\$ 101,743
Current		32,048,328		1,198,721	54,588,499		21,254,365	109,089,913
Total	\$	32,103,768	\$	1,198,721	\$ 54,588,499	\$	21,300,668	\$ 109,191,656
Accruing Loans 90 Days								
or More Past Due	\$	4,314	\$	-	\$ -	\$	1,377	\$ 5,691

		Agribusiness	Α	Agribusiness Farm Credit Rural				Rural	
December 31, 2018	Ν	Non-Guaranteed		Guaranteed		Banking		nfrastructure	Total
30-89 Days Past Due	\$	27,692	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,025	\$ 28,717
90 Days Past Due		15,748		-		-		21,521	37,269
Total Past Due	\$	43,440	\$	-	\$	-	\$	22,546	\$ 65,986
Current		31,459,942		1,075,376		50,825,304		21,422,502	104,783,124
Total	\$	31,503,382	\$	1,075,376	\$	50,825,304	\$	21,445,048	\$ 104,849,110
Accruing Loans 90 Days									
or More Past Due	\$	1,685	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 1,685

# **Impaired Loans**

Impaired loan information is shown in the following table. Loans past due 90 days or more and still accruing interest are adequately secured and in the process of collection.

		Agribusiness	Agribusiness	I	Farm Credit		Rural	
December 31, 2020	N	on-Guaranteed	Guaranteed <sup>(1)</sup>		Banking <sup>(1)</sup>	lr	nfrastructure	Total
Nonaccrual Loans <sup>(2)</sup>	\$	98,401	\$ -	• \$	-	\$	19,000	\$ 117,401
Accruing Loans 90 Days								
or More Past Due		736	-		-		-	736
Accruing Restructured Loans		-	-		-		-	-
Total Impaired Loans	\$	99,137	\$ -	. \$	-	\$	19,000	\$ 118,137
December 31, 2019								
Nonaccrual Loans <sup>(2)</sup>	\$	220,398	\$-	- \$	-	\$	20,285	\$ 240,683
Accruing Loans 90 Days								
or More Past Due		4,314	-		-		1,377	5,691
Accruing Restructured Loans		6,192	-		-		-	6,192
Total Impaired Loans	\$	230,904	\$-	. \$	-	\$	21,662	\$ 252,566
December 31, 2018								
Nonaccrual Loans <sup>(2)</sup>	\$	288,125	\$-	- \$	-	\$	38,163	\$ 326,288
Accruing Loans 90 Days								
or More Past Due		1,685	-		-		-	1,685
Accruing Restructured Loans		-			-		-	-
Total Impaired Loans	\$	289,810	\$-	- \$	-	\$	38,163	\$ 327,973

<sup>(1)</sup> There were no impaired loans in our Agribusiness Guaranteed or Farm Credit Banking portfolios for any of the periods presented.

(2) Included in nonaccrual loans at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 are \$12.5 million, \$96.2 million and \$101.9 million, respectively, of loans that qualify as troubled debt restructurings.

The following tables present information on impaired loans and related amounts in the allowance for loan losses.

	Agribusiness	Agribusiness	Farm Credit	Rural	
December 31, 2020	Non-Guaranteed	Guaranteed <sup>(1)</sup>	Banking <sup>(1)</sup>	Infrastructure	Total
Impaired Loans With No Related			Ŭ		
Allowance for Loan Losses					
Carrying Amount	\$ 40,674	\$-	\$-	\$ 5,101	\$ 45,77
Unpaid Principal	71,796	-	-	23,363	95,15
Average Balance	52,750	-	-	5,727	58,47
Interest Income Recognized	13,880	-	-	-	13,88
Impaired Loans With Related					
Allowance for Loan Losses					
Carrying Amount	58,463	-	-	13,899	72,36
Unpaid Principal	69,809	-	-	14,124	83,93
Allowance for Loan Losses	20,821	-	-	3,300	24,12
Average Balance	129,445	-	-	29,239	158,684
Interest Income Recognized	13,522	-	-	-	13,52
Total Impaired Loans					
Carrying Amount	99,137	-	-	19,000	118,13
Unpaid Principal	141,605	-	-	37,487	179,092
Allowance for Loan Losses	20,821	-	-	3,300	24,12
Average Balance	182,195	-	-	34,966	217,16 <sup>°</sup>
Interest Income Recognized	27,402	-	-	-	27,402
December 31, 2019					
Impaired Loans With No Related Allowance for Loan Losses					
Carrying Amount	\$ 81,361	¢	\$-	\$ 1,377	\$ 82,73
Unpaid Principal	۵۱,301 110,807	\$-	ъ -	\$ 1,377 1,373	ъ oz,750 112,180
	,	-	-	807	
Average Balance Interest Income Recognized	110,375 4,012	-	-	116	111,18 4,12
Impaired Loans With Related	4,012	-	-	110	4,120
Allowance for Loan Losses					
Carrying Amount	149,543	-	-	20,285	169,82
Unpaid Principal	179,071	-	-	32,403	211,474
Allowance for Loan Losses	49,567	-	-	15,047	64,61
Average Balance	166,462	-	-	29,487	195,949
Interest Income Recognized	440	-	-	1,136	1,57
Total Impaired Loans				.,	.,
Carrying Amount	230,904	-	-	21,662	252,56
Unpaid Principal	289,878	-	-	33,776	323,654
Allowance for Loan Losses	49,567	-	-	15,047	64,61
Average Balance	276,837	-	-	30,294	307,13
Interest Income Recognized	4,452			1,252	5,704

There were no impaired loans in our Agribusiness Guaranteed or Farm Credit Banking portfolios for any of the periods presented.

	Agr	ibusiness	Agribusine	SS	Farm Credit	F	Rural	
December 31, 2018	Non-	Guaranteed	Guaranteed	d <sup>(1)</sup>	Banking <sup>(1)</sup>	Infra	structure	Total
Impaired Loans With No Related								
Allowance for Loan Losses								
Carrying Amount	\$	153,541	\$	- 3	\$	- \$	- \$	153,541
Unpaid Principal		174,350		-		-	-	174,350
Average Balance		137,035		-		-	-	137,035
Interest Income Recognized		6,482		-		-	7,588	14,070
Impaired Loans With Related								
Allowance for Loan Losses								
Carrying Amount		136,269		-		-	38,163	174,432
Unpaid Principal		154,863		-		-	42,423	197,286
Allowance for Loan Losses		64,289		-		-	22,797	87,086
Average Balance		158,276		-		-	39,596	197,872
Interest Income Recognized		1,784		-		-	-	1,784
Total Impaired Loans								
Carrying Amount		289,810		-		-	38,163	327,973
Unpaid Principal		329,213		-		-	42,423	371,636
Allowance for Loan Losses		64,289		-		-	22,797	87,086
Average Balance		295,311		-		-	39,596	334,907
Interest Income Recognized		8,266		-		-	7,588	15,854

<sup>(1)</sup> There were no impaired loans in our Agribusiness Guaranteed or Farm Credit Banking portfolios for any of the periods presented.

Interest income forgone on nonaccrual and accruing restructured loans is as follows:

Year Ended December 31, 2020	
Interest Income Which Would Have	
Been Recognized Per Original Terms	\$ 36,901
Less: Interest Income Recognized	(27,360)
Forgone Interest Income	\$ 9,541

# **Commitments on Impaired Loans**

There were \$4.0 million in commitments available to be drawn by borrowers whose loans were classified as impaired at December 31, 2020.

# **Troubled Debt Restructurings**

Troubled debt restructurings (TDRs) are loans in which we have granted a concession because the borrower is experiencing financial difficulty. Concessions may include payment deferrals, term extensions, interest rate reductions, and/or forgiveness of principal or interest. TDRs classified as nonaccrual loans, along with other impaired loans, may be returned to accruing status upon meeting specific criteria, as more fully described in Note 1. A summary of the number of modifications that qualified as TDRs and the dollar amounts before and after modification is as follows:

December 31,	202	20 <sup>(1)</sup>		2019	2018
Number of Loan Modifications that					
Qualified as a TDR		-		4	3
Total Loan Amount Before Modification	\$	-	\$	14,294	\$ 124,136
Total Loan Amount After Modification		-		12,758	115,636
<sup>(1)</sup> There were no loan modifications that qu	ualified a	s TDRs	s du	ring 2020.	

# **Leases Outstanding**

A summary of the components of FCL's net investment in direct financing leases and property on operating leases in which we are the lessor is as follows:

(\$	in	Millions)	)
-----	----	-----------	---

December 31,	2	2020	2	2019	2	2018
Net Investment in Direct Financing Leases:						
Minimum Lease Payments to be Received,						
Net of Participation Interests	\$	2,263	\$	2,181	\$	2,186
Estimated Residual Values of Leased						
Property (Unguaranteed)		1,844		1,486		1,184
Initial Direct Costs		22		27		33
Less: Unearned Finance Income		(394)		(399)		(382)
Net Investment in Direct Financing Leases	\$	3,735	\$	3,295	\$	3,021
Property on Operating Leases:						
Vehicles and Other Equipment	\$	646	\$	648	\$	722
Initial Direct Costs		2		(1)		(1)
Total		648		647		721
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(281)		(316)		(353)
Net Property on Operating Leases	\$	367	\$	331	\$	368
Year Ended December 31,	2	2020	2	2019	2	2018
Depreciation Expense	\$	107	\$	119	\$	132

At December 31, 2020, gross minimum lease payments to be received for direct financing leases and minimum future rental revenue for noncancelable operating leases in which we are the lessor are as follows:

#### (\$ in Millions)

Year	um Lease /ments	Minimum Future Rental Revenue		
2021	\$ 694	\$	62	
2022	494		48	
2023	382		27	
2024	260		17	
2025	158		7	
Subsequent Years	275		17	

# Note 4 – Investment Securities

A summary of the amortized cost and fair value of investment securities available-for-sale is as follows. See Note 11 for disclosures about estimated fair values of financial instruments, including investments.

#### (\$ in Millions)

	Amortized		Gross rrealized	U	Gross nrealized	d Fair Value		
December 31, 2020	Cost		Gains		Losses			
U.S. Treasury Debt	\$	13,853	\$ 509	\$	-	\$	14,362	
U.S. Agency Debt		2,795	165		-		2,960	
Residential Mortgage-Back	ed							
Securities (MBS):								
Ginnie Mae		862	24		-		886	
U.S. Agency		2,333	42		(10)		2,365	
Commercial MBS:								
U.S. Agency		11,404	165		(15)		11,554	
Corporate Bonds		364	30		-		394	
Asset-Backed and Other		304	-		-		304	
Total	\$	31,915	\$ 935	\$	(25)	\$	32,825	

#### (\$ in Millions)

				Gross	G	ross		
	Amortized		Unrealized		Unrealized		Fair	
December 31, 2019	Cost		Gains		Losses		Value	
Certificates of Deposit	\$	400	\$	-	\$	-	\$	400
U.S. Treasury Debt		15,908		169		(15)		16,062
U.S. Agency Debt		2,804		58		(8)		2,854
Residential MBS:								
Ginnie Mae		2,310		27		-		2,337
U.S. Agency		4,355		41		(11)		4,385
Commercial MBS:								
U.S. Agency		4,951		12		(17)		4,946
Corporate Bonds		363		10		-		373
Asset-Backed and Other		1,068		1		-		1,069
Total	\$	32,159	\$	318	\$	(51)	\$	32,426

#### (\$ in Millions)

				Gross	Gro	oss	
	A	nortized	Uı	nrealized	Unrealized		Fair
December 31, 2018		Cost		Gains	Los	ses	Value
Certificates of Deposit	\$	975	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 975
U.S. Treasury Debt		15,424		20		(176)	15,268
U.S. Agency Debt		2,257		3		(21)	2,239
Residential MBS:							
Ginnie Mae		2,969		5		(34)	2,940
U.S. Agency		5,613		4		(89)	5,528
Non-Agency		12		1		-	13
Commercial MBS:							
U.S. Agency		2,882		1		(16)	2,867
Corporate Bonds		120		-		(1)	119
Asset-Backed and Other		1,342		1		-	1,343
Total	\$	31,594	\$	35	\$	(337)	\$ 31,292

A summary of the contractual maturity, amortized cost, fair value and weighted average yield of investment securities by investment category at December 31, 2020 is as follows:

U.S. Treasury Debt Securities											
(\$ in Millions)											
Contractual Maturity		ortized Cost	,	Fair Value	Weighted Average Yield						
In One Year or Less	\$	4,244	\$	4,268	1.05	%					
One to Five Years		8,085		8,439	1.63						
Five to Ten Years		1,524		1,655	1.99						
After Ten Years		-		-	-						
Total	\$	13,853	\$	14,362	1.49						

# **U.S. Agency Debt Securities**

(\$ in Millions)

Contractual Maturity	Amortized Cost			Fair Value	Weighted Average Yield	
In One Year or Less	\$	115	\$	115	1.27	%
One to Five Years		1,500		1,560	1.81	
Five to Ten Years		1,009		1,084	1.79	
After Ten Years		171		201	2.90	
Total	\$	2,795	\$	2,960	1.85	

# **Ginnie Mae Residential MBS**

(\$ in Millions)

Contractual Maturity	Amortized Cost			Fair Value	Weighted Average Yield	
In One Year or Less	\$	-	\$	-	-	%
One to Five Years		1		1	3.23	
Five to Ten Years		1		1	2.65	
After Ten Years		860		884	2.60	
Total	\$	862	\$	886	2.60	

# **U.S. Agency Residential MBS**

(\$ in Millions)

Contractual Maturity	Amortized Cost			Fair Value	Weighted Average Yield		
In One Year or Less	\$	-	\$	-	-	%	
One to Five Years		6		6	0.57		
Five to Ten Years		273		273	1.73		
After Ten Years		2,054		2,086	2.12		
Total	\$	2,333	\$	2,365	2.07		

# **U.S. Agency Commercial MBS**

(\$ in Millions)

Contractual Maturity	Amortized Cost			Fair Value	Weighted Average Yield	
In One Year or Less	\$	4	\$	4	0.51	%
One to Five Years		2,677		2,701	0.85	
Five to Ten Years		7,319		7,446	1.04	
After Ten Years		1,404		1,403	0.62	
Total	\$	11,404	\$	11,554	0.94	

# **Corporate Bonds**

(\$ in Millions)

Contractual Maturity	Amortized Cost			Fair /alue	Weighted Average Yield	
In One Year or Less	\$	-	\$	-	-	%
One to Five Years		158		166	3.90	
Five to Ten Years		206		228	3.96	
After Ten Years		-		-	-	
Total	\$	364	\$	394	3.94	

## **Asset-Backed Securities and Other**

(\$ in Millions)						
Contractual Maturity	Amortized Cost			Fair Value	Weighted Average Yield	
In One Year or Less	\$	122	\$	122	0.19	%
One to Five Years		169		169	1.61	
Five to Ten Years		5		5	2.48	
After Ten Years		8		8	5.21	
Total	\$	304	\$	304	1.15	

While the substantial majority of our residential mortgage-backed securities (MBS) have contractual maturities in excess of 10 years, expected maturities for these securities are shorter than contractual maturities because borrowers have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without penalties. The following tables show the fair value and gross unrealized losses for investments in a loss position aggregated by investment category, and the length of time the securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018. The continuous loss position is based on the date the impairment first occurred.

(\$ in Millions)	Less 12 M		Greate 12 Mo	
	Fair Value	 nrealized Losses	Fair Value	 nrealized Losses
December 31, 2020				
U.S. Treasury Debt	\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Agency Debt	22	-	233	-
Residential MBS:				
Ginnie Mae	3	-	19	-
U.S. Agency	110	(1)	256	(9)
Commercial MBS:				
U.S. Agency	2,583	(15)	295	-
Corporate Bonds	-	-	3	-
Asset-Backed				
and Other	9	-	-	-
Total	\$ 3,977	\$ (16)	\$ 806	\$ (9)
December 31, 2019				
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Treasury Debt	2,020	(8)	3,454	(7)
U.S. Agency Debt	549	(6)	553	(2)
Residential MBS:				
Ginnie Mae	34	-	25	-
U.S. Agency	327	(1)	831	(10)
Non-Agency				
Commercial MBS:				
U.S. Agency	3,311	(14)	543	(3)
Corporate Bonds	52	-	-	-
Asset-Backed				
and Other	273	-	13	-
Total	\$ 6,616	\$ (29)	\$ 5,419	\$ (22)
December 31, 2018				
Certificates of Deposit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Treasury Debt	2,839	(4)	10,001	(172)
U.S. Agency Debt	42	-	1,504	(21)
Residential MBS:				
Ginnie Mae	304	(3)	1,410	(31)
U.S. Agency	139	-	4,474	(89)
Non-Agency	2	-	3	-
Commercial MBS:				
U.S. Agency	1,695	(7)	746	(9)
Corporate Bonds	86	(1)	-	-
Asset-Backed				
and Other	647	-	13	-
Total	\$ 5,754	\$ (15)	\$ 18,151	\$ (322)

As of December 31, 2020, we expect to collect all principal and interest payments on our investment securities. We do not intend to sell the securities in unrealized loss positions, nor is it likely that we will be required to sell such securities, for regulatory, liquidity or other purposes, before an anticipated recovery of our cost basis occurs.

We recorded no other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) losses for our investment securities in 2020, 2019 and 2018. We had no securities with previously recorded OTTI losses at

December 31, 2020 and 2019. The fair value of our securities with previously recorded OTTI losses was \$3.4 million at December 31, 2018.

#### **Sales of Investment Securities**

In 2020, we sold eleven U.S. Treasury debt securities for total proceeds of \$3.5 billion, which approximated their book value. We sold these securities to manage liquidity.

In 2019, we sold fourteen U.S. Treasury debt securities and our remaining non-agency MBS and home equity ABS portfolios for total proceeds of \$2.3 billion resulting in gains of \$0.9 million. We sold these securities to manage liquidity and credit exposure, and to take advantage of favorable market conditions.

In 2018, we sold five U.S. Treasury debt securities for total proceeds of \$1.4 billion which approximated their combined book value. We also sold all of our remaining FHA/VA non-wrapped reperformer MBS for total proceeds of \$262.1 million and eight non-agency debt securities for total proceeds of \$30.1 million resulting in gains of \$37.8 million and \$11.1 million, respectively. These MBS and non-agency debt securities were acquired in our 2012 merger with U.S. AgBank and were credit-impaired. Lastly, we sold our Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac) MBS for total proceeds of \$61.0 million resulting in gains of \$0.1 million. The Farmer Mac securities were also acquired in the 2012 merger with U.S. AgBank.

All gains and losses on sale of investment securities are recorded in noninterest income in our consolidated statements of income.

# Note 5 – Bonds and Notes

We are primarily liable for the following bonds and notes:

(\$ in Millions)					
December 31,	2020	2019	2018		
Bonds	\$ 131,988	\$ 119,902	\$	112,067	
Medium-term Notes	81	86		89	
Discount Notes	9,856	11,234		14,243	
Total Systemwide					
Debt Securities	141,925	131,222		126,399	
Cash Investment					
Services Payable	1,034	758		883	
RUS Bonds	425	250		250	
Other	-	-		100	
Total Bonds and Notes	\$ 143,384	\$ 132,230	\$	127,632	

#### Systemwide Debt Securities

We, along with the other System banks, obtain funds for lending activities and operations primarily from the sale of debt securities issued by System banks through the Funding Corporation. These debt securities are composed of bonds, medium-term notes and discount notes, and are collectively referred to as Systemwide Debt Securities. Pursuant to the Farm Credit Act, Systemwide Debt Securities are the general unsecured joint and several obligations of the System banks. Systemwide Debt Securities are not obligations of, and are not guaranteed by, the U.S. government or any agency or instrumentality thereof, other than the System banks. Bonds and medium-term notes are issued at fixed or floating interest rates. Bonds have original maturities of three months to 30 years, while medium-term notes have original maturities ranging from one to 30 years. Discount notes are issued with maturities ranging from one to 365 days. The weighted average remaining maturity of CoBank's discount notes outstanding at December 31, 2020 was 126 days.

#### **Other Bonds and Notes**

Cash investment services payable related to our customers are generally short-term in nature and mature within one year.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) bonds were \$425.0 million at December 31, 2020 and \$250.0 million at December 31, 2019 and 2018 and relate to funding pursuant to a bond guarantee program offered by the RUS agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. This funding is provided under a bond purchase agreement with the Federal Financing Bank (FFB) and a bond guarantee agreement with RUS, which provides guarantees to the FFB. The bonds outstanding mature in 3-30 years. In May 2020, we closed on \$250.0 million of Series D funding in addition to the fully drawn \$250.0 million Series A funding. As part of the bond guarantee agreement with RUS, we are required to pledge collateral in an amount equal to at least 110% of the principal balance of all bonds outstanding. While the Series A facility has been fully drawn, the Series D facility allows us to access funding for certain rural infrastructure loans through September 2024. As of December 31, 2020 we had \$250.0 million and \$175.0 million outstanding on the Series A and Series D funding from RUS, respectively.

Other bonds and notes also includes cash collateral payable to derivative counterparties that have posted collateral to us.

#### **Maturities and Rates**

The aggregate maturities and the weighted average interest rates of CoBank's Systemwide Debt Securities at December 31, 2020 are shown in the following table. Weighted average interest rates include the effect of related interest rate swaps and other derivatives.

#### (\$ in Millions)

Maturities and R	ates o	of System	wide Debt Secu	ıriti	ies						
		Bo	onds		Medium-	term Notes	Discou	unt Notes		Total	
Year of Maturity		Amount	Weighted Average Interest Rate		Amount	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Amount	Weighted Average Interest Rate		Amount	Weighted Average Interest Rate
2021	\$	52,725	0.41 %	\$	4	7.35 %	\$ 9,856	0.15 %	\$	62,585	0.37 %
2022		37,102	0.42		-	-	-	-		37,102	0.42
2023		9,957	1.21		-	-	-	-		9,957	1.21
2024		5,430	1.45		-	-	-	-		5,430	1.45
2025		4,453	1.40		-	-	-	-		4,453	1.40
2026 and thereafter		22,321	2.32		77	5.77	-	-		22,398	2.33
Total	\$	131,988	0.87	\$	81	5.84	\$ 9,856	0.15	\$	141,925	0.82

Certain Systemwide Debt Securities include debt which may be called on the first call date and, subsequently, called daily or on each interest payment date thereafter. At December 31, 2020, callable debt was \$14.3 billion, with the range of first call dates being from January 2021 through November 2026.

#### **Conditions for Issuing Systemwide Debt**

Certain conditions must be met before we can participate in the issuance of Systemwide Debt Securities. One such condition of participation, required by the Farm Credit Act and FCA regulations, is that we must maintain specified, eligible, unencumbered assets at least equal in value to the total amount of debt obligations outstanding for which we are primarily liable. Such assets exceeded applicable debt by \$11.1 billion at December 31, 2020. This requirement does not provide holders of Systemwide Debt Securities with a security interest in any of our assets.

In addition, because System banks are contingently liable for Systemwide Debt Securities of the other System banks, the banks have entered into agreements to provide for mutual protection. The System banks and the Funding Corporation operate under a Third Amended and Restated Market Access Agreement (MAA) designed to address certain Funding Corporation statutory responsibilities. The MAA financial conditions establish mechanisms for monitoring, limiting and ultimately denying a troubled System bank's access to and participation in Systemwide debt issuances, thereby limiting other System banks' exposure to statutory joint and several liabilities. The MAA promotes the identification and resolution of financial problems of individual System banks in a timely manner. As required by the MAA, the System banks and the Funding Corporation undertake a periodic formal review of the MAA to consider whether any amendments are appropriate. A review of the MAA was undertaken in 2020 and no modifications were made. For discussion related to the FCA's capital regulations, see Note 6.

The System banks and the Funding Corporation have also entered into an Amended and Restated Contractual Interbank Performance Agreement (CIPA). The CIPA establishes an agreed-upon standard of financial condition and performance for the System banks and their affiliated Associations (the Districts). The CIPA measures various ratios taking into account the capital, asset quality, earnings, interest rate risk and liquidity of the Districts and System banks. At December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, all System banks, including CoBank, were in compliance with all of the conditions of participation for the issuance of Systemwide Debt Securities. Periodically, the ratios in the CIPA model are reviewed to take into consideration current performance standards in the financial services industry. A review was conducted during 2020, however no adjustments to the CIPA model were made.

## **Insurance Fund**

The Farm Credit Act established the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (Insurance Corporation) to administer the Farm Credit Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund). The Insurance Corporation insures the timely payment of principal and interest on Systemwide Debt Securities and carries out various other responsibilities.

The primary sources of funds for the Insurance Fund are premiums paid by the System banks and earnings on the Insurance Corporation assets. Premiums are determined and assessed to System banks semi-annually by the Insurance Corporation.

Each System bank is required to pay premiums into the Insurance Fund until the assets in the Insurance Fund reach the "secure base amount" (SBA), which is defined in the Farm Credit Act as 2 percent of the aggregate outstanding insured Systemwide Debt Securities (adjusted to reflect the reduced risk on loans or investments guaranteed by the U.S. or state governments) or such other percentage of the aggregate outstanding insured Systemwide Debt Securities as the Insurance Corporation in its sole discretion determines to be actuarially sound. The Insurance Corporation has adopted a Policy Statement addressing the periodic determination of the secure base amount that is currently set at the 2 percent level. The Insurance Corporation may use its discretion to adjust the premium assessments in response to changing conditions. When the amount in the Insurance Fund exceeds the SBA, the Insurance Corporation may return excess amounts, but must still ensure that premiums are sufficient to maintain the level of the Insurance Fund at the SBA. In 2020, 2019 and 2018, the Insurance Corporation returned \$12.6 million, \$13.8 million and \$35.0 million, respectively, in excess amounts related to the Insurance Fund to CoBank.

The Insurance Corporation premium rates were 8 basis points of average outstanding adjusted insured debt obligations for the first half of 2020 and 11 basis points for the second half of 2020. Premium rates were 9 basis points of average outstanding adjusted insured debt obligations for 2019 and 2018.

The Insurance Fund is available to assist with the timely payment of principal and interest on Systemwide Debt Securities, in the event of a default by a System bank, to the extent that net assets are available in the Insurance Fund. No other liabilities reflected in our financial statements are insured by the Insurance Corporation. In addition, the Insurance Fund could be used to ensure the retirement of System entities' protected borrower equity at par or stated value and for other specified purposes. The Insurance Fund is also available for discretionary uses of providing assistance to certain troubled System institutions and to cover the operating expenses of the Insurance Corporation. The Insurance Fund does not insure the obligations of Farmer Mac.

At December 31, 2020, the assets of the Insurance Fund aggregated \$5.5 billion. However, due to the other authorized uses of the Insurance Fund, there is no assurance that any available amount in the Insurance Fund will be sufficient to fund the timely payment of principal or interest on Systemwide Debt Securities in the event of a default by any System bank having primary liability thereon.

The Insurance Corporation has an agreement with the Federal Financing Bank, a federal instrumentality subject to the supervision and direction of the U.S. Treasury, pursuant to which the Federal Financing Bank would advance funds to the Insurance Corporation. Under its existing statutory authority. the Insurance Corporation may use these funds to provide assistance to the System banks in exigent market circumstances that threaten the banks' ability to pay maturing debt obligations. The agreement provides for advances of up to \$10 billion and terminates on September 30, 2021 unless otherwise extended. The decision whether to seek funds from the Federal Financing Bank is at the discretion of the Insurance Corporation, and each funding obligation of the Federal Financing Bank is subject to various terms and conditions and, as a result, there can be no assurance that funding would be available if needed by the System.

#### Early Extinguishment of Debt

During 2020, 2019 and 2018, we recorded losses of \$78.7 million, \$16.6 million and \$15.0 million, respectively, on the early extinguishment of \$1.261 billion, \$207.8 million and \$1.831 billion, respectively, of Systemwide Debt Securities. The Systemwide Debt Securities extinguished in 2018 included \$1.471 billion in Systemwide Debt Securities sold at market value to other Farm Credit Banks. There were no sales of Systemwide Debt Securities to other Farm Credit Banks during 2020 and 2019. All losses on early extinguishment of debt are reported as a component of noninterest income.

# **Debt Exchange**

On October 28, 2020, the Funding Corporation on our behalf completed a debt exchange of approximately \$1.4 billion, or 83 percent, of our LIBOR-indexed floating rate debt maturing beyond December 31, 2021 to insert Alternative Reference Rates Committee (ARRC) reference rate contractual fallback language in the event LIBOR is discontinued or no longer remains a representative rate index. No other contractual terms were modified in the debt exchange that would impact the amount or timing of cash flows of these LIBOR-indexed floating rate debt instruments. We applied the ASU 848 optional accounting relief, described in Note 2, to this transaction which resulted in a continuation of the existing debt accounting, no changes to the amortized cost basis of the exchanged debt and no gain or loss recorded in the accompanying consolidated statement of income in 2020.

# Note 6 – Shareholders' Equity

### **Description of Equities**

(per share)

As of December 31, 2020, we had \$1.5 billion of preferred stock and \$3.9 billion of common stock outstanding, as summarized in the table below.

		Stock	
	Preferred	Class A	Class A
Shares Authorized (000)	n/a <sup>(1)</sup>	Unlimited	Unlimited
Shares Outstanding (000)	9,600	1,602	37,575
Voting or Nonvoting	Nonvoting	Nonvoting	Voting
Par / Face Value			

Shares authorized and par/face value varies by issuance. Refer to the table on the following page

n/a

(1) \$

100

\$

100

Pursuant to our bylaws, we have a single class of common equity - Class A common stock; however, only Class A shareholders that are directly eligible to borrow from CoBank, that borrow on a patronage basis and that are active borrowers, have voting rights. No other class of shareholders has voting rights.

The changes in the number of shares of common stock outstanding during 2020, 2019 and 2018 are summarized in the following table.

## Shares of Common Stock (in Thousands)

	2020	2019	2018
Beginning of the Year	36,216	34,157	32,404
Issuances	3,355	2,499	2,064
Retirements	(394)	(440)	(311)
End of the Year	39,177	36,216	34,157

As approved by our shareholders, CoBank may have up to \$2.5 billion of preferred stock outstanding at any time and is authorized to issue preferred stock up to this limit through December 31, 2026. This allows us to access third-party capital more quickly and efficiently in response to dynamic market conditions, without the necessity of obtaining shareholder approval for each issuance. However, any preferred stock issuances still require approval from the Board of Directors and the FCA.

Holders of common equities may not pledge, hypothecate or otherwise grant a security interest in such equities except as consented to by the Bank under FCA regulations. We have a statutory first lien on CoBank common stock. We pay dividends only on preferred stock.

In case of liquidation or dissolution, preferred stock, common stock and unallocated retained earnings (URE) would be distributed to shareholders, after the payment of all liabilities pursuant to FCA regulations, in the following order: (1) retirement of all Series E, Series F, Series G, Series H and Series I preferred stock at par plus all accrued but unpaid dividends for the then current dividend period; (2) retirement of all common stock at par; (3) retirement of all patronage surplus (a component of URE) in amounts equal to the face amount of the applicable nongualified written notices of allocation or such other notice; and (4) remaining URE and reserves to the holders of common stock in proportion to patronage to the extent possible.

## **Preferred Stock**

The following table summarizes our outstanding preferred stock as of December 31, 2020.

	Series E	Series F	Series G	Series H	Series I
Туре	Non-Cumulative	Non-Cumulative	Non-Cumulative	Non-Cumulative	Non-Cumulative
	Perpetual	Perpetual	Perpetual	Perpetual	Perpetual
Issue Date	January 2012	October 2012	April 2013	November 2014	April 2016
Shares Outstanding (000)	225	4,000	2,000	3,000	375
Amount Outstanding (000)	\$225,000	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$375,000
Par Value (per share)	\$1,000	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$1,000
Current Dividend Rate (%)	3-month USD LIBOR	6.25%	6.125%	6.20%	6.25%
	+ 1.18 (1.4005% at				
	December 31, 2020)				
Next Change in Dividend Rate (% and dates)	n/a	3-month USD LIBOR	n/a	3-month USD LIBOR	3-month USD LIBOR
		+ 4.557% beginning		+ 3.744% beginning	+ 4.66% beginning
		on October 1, 2022		on January 1, 2025	on October 1, 2026
Dividend Frequency	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Semi-Annual;
					Quarterly beginning
					on October 1, 2026
Optional Redemption Begins (Date) <sup>(1)</sup>	July 2012 and each	Quarterly calls on	Quarterly calls on	Quarterly calls on	Quarterly calls on
	five year anniversary	or after October 1,	or after July 1,	or after January 1,	or after October 1,
	thereafter at par plus	2022 at par plus	2018 at par plus	2025 at par plus	2026 at par plus
	accrued dividends	accrued dividends	accrued dividends	accrued dividends	accrued dividends

All of our outstanding preferred stock ranks equally, both as to dividends and upon liquidation, and senior to all of our outstanding common stock.

If preferred stock dividends are not paid for 18 consecutive months on any of our preferred stock, holders of all outstanding preferred stock, voting as a single class, will have the right to appoint two non-voting observers to attend our Board of Directors meetings until full dividends for a oneyear period are paid. In addition, other than pursuant to an order issued by our regulator, we may not enter into agreements restricting our ability to declare or pay preferred stock dividends.

All stock retirements, including preferred stock redemptions, require the approval of our Board of Directors. Payments of preferred stock dividends also require the approval of our Board of Directors.

## **Capitalization Requirements**

In accordance with the Farm Credit Act, eligible commercial borrowers are required to purchase common stock in CoBank as a condition of borrowing. The minimum initial borrower investment is equal to the lesser of one thousand dollars or 2 percent of the amount of the loan. The minimum initial investment is generally received in cash at the time the borrower receives the loan proceeds.

Association customers are also required to invest in our common stock, as discussed beginning on page 128. Additionally, eligible financial service members who are not otherwise shareholders have a one hundred dollar capitalization requirement and do not participate in patronage distributions.

Most agricultural export finance customers, customers of FCL and certain other borrowers are not required to purchase, nor do they own, common stock in CoBank for these financing transactions. Therefore, they do not participate in patronage distributions.

Retirements of common stock, if any, are determined annually after the Board of Directors sets the target equity level. Net cash retirements are made at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors and are at book value not to exceed par or face value.

# Patronage

As a cooperative bank, we return a portion of our earnings to eligible common shareholders in the form of patronage distributions. Eligible common shareholders will receive total patronage for 2020 of \$728.4 million in March 2021, of which \$596.5 million will be paid in cash (including \$106.6 million of special cash patronage) and \$131.9 million will be paid in common stock. For 2019, total patronage was \$643.6 million, of which \$515.2 million was paid in cash (including \$39.8 million of special cash patronage) and \$128.4 million was paid in common stock in March 2020. For 2018, total patronage was \$699.7 million, including \$96.2 million of special cash patronage paid in September 2018, and \$475.6 million and \$127.9 million paid in cash and common stock, respectively, in March 2019. All patronage distributions require the approval of our Board of Directors.

# **Regulatory Capitalization Requirements and Restrictions**

The FCA's capital adequacy regulations require us to maintain certain minimum capital requirements and collateral standards.

We are prohibited from retiring stock or making certain other distributions to shareholders unless prescribed capital standards are met. All such minimum regulatory capital requirements and collateral standards were met as of December 31, 2020. At December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, our capital and leverage ratios exceeded regulatory minimums as noted in the following table.

## **Regulatory Capital Ratios**

	Regulatory	D	December 31,								
	Minimum	2020	2019	2018							
Common Equity Tier 1											
Capital Ratio	4.5 %	12.33 %	12.70 %	12.38 %							
Tier 1 Capital Ratio	6.0	14.25	14.83	14.57							
Total Capital Ratio	8.0	15.22	15.86	15.58							
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio <sup>(1)</sup>	4.0	7.30	7.51	7.53							
Permanent Capital Ratio	7.0	14.36	14.95	14.69							
Unallocated Retained											
Earnings (URE) and											
URE Equivalents											
Leverage Ratio	1.5	3.23	3.24	3.19							

See pages 135 through 144 for more information on the required regulatory capital disclosures, including the components of the regulatory capital ratios above.

# Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Changes in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) for 2020, 2019 and 2018 are presented in the following table.

Changes in Accumulated Other Co	mpre	ehensive Incom	e (L	oss) by Compo	one	ent <sup>(1)</sup>		
						Unrealized		
					(	Gains (Losses)		
		Unrealized G	ain	(ا معجوم ا		on Interest Rate	Net	
		on Investme		. ,	,		Pension	
			nt			Swaps and		
		Non-OTTI		ΟΤΤΙ		ther Derivatives	Adjustment	Total
Balance at January 1, 2020	\$	232,886	\$	-	\$	(63,443)	\$ (75,018) \$	94,425
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) Before								
Reclassifications		566,667		-		2,063	(215)	568,515
Amounts Reclassified from Accumulated Other								
Comprehensive (Loss) Income		(15)		-		18,027	6,990	25,002
Net Current-Period Other								
Comprehensive Income		566,652		-		20,090	6,775	593,517
Balance at December 31, 2020	\$	799,538			\$	(43,353)	\$ (68,243) \$	687,942
Balance at January 1, 2019	\$	(271,344)	\$	102	\$	(25,613)	\$ (66,249) \$	(363,104)
Cumulative Effect of Change in Accounting								
Principle <sup>(2)</sup>		-		-		171	-	171
Balance at January 1, 2019, as adjusted	\$	(271,344)	\$	102	\$	(25,442)	\$ (66,249) \$	(362,933)
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) Before								
Reclassifications		505,387		(321)	)	(51,821)	(12,653)	440,592
Amounts Reclassified from Accumulated Other								
Comprehensive Income (Loss)		(1,157)		219		13,820	3,884	16,766
Net Current-Period Other								
Comprehensive Income (Loss)		504,230		(102)	)	(38,001)	(8,769)	457,358
Balance at December 31, 2019	\$	232,886	\$	-	\$	(63,443)	\$ (75,018) \$	94,425
Balance at January 1, 2018	\$	(125,198)	\$	3,236	\$	(49,981)	\$ (60,025) \$	(231,968)
Cumulative Effect of Change in Accounting								
Principle <sup>(3)</sup>		(9,953)		270		(4,474)	(12,457)	(26,614)
Balance at January 1, 2018, as adjusted	\$	(135,151)	\$	3,506	\$	(54,455)	\$ (72,482) \$	(258,582)
Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) Before								
Reclassifications		(93,320)		2,793		9,895	368	(80,264)
Amounts Reclassified from Accumulated Other								
Comprehensive Income (Loss)		(42,873)		(6,197)	)	18,947	 5,865	(24,258)
Net Current-Period Other								
Comprehensive Income (Loss)		(136,193)		(3,404)	)	28,842	6,233	(104,522)
Balance at December 31, 2018	\$	(271,344)	\$	102	\$	(25,613)	\$ (66,249) \$	(363,104)

<sup>(1)</sup> Amounts are presented net of tax. Amounts reclassified shown in parentheses indicate a decrease in accumulated other comprehensive income or an increase in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss).

(2) Effective January 1, 2019, we adopted changes in derivative accounting pursuant to ASU "Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815)," as described in Note 2.

<sup>(3)</sup> Effective January 1, 2018, we adopted changes pursuant to ASU "Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income," as described in Note 2.

The following table presents the effect of reclassifications from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) to net income for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018.

	 t Reclassified	Location of Gain (Loca)
	 omprehensive	Location of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income
Year Ended December 31, 2020	ome (Loss)	Statement
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Non-OTTI Investment Securities:	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Sales Gains and Losses	\$ 20	Noninterest Income - Other, Net
Tax Effect	(5)	Provision for Income Taxes
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives:		
Interest Rate Contracts	\$ (15,191)	Interest Expense
Termination of Interest Rate Contracts	(3,411)	Noninterest Expense - Other, Net
Foreign Exchange Contracts	531	Interest Income
Tax Effect	44	Provision for Income Taxes
Pension and Other Benefit Plans:		
Net Actuarial Gain/Loss	(8,254)	Operating Expenses - Employee Compensation
Prior Service Cost/Credit	(1,008)	Operating Expenses - Employee Compensation
Tax Effect	2,272	Provision for Income Taxes
Total Reclassifications	\$ (25,002)	

	ŀ	Amount Reclassified	
		from Accumulated	
		Other	Location of Gain/Loss
		Comprehensive	Recognized in Income
Veer Ended December 21, 2010		•	Statement
Year Ended December 31, 2019		Income (Loss)	Statement
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Non-OTTI Investment Securities:	•		New Selection of the second Others New Selection
Sales Gains and Losses	\$	1,148	Noninterest Income - Other, Net
Tax Effect		9	Provision for Income Taxes
Jnrealized Gains (Losses) on OTTI Investment Securities:		()	
Sales Gains and Losses		(256)	Noninterest Income - Other, Net
Tax effect		37	Provision for Income Taxes
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives:			
Interest Rate Contracts		(12,280)	Interest Expense
Foreign Exchange Contracts		(2,127)	Interest Income
Tax Effect		587	Provision for Income Taxes
Pension and Other Benefit Plans:			
Net Actuarial Gain/Loss		(4,137)	Operating Expenses - Employee Compensation
Prior Service Cost/Credit		(1,014)	Operating Expenses - Employee Compensation
Tax Effect		1,267	Provision for Income Taxes
Total Reclassifications	\$	(16,766)	
Year Ended December 31, 2018			
Inrealized Gains (Losses) on Non-OTTI Investment Securities:			
Sales Gains and Losses	\$	42,877	Noninterest Income - Other, Net
Tax Effect		(4)	Provision for Income Taxes
Inrealized Gains (Losses) on OTTI Investment Securities:			
Sales Gains and Losses		6,197	Noninterest Income - Other, Net
Inrealized Gains (Losses) on Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives:			
Interest Rate Contracts		(8,481)	Interest Expense
Termination of Interest Rate Contracts		(13,073)	Noninterest Expense - Other, Net
Foreign Exchange Contracts		3,388	Interest Income
Tax Effect		(781)	Provision for Income Taxes
Pension and Other Benefit Plans:			
Net Actuarial Gain/Loss		(6,754)	Operating Expenses - Employee Compensation
Prior Service Cost/Credit		(1,025)	Operating Expenses - Employee Compensation
Tax Effect		1,914	Provision for Income Taxes
Total Reclassifications	\$	24,258	

# Note 7 – Employee Benefit Plans and Incentive Compensation Plans

# **Employee Benefit Plans**

We have employer-funded, qualified defined benefit pension plans, which are noncontributory and cover employees hired prior to January 1, 2007. Depending on the date of hire, benefits are determined either by a formula based on years of service and final average pay, or by the accumulation of a cash balance with interest credits and contribution credits based on years of service and eligible compensation. Effective January 1, 2007, the Bank closed the remaining qualified defined benefit pension plan to new participants.

We also have noncontributory, unfunded nonqualified supplemental executive retirement plans (SERPs) covering

certain senior officers and specified other senior managers. In addition, we have a noncontributory, unfunded nonqualified executive retirement plan (ERP) covering certain former senior officers. The defined benefit pension plans, SERPs and ERP are collectively referred to as Retirement Plans. We hold assets in trust accounts related to our SERPs and ERP; however, such funds remain Bank assets and are not included as plan assets in the accompanying disclosures.

We have a 401(k) savings plan pursuant to which we match a certain percentage of employees' elective contributions. In addition, under this plan, employees hired on or after January 1, 2007 receive additional, non-elective employer defined contributions. Our contributions to the 401(k) savings plan, which are recorded as employee compensation expense, were \$12.9 million, \$11.2 million and \$10.5 million for 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. For eligible senior managers, including our senior officers, we also have a nonqualified deferred compensation plan, which includes benefits not provided under the employee savings plan due to certain Internal Revenue Code limitations.

Eligible retirees also have other postretirement benefits (OPEB), which primarily include access to health care benefits. Most participants pay the full premiums associated with these postretirement health care benefits. Premiums are adjusted annually. The following table provides a summary of the changes in the plans' benefit obligations and fair values of assets over the three-year period ended December 31, 2020, as well as a statement of funded status as of December 31 of each year. Changes in the plans' benefit obligation for 2020 primarily resulted from actuarial losses and changes in the discount rate.

	Ret	irement Plan	Other Postretirement Bene					
	2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018		
Change in Benefit Obligation:								
Benefit Obligation at Beginning of Year	\$ 407,294	\$ 359,765 \$	380,770	\$ 2,077 \$	2,677 \$	2,934		
Service Cost	5,359	5,028	6,135	35	59	65		
Interest Cost on Benefit Obligation	13,043	15,504	13,887	65	114	106		
Plan Participant Contributions	-	-	-	380	376	459		
Transfers	-	(182)	-	-	-	-		
Actuarial (Gain) Loss	34,411	45,267	(22,787)	(73)	(619)	(273)		
Benefits Paid	(21,082)	(18,088)	(18,240)	(511)	(530)	(614)		
Benefit Obligation at End of Year	439,025	407,294	359,765	1,973	2,077	2,677		
Change in Plan Assets:								
Fair Value of Plan Assets at Beginning of Year	349,725	315,174	324,018		-	-		
Actual Return on Plan Assets	52,824	46,620	(4,350)	-	-	-		
Employer Contributions	5,814	6,201	13,746	131	154	155		
Transfers	-	(182)	-	-	-	-		
Benefits Paid	(21,082)	(18,088)	(18,240)	(511)	(530)	(614)		
Plan Participant Contributions	-	-	-	380	376	459		
Fair Value of Plan Assets at End of Year	387,281	349,725	315,174	-	-	-		
Funded Status – Fair Value of Plan Assets								
Less Than Benefit Obligation	 (51,744)	(57,569)	(44,591)	 (1,973)	(2,077)	(2,677)		
Net Amount Recognized - December 31	\$ (51,744)	\$ (57,569) \$	6 (44,591)	\$ (1,973) \$	(2,077) \$	(2,677)		

The projected benefit obligation and the accumulated benefit obligation for the Retirement Plans as of December 31 of each year are as follows:

	2020	2019	2018
Projected Benefit Obligation:			
Funded Qualified Plans	\$ 385,198	\$ 358,757	\$ 316,771
SERP/ERP	53,827	48,537	42,994
Total	\$ 439,025	\$ 407,294	\$ 359,765
Accumulated Benefit Obligation:			
Funded Qualified Plans	\$ 370,691	\$ 343,966	\$ 303,938
SERP/ERP	48,129	43,766	38,351
Total	\$ 418,820	\$ 387,732	\$ 342,289

The \$387.3 million in fair value of plan assets shown in the table on page 107 relates only to the qualified retirement plans. As depicted in the preceding table, such plans had a projected benefit obligation and an accumulated benefit obligation of \$385.2 million and \$370.7 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2020.

We hold assets in trust accounts related to our SERPs and ERP. Such assets had a fair value of \$48.5 million as of December 31, 2020, which is included in other assets in the consolidated balance sheet. Unlike the assets related to the qualified plans, those funds remain Bank assets and would be subject to general creditors in a bankruptcy or liquidation. Accordingly, they are not included as part of the assets in the table on page 107. As depicted in the preceding table, our SERPs and ERP had a projected benefit obligation and an accumulated benefit obligation of \$53.8 million and \$48.1 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2020. The following table provides the amounts recognized in the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31 of each year.

	Retirement Plans					Other Post	retirement l	Benefits
		2020	2019	2018		2020	2019	2018
Accrued Benefit Liabilities	\$	(51,744) \$	(57,569) \$	(44,591)	\$	(1,973) \$	(2,077)	\$ (2,677)
Net Amounts Recognized	\$	(51,744) \$	(57,569) \$	(44,591)	\$	(1,973) \$	(2,077)	\$ (2,677)

The following table presents the components of net periodic benefit cost for the plans.

	Retirement Plans						Other Postretirement Benefits							
		2020		2019		2018		2020		2019		2018		
Service Cost	\$	5,359	\$	5,028	\$	6,135	\$	35	\$	59	\$	65		
Interest Cost on Benefit Obligation		13,043		15,504		13,887		65		114		106		
Expected Return on Plan Assets		(19,185)		(18,752)		(18,222)		-		-		-		
Amortization of Prior Service Cost		1,008		1,014		1,025		-		-		-		
Recognized Actuarial Loss (Gain)		8,530		4,365		6,967		(276)		(228)		(213)		
Net Periodic Benefit Cost	\$	8,755	\$	7,159	\$	9,792	\$	(176)	\$	(55)	\$	(42)		

We anticipate that our total pension expense for the Retirement Plans will be approximately \$7.5 million in 2021, as compared to \$8.8 million in 2020.

The following table displays the amounts included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of shareholders' equity, related to our pension and other postretirement benefit plans.

Amounts Included in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	-	Qualified etirement	onqualified Retirement	P	Other ostretirement	Tatal
(Income) Pre-Tax at December 31, 2020		Plans	Plans		Benefits	Total
Net Actuarial Loss (Gain)	\$	68,093	\$ 21,481	\$	(3,055) \$	86,519
Prior Service Cost		3,278	351		-	3,629
Amount Recognized in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss (Income)	\$	71,371	\$ 21,832	\$	(3,055) \$	90,148

### Assumptions

We measure plan obligations and annual expense using assumptions designed to reflect future economic conditions. As pension benefits will be paid to current and future retiree for many years, the computations of pension expenses and benefits are based on assumptions about discount rates, estimates of annual increases in compensation levels, mortality rates and expected rates of return on plan assets.

The weighted average rate assumptions used in the measurement of our benefit obligations are as follows:

	2020	2019	2018
Discount Rate	2.59 %	3.29 %	4.45 %
Rate of Compensation Increase	3.40	3.60	3.60

The weighted average rate assumptions used in the measurement of our net periodic benefit cost are as follows:

	2020	2019	2018
Discount Rate	3.29 %	4.45 %	3.75 %
Expected Rate of Return on Plan			
Assets (Qualified Plans Only)	5.81	5.94	6.00
Rate of Compensation Increase	3.60	3.60	3.60

The discount rates are calculated using a spot yield curve method developed by an independent actuary. The approach maps a high-quality bond yield curve to the duration of the plans' liabilities, thus approximating each cash flow of the liability stream to be discounted at an interest rate specifically applicable to its respective period in time.

We establish the expected rate of return on plan assets based on current target asset allocations and the anticipated future long-term returns for those asset classes. The expected rate of return on plan assets assumption is also consistent with the pension plans' long-term interest rate assumption used for funding purposes. Assumed health care cost trend rates have an effect on the amounts reported for other postretirement benefits. For measurement purposes, a 7.0 percent annual rate of increase in the per capita cost of covered health care benefits was assumed for 2020. The rate was assumed to decrease gradually to 4.5 percent through 2026 and remain at that level thereafter.

### **Plan Assets**

The asset allocation target ranges for the pension plans follow the investment policy adopted by our Retirement Trust Committee. This policy provides for a certain level of committee flexibility in selecting target allocation percentages. The actual asset allocations at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 are shown in the following table, along with the adopted range for target allocation percentages by asset class as of December 31, 2020. The actual allocation percentages reflect the market values at year-end and may vary during the course of the year. Plan assets are generally rebalanced to a level within the target range at least annually at the direction of the Committee.

Retirement Plan As	sets											
	Target Allocation	• • • • •										
	Range <sup>(1)</sup>	2020	2019	2018								
Asset Category												
Domestic Equity	33.0-37.0 %	30 %	39 %	38 %								
Domestic Fixed Income	36.5-40.5	42	43	40								
International Equity,												
Emerging Markets Equity	,											
and Fixed Income	24.5-28.5	23	13	17								
Hedge Funds	-	5	5	5								
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %								

<sup>(1)</sup> During late 2020, the Retirement Trust Committee approved new targeted asset allocations for the Plans which will be fully implemented during 2021. The new targets are the result of the Committee's adoption of a liability-driven investment strategy designed to manage funded status volatility of the Plans.

The assets of the pension plans consist primarily of investments in various domestic equity, international equity and bond funds. These funds do not contain any significant investments in a single entity, industry, country or commodity, thereby mitigating concentration risk. No CoBank stock or debt is included in these investments. The following table presents major categories of plan assets that are measured at fair value at December 31, 2020 for each of the fair value hierarchy levels as defined in Note 11.

Tatal

## Fair Value Measurements December 31, 2020 Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 NAV <sup>(1)</sup>

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	NAV	l otal
Asset Category					
Cash	\$ 417	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$ 417
Domestic Equity:					
Large-cap Growth					
Funds <sup>(2)</sup>	50,447	-	-	49,428	99,875
Small-cap Growth					
Funds <sup>(2)</sup>	-	-	-	16,936	16,936
International Equity:					
International Funds <sup>(3)</sup>	42,492	-	-	21,014	63,506
Domestic Fixed Income:					
Total Return Funds <sup>(4)</sup>	73,939	-	-	-	73,939
Bond Funds <sup>(5)</sup>	-	89,898	-	-	89,898
Emerging Markets:					
Equity and Fixed					
Income Funds <sup>(6)</sup>	25,046	-	-	7	25,053
Hedge Funds <sup>(7)</sup>	-	-	-	17,657	17,657
Total	\$192,341	\$ 89,898	\$-	\$105,042	\$ 387,281

<sup>(1)</sup> Certain investments that are measured at fair value using the net asset value (NAV) per share as a practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this column are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the net assets in the pension plans.

<sup>(2)</sup> Funds invest primarily in diversified portfolios of common stocks of U.S. companies.

<sup>(3)</sup> Funds invest primarily in a diversified portfolio of equities of non-U.S. companies.

<sup>(4)</sup> Funds invest primarily in a diversified portfolio of investment grade debt securities and cash instruments.

- <sup>(5)</sup> Funds invest primarily in U.S. Treasury debt securities and corporate bonds of U.S. companies.
- <sup>(6)</sup> Funds invest in equities and corporate debt securities of companies located in emerging international markets.

<sup>(7)</sup> Funds invest in diversified portfolios of stocks, bonds and various other financial instruments.

Level 1 plan assets are funds with quoted daily net asset values that are directly observable by market participants. The fair value of these funds is the net asset value at close of business on the reporting date. Level 2 plan assets are funds with quoted net asset values that are not directly observable by market participants. A significant portion of the underlying investments in these funds have individually observable market prices, which are utilized by the plan's trustee to determine a net asset value at close of business on the reporting date. Level 3 plan assets are funds with unobservable net asset values and supported by limited or no market activity. There were no purchases or sales of Level 3 plan assets in the current year and no transfers into or out of Level 3 assets occurred in the current year.

Investment strategy and objectives are described in the pension plans' formal investment policy document. The basic strategy and objectives are to manage portfolio assets with a long-term time horizon appropriate for the participant demographics and cash flow requirements; to optimize longterm funding requirements by generating rates of return sufficient to fund liabilities and exceed the long-term rate of inflation while reducing overall funded status volatility; and to provide competitive investment returns as measured against appropriate benchmarks.

## **Expected Contributions**

We expect to contribute approximately \$3.0 million to our funded, qualified defined benefit pension plans in 2021 and \$0.3 million, net of collected retiree premiums, to our other postretirement benefit plans in 2021. We also expect to contribute approximately \$2.5 million to our trust accounts related to our SERPs and ERP in 2021. Our actual 2021 contributions could differ from the estimates noted above.

#### **Estimated Future Benefit Payments**

We expect to make the following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate.

Estimated Benefit Year:	Ret	irement enefits	Postre	ther tirement nefits
2021	\$	23,123	\$	182
2022		26,790		175
2023		25,555		167
2024		25,591		162
2025		25,892		158
2026 to 2030		130,005		652

#### **Incentive Compensation Plans**

We have a broad-based, Board-approved short-term incentive compensation plan covering substantially all employees pursuant to which annual cash awards may be earned. Criteria used to determine amounts payable include the achievement of specified financial measures and strategic business objectives, which are approved annually by the Compensation and Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors. Individual performance is also considered in the determination of the amounts payable.

We also have a Board-approved long-term incentive compensation plan, pursuant to which cash awards may be earned by senior officers and specified other key employees who have a significant impact on long-term financial performance. Criteria used to determine amounts payable include achievement of certain Bank financial targets and strategic business objectives over a three-year performance period. Cash awards are to be paid subsequent to completion of each three-year period, subject to approval by the Compensation and Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors.

Under the terms of the short-term incentive compensation plan, a minimum return on active patron stock investment

must be achieved in order for a payout to be approved. Under the long-term incentive compensation plan, a minimum return on active patron stock investment and a minimum capital threshold must be achieved in each year within the three-year performance period for a full payout to be made. The required minimum return on active patron stock investment was 11.0 percent for all performance periods disclosed herein. The required minimum capital threshold, which is currently equal to the minimum total regulatory capital ratio, was 11.5 percent for all performance periods disclosed herein.

## Note 8 – Income Taxes

The components of the provision for income taxes are as follows:

Year Ended December 31,	2020	2019	2018
Current:			
Federal	\$ (18,793)	\$ 34,052	\$ 20,916
State	7,789	1,492	(8,049)
Total Current	(11,004)	35,544	12,867
Deferred:			
Federal	134,925	48,961	66,413
State	5,927	(16,763)	21,094
Total Deferred	140,852	32,198	87,507
Total	\$ 129,848	\$ 67,742	\$ 100,374
Comprehensive Tax Provision			
Allocable to:			
Pre-Tax Income	\$ 129,848	\$ 67,742	\$ 100,374
Shareholders' Equity -			
Amounts Allocated to:			
Investment Securities	78,946	66,249	(11,994)
Derivatives	730	293	(121)
Pension Liability	1,790	(2,861)	2,034
Total	\$ 211,314	\$ 131,423	\$ 90,293

The components of deferred tax assets and liabilities are shown below.

December 31,	2020	2019			2018
Allowance for Credit Losses	\$ 141,856	\$	154,376	\$	153,819
Employee Benefits	46,939		39,637		35,402
Unrealized Net Losses					
on Investment Securities					
and Derivatives	-		-		36,371
Loan Origination Fees	13,219		8,298		5,787
Other Deferred Tax Assets	57,521		45,074		39,786
Gross Deferred Tax Assets	259,535		247,385		271,165
Leasing	741,411		595,297		549,294
Unrealized Net Gains					
on Investment Securities					
and Derivatives	109,847		30,171		-
Other Deferred Tax Liabilities	25,969		17,291		21,366
Gross Deferred Tax Liabilities	877,227		642,759		570,660
Net Deferred Tax Liabilities	\$ (617,692)	\$	(395,374)	\$	(299,495)

Deferred income taxes are provided for the change in temporary differences between the basis of certain assets and liabilities for financial reporting and income tax reporting purposes except for our nontaxable entity. The expected future tax rates are based upon enacted tax laws.

We have concluded that it is more likely than not that the deferred tax assets will be realized based on our history of earnings and our ability to implement tax planning strategies.

The effective tax rates were less than the statutory income tax rate primarily due to \$728.4 million, \$643.6 million, and \$699.7 million of patronage distributions for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019, and 2018, respectively, which are tax deductible, if made by our taxable entity, as permitted by Subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code. The nontaxable activities conducted in the FCB subsidiary also contributed to a lower effective tax rate.

Year Ended December 31,	2020	2019	2018
Federal Tax at Statutory Rate	\$ 292,498	\$ 243,384	\$ 271,141
State Tax, Net	10,836	(12,064)	17,267
Patronage Distributions			
Allocated by:			
Taxable Entity	(64,304)	(61,619)	(61,066)
Nontaxable Entity	(66,210)	(65,173)	(65,526)
Special Patronage Distributions			
Allocated by:			
Taxable Entity	(10,185)	(6,268)	(11,179)
Nontaxable Entity	(12,201)	(2,098)	(9,026)
Effect of Nontaxable Entity	(11,738)	(10,899)	(21,707)
Tax-Exempt Activities	(338)	(195)	(92)
Federal and State Tax Credits	(5,670)	(2,534)	(2,654)
Remeasurement of Deferred Tax			
Liabilities / Deferred Tax Assets	-	-	(15,782)
Other	(2,840)	(14,792)	(1,002)
Provision for Income Taxes	\$ 129,848	\$ 67,742	\$ 100,374

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties, is as follows:

Year Ended December 31, 2020	
Balance at Beginning of Year	\$ 4,817
Additions Based on Tax Positions Related to the Current Year	1,100
Additions for Tax Positions of Prior Years	696
Reductions for Tax Positions of Prior Years	-
Lapse of Applicable Statute of Limitations	-
Balance at End of Year	\$ 6,613
Year Ended December 31, 2019	
Balance at Beginning of Year	\$ 4,784
Additions Based on Tax Positions Related to the Current Year	897
Additions for Tax Positions of Prior Years	385
Reductions for Tax Positions of Prior Years	-
Lapse of Applicable Statute of Limitations	(1,249)
Balance at End of Year	\$ 4,817
Year Ended December 31, 2018	
Balance at Beginning of Year	\$ 4,600
Additions Based on Tax Positions Related to the Current Year	703
Additions for Tax Positions of Prior Years	267
Reductions for Tax Positions of Prior Years	(325)
Lapse of Applicable Statute of Limitations	(461)
Balance at End of Year	\$ 4,784

The total amount of unrecognized tax benefits that, if recognized, would impact the effective tax rate is \$6.7 million. We do not currently believe that the unrecognized tax benefits will change significantly within the next 12 months.

CoBank is no longer subject to federal tax examination for periods before 2015. In April 2020, the Internal Revenue Service initiated an examination of our amended 2015 through 2017 federal income tax returns.

CoBank files tax returns in most states each year and is under continuous examination by various state taxing authorities. With some exceptions, we are no longer subject to state and local income tax examinations by taxing authorities for periods before 2017. For all open audits, any potential adjustments have been considered in establishing our reserve for uncertain tax positions as of December 31, 2020.

We recognize accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits as a component of the provision for income taxes. We had approximately \$1.7 million, \$1.4 million, and \$1.5 million of interest and penalties accrued at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

## Note 9 – Financial Instruments With Off-Balance Sheet Risk

We utilize various financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk to satisfy the financing needs of our borrowers and to manage our exposure to interest rate risk. Such financial instruments include commitments to extend credit and commercial letters of credit. Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a borrower provided that certain contractual conditions are met. Commercial letters of credit are agreements to pay a beneficiary under conditions specified in the letter of credit. Commitments and letters of credit generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. At December 31, 2020, outstanding commitments to extend credit and commercial letters of credit were \$33.3 billion and \$64.7 million, respectively.

Since many of these commitments may expire without being drawn, the total commitments do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. Our exposure to many of these commitments is mitigated by borrowing base requirements contained in loan agreements. However, these credit-related financial instruments have off-balance sheet credit risk because their amounts are not reflected on the consolidated balance sheets until funded or drawn upon. The credit risk associated with issuing commitments and commercial letters of credit is substantially the same as that involved in extending loans to borrowers. Therefore, management applies the same credit policies to these commitments. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the borrower. As discussed in Note 1, we maintain a reserve for unfunded commitments.

For a fee, we provide financial standby letters of credit for borrowers, which are irrevocable commitments to guarantee payment of a specified financial obligation. We also provide performance standby letters of credit which are irrevocable agreements by us, as a guarantor, to make payments to the guaranteed party in the event a specified third party fails to perform under a nonfinancial contractual obligation, such as a third party failing to timely deliver certain commodities at a specified time and place. We also issue indemnification agreements that function like guarantees. These indemnification agreements contingently require us, as the indemnifying party guarantor, to make payments to an indemnified party under certain specified circumstances. Certain recourse provisions would enable us, as a guarantor, to recover from third parties any of the amounts paid under guarantees, thereby limiting our maximum potential exposure.

As of December 31, 2020, the maximum potential amount of future payments that we may be required to make under our outstanding standby letters of credit was \$1.5 billion, with a fair value of \$12.9 million, which is included in other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet. Payment/performance risk of the standby letters of credit guarantee is assessed using the same internal customer credit ratings that we use to manage credit risk in our loan portfolio. These outstanding standby letters of credit have expiration dates ranging from January 2021 to December 2039.

In addition, we had outstanding commitments of \$57.1 million at December 31, 2020 to fund our equity investments, which include RBICs.

# Note 10 – Derivatives and Hedging Activities

## **Risk Management Objectives and Strategies**

We maintain an overall interest rate risk management strategy that incorporates the use of interest rate swaps and other derivatives to manage liquidity risk, market risk and to minimize significant unplanned fluctuations in earnings that are caused by interest rate volatility. Our goal is to manage interest rate sensitivity by modifying the repricing frequency or effective maturity of certain balance sheet assets and liabilities. We also maintain a foreign exchange risk management strategy to reduce the impact of currency fluctuations on our relatively nominal amount of foreign currency-denominated loans. As a result of interest rate and foreign exchange rate fluctuations, fixed-rate assets and liabilities will appreciate or depreciate in market value. The effect of this unrealized appreciation or depreciation is expected to be substantially offset by gains and losses on the derivative instruments that are linked to these assets and liabilities. Interest rate and foreign exchange fluctuations also cause interest income and interest expense of variable-rate assets and liabilities to increase or decrease. The effect of this variability in earnings is expected to be substantially offset by gains and losses on the derivative instruments that are linked to these assets and liabilities.

## **Uses of Derivatives**

To achieve risk management objectives and satisfy the financing needs of our borrowers, we execute various derivative transactions with other financial institutions. Derivatives (primarily interest rate swaps) are used to manage liquidity and the interest rate risk arising from maturity and repricing mismatches between assets and liabilities. Under interest rate swap arrangements, we agree with a counterparty to exchange, at specified intervals, payment streams calculated on a specified notional amount, with at least one payment stream based on a specified floating-rate index. We use a variety of interest rate swaps including the exchange of floating-rate for fixed-rate swaps and fixed-rate for floatingrate swaps with payment obligations tied to specific indices. In the course of managing risk in our investment and loan portfolios, we also periodically hedge cap and floor risk embedded within our floating-rate investments and loans by entering into derivative transactions. In addition, we execute foreign exchange spot and forward contracts to manage currency risk on loans denominated in foreign currencies. We also enter into derivatives for our customers as a service to enable them to transfer, modify or reduce their interest rate risk and foreign exchange risk by transferring such risk to us.

We substantially offset this risk transference by concurrently entering into offsetting agreements with counterparties.

The notional amounts and related activity of derivatives at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 are shown in the following table.

Activity in the Noti	ona	l Amou	nt	s of Deriv	at	ives	
				Caps /		Spots /	
(\$ in Millions)	S	Swaps		Floors	F	orwards	Total
December 31, 2019	\$	33,339	\$	6,745	\$	192	\$ 40,276
Additions /Accretion		45,544		324		1,701	47,569
Maturities /Amortization		(31,013)		(579)		(1,736)	(33,328)
Terminations		(1,204)		(55)		-	(1,259)
December 31, 2020	\$	46,666	\$	6,435	\$	157	\$ 53,258
December 31, 2018	\$	28,479	\$	4,360	\$	85	\$ 32,924
Additions /Accretion		11,818		2,674		2,176	16,668
Maturities /Amortization		(5,630)		(289)		(2,069)	(7,988)
Terminations		(1,328)		-		-	(1,328)
December 31, 2019	\$	33,339	\$	6,745	\$	192	\$ 40,276
December 31, 2017	\$	26,355	\$	5,123	\$	183	\$ 31,661
Additions /Accretion		9,176		294		4,511	13,981
Maturities /Amortization		(6,507)		(457)		(4,609)	(11,573)
Terminations		(545)		(600)		-	(1,145)
December 31, 2018	\$	28,479	\$	4,360	\$	85	\$ 32,924

# Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

We record derivatives as assets or liabilities at their fair value on the consolidated balance sheets. We record changes in the fair value of a derivative in current period earnings or accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), depending on the use of the derivative and whether it qualifies for hedge accounting. For fair value hedge transactions that hedge changes in the fair value of assets or liabilities, changes in the fair value of the derivative will generally be offset in the statement of income by changes in the hedged item's fair value attributable to the risk being hedged. For cash flow hedge transactions, in which we hedge the variability of future cash flows related to a variable-rate or foreign currency denominated asset or liability, changes in the fair value of the derivative are reported in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). The gains and losses on the derivatives that we report in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) will be reclassified as earnings in the periods in which earnings are affected by the variability of the cash flows of the hedged item.

For our customer transactions, which are not designated as hedging instruments, we record the related changes in fair value in current period earnings. We substantially offset this risk transference by concurrently entering into offsetting agreements with counterparties, with the changes in fair value of these transactions also recorded in current period earnings.

## **Fair Value Hedges**

The majority of the fair value hedging activity relates to entering into interest rate swaps primarily to convert our nonprepayable fixed-rate debt to floating-rate debt to achieve our liquidity management strategy. The amount converted depends on contractual interest rates and maturities. For the remaining fair value hedges, we enter into receive-fixed, pay-floating swaps for our equity positioning strategy and low interest rate hedging strategy. For fair value hedges, the amount of hedge ineffectiveness is recognized as net interest income in current period earnings.

#### **Cash Flow Hedges**

Our cash flow hedges include interest rate caps and floors to hedge cap and floor risk embedded within a portion of our floating-rate investment securities and loans. Interest rate caps and interest rate floors are an integral part of our interest rate hedging strategies. The interest rate caps hedge floating-rate debt cash flows that fund the cash flows from floating-rate investment securities. If the strike rates in the purchased interest rate caps are exceeded, we receive cash flows on the derivative to hedge our floating-rate funding exposure above such strike levels. The interest rate floors hedge cash flows from floating-rate loans. If market index rates underlying our floating-rate loans decline below strike levels, we receive cash flows on the derivative. We also enter into foreign exchange spot and forward contracts to manage currency risk on loans denominated in foreign currencies. Typically, foreign currency contracts are purchased to fund the principal cash flows of the loan and simultaneously sold to lock in the principal and interest cash flows upon repricing or maturity date of the loan. For cash flow hedges, the amount excluded from effectiveness assessment and the amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) into current period earnings are all reflected in net interest income. For cash flow hedges in which the forecasted transaction is not probable of occurring, the amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) are reflected in current period earnings. At December 31, 2020, we expect that \$16.2 million of expense will be reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) into earnings in the next 12 months, based on the anticipated cash flows of existing financial instruments. The maximum term over which we are hedging our exposure to the variability of future cash flows for all forecasted transactions is approximately 15 years.

## **Derivatives Not Designated As Hedges**

Derivative agreements with our customers and the related offsetting derivative agreements with counterparties as well as our short-term interest rate swaps indexed to Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) are not designated as hedging instruments and do not receive hedge accounting treatment. Accordingly, any changes in the fair value of these derivatives are recognized immediately as noninterest income/expense in current period earnings.

#### **Counterparty Credit Risk**

The use of derivatives for risk management introduces credit risk related to customers and counterparties. Generally, when the fair value of a derivative contract is positive, we are exposed to credit risk. When the fair value of a derivative contract is negative, the counterparty is exposed to us. Derivative transactions with our customers are typically secured through our loan agreements. As of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, the notional amount of derivatives with our customers totaled \$12.5 billion, \$10.9 billion and \$9.2 billion, respectively.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act) requires certain derivative transactions to be cleared through a central clearinghouse and traded on regulated swap execution facilities. The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission has exempted certain qualifying swaps entered into by endusers and financial cooperatives from these requirements. The exemptions do not cover all swaps executed by CoBank and are generally limited to swaps entered into in connection with loans and derivatives for customer-owners. CoBank has also voluntarily chosen to clear some swap transactions for economic and risk management purposes. As a result, certain of our derivative transactions are cleared through a futures commission merchant (FCM) with a clearinghouse or central counterparty (CCP). When these swaps are cleared, a single bilateral swap is divided into two separate swaps with the CCP becoming the counterparty to both of the initial parties to the swap. CCPs have several layers of protection against default including initial margin and variation margin or settlement payments that are required to be posted by participants. FCMs prequalify counterparties to all cleared swaps, set exposure limits for each counterparty and collect initial margin and variation margin or settlement payments daily for changes in the value of cleared derivatives. The margin and settlement payments collected from both parties to the swap protect against credit risk in the event of a counterparty default. As of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, the notional amount of our cleared derivatives was \$29.0 billion, \$15.7 billion and \$12.7 billion, respectively. Initial margin and settlement payments totaling \$50.6 million and \$161.7 million, respectively, were held by our CCP for our cleared derivatives as of December 31, 2020, \$62.5 million and \$136.9 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2019 and \$46.5 million and \$61.9 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2018.

Our remaining non-customer derivatives are transacted with derivative counterparties and governed by master swap agreements, which include bilateral collateral arrangements, requiring the Bank or our counterparties to post collateral on a daily basis with thresholds set at zero for all active counterparties. The master swap agreements also include netting agreements requiring the net settlement of covered contracts with the same counterparty in the event of default by the other party. The "net" mark-to-market exposure represents the netting of the positive and negative exposures with that counterparty. Notwithstanding these protections, we are exposed to credit risk with these counterparties due to the timing of daily margining activities. As of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, the notional amount of derivatives with our non-customer counterparties, excluding cleared derivatives, totaled \$11.7 billion, \$13.7 billion and \$11.0 billion, respectively.

We record derivative exposures and related cash collateral balances at gross amounts in our consolidated balance sheets.

Pursuant to our master swap agreements, as of December 31, 2020 we posted \$268.3 million in cash as collateral with our non-customer counterparties.

The fair value of our derivatives to all of our dealer counterparties was a liability at December 31, 2020 and 2019, and was offset by the collateral we posted to our dealer counterparties. At December 31, 2018, the fair value of our derivatives to certain dealer counterparties was an asset and offset by collateral held by us. The remainder of the fair value of our derivatives to dealer counterparties was a liability at December 31, 2018 and was offset by collateral we posted to our dealer counterparties. The amount of losses related to derivatives we are exposed to in the event of nonperformance by dealer counterparties to our derivative positions is mitigated by collateral posted or held by us.

#### **Hedge Terminations**

During 2020 we terminated \$55.0 million in notional value of interest rate caps which hedged debt funding certain loans which prepaid in 2020. During 2018 we terminated \$600.0 million in notional value of interest rate caps which hedged debt funding certain investment securities sold earlier in 2018. These 2020 and 2018 cap terminations were previously accounted for as cash flow hedges. We did not terminate any interest rate swaps or caps for asset-liability management purposes during 2019.

We terminated interest rate swaps with customers and offsetting dealer counterparties totaling notional value of \$1.204 billion, \$1.328 billion and \$545.1 million in 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. Proceeds from the customer terminations were offset by payments for the offsetting dealer terminations.

## **Cleared Derivative Transition**

On October 19, 2020, we participated in the mandatory transition of \$24.4 billion of our LIBOR-indexed cleared derivatives with our clearinghouse (CCP) from Overnight Index Swap (OIS) discounting to SOFR discounting. As part of this transition, we received approximately \$218.1 million in notional value of Effective Federal Funds Rate vs. SOFR basis swaps with various maturity dates based on our cleared derivative position with our CCP on this date. We participated in the CCP auction of our basis swaps on October 22, 2020 and liquidated all of these basis swaps for a nominal amount to eliminate future interest rate risk. We applied the ASU 848 optional accounting relief, described in Note 2, to this transaction which resulted in a continuation of the existing derivative accounting, no dedesignation of any accounting hedges and a minimal gain recorded in the accompanying consolidated statement of income in 2020.

A summary of the impact of interest rate swaps and other derivatives on our consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 is shown in the following tables.

Fair Value of Derivatives					
As of December 31, 2020		r Value of erivative Assets <sup>(1)</sup>	Fair Value of Derivative Liabilities <sup>(2)</sup>		
Derivatives Designated as					
Hedging Instruments					
Interest Rate Contracts	\$	376,007	\$	335	
Foreign Exchange Contracts		147		1,962	
Total Derivatives Designated as					
Hedging Instruments	\$	376,154	\$	2,297	
<b>Derivatives Not Designated</b>	as				
Hedging Instruments					
Interest Rate Contracts	\$	663,401	\$	608,122	
Foreign Exchange Contracts		1		1	
Total Derivatives Not Designated as					
Hedging Instruments	\$	663,402	\$	608,123	
Settlement Payments	\$	(161,682)	\$	-	
Total Derivatives	\$	877,874	\$	610,420	

<sup>(1)</sup> These assets make up the interest rate swaps and other derivatives in the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2020.

<sup>(2)</sup> These liabilities make up the interest rate swaps and other derivatives

in the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2020.

As of December 31, 2019	De	r Value of erivative ssets <sup>(1)</sup>	Fair Value of Derivative Liabilities <sup>(2)</sup>		
Derivatives Designated as					
Hedging Instruments					
Interest Rate Contracts	\$	218,800	\$	10,119	
Foreign Exchange Contracts		96		1,89	
Total Derivatives Designated as					
Hedging Instruments	\$	218,896	\$	12,01	
<b>Derivatives Not Designated</b>	as				
Hedging Instruments					
Interest Rate Contracts	\$	298,707	\$	251,09	
Foreign Exchange Contracts		28		2	
Total Derivatives Not Designated as					
Hedging Instruments	\$	298,735	\$	251,12	
Settlement Payments	\$	(136,916)	\$		
Total Derivatives	\$	380,715	\$	263,13	

<sup>(2)</sup> These liabilities make up the interest rate swaps and other derivatives

7 These liabilities make up the interest rate swaps and other derivatives in the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2019.

## Fair Value of Derivatives

	D	r Value of erivative	Fair Value of Derivative				
As of December 31, 2018	Assets <sup>(1)</sup> Liabilities						
Derivatives Designated as							
Hedging Instruments							
Interest Rate Contracts	\$	77,238	\$	86,345			
Foreign Exchange Contracts		589		297			
Total Derivatives Designated as							
Hedging Instruments	\$	77,827	\$	86,642			
Derivatives Not Designated a	as						
Hedging Instruments							
Interest Rate Contracts	\$	178,036	\$	130,059			
Foreign Exchange Contracts		63		63			
Total Derivatives Not Designated as							
Hedging Instruments	\$	178,099	\$	130,122			
Settlement Payments	\$	-	\$	(61,923)			
Total Derivatives	\$	255,926	\$	154,841			

<sup>(1)</sup> These assets make up the interest rate swaps and other derivatives in the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2018.

<sup>(2)</sup> These liabilities make up the interest rate swaps and other derivatives in the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2018. A summary of the impact of interest rate swaps and other derivatives on our consolidated statements of income and comprehensive income for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 is shown in the following tables.

	I	nterest ncome Loans	Interest Income vestments	Total Interest Income	Interest Expense	Net Interest Income	Noninterest Income (Expense)	
Year Ended December 31, 2020								
Total Amount of Line Items Presented in Consolidated Statement of Income	\$	2,736,175	\$ 576,231	\$ 3,312,406	\$ (1,745,874)	\$ 1,566,532 \$	\$	281,836
Gain (Loss) on Fair Value Hedge Relationships:								
Interest Rate Contracts:								
Recognized on Derivatives	\$	-	\$ •	\$ •	\$ 164,823	\$ 164,823 \$	5	-
Recognized on Hedged Items		-		-	(165,001)	(165,001)		-
Net Income (Expense) Recognized on Fair Value Hedges	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (178)	\$ (178) \$	\$	•
Gain (Loss) on Cash Flow Hedge Relationships:								
Interest Rate Contracts:								
Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive								
Income (Loss) into Income (Loss)	\$	(1,005)	\$ -	\$ (1,005)	\$ (14,186) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ (15,191) \$	5	(3,411) <sup>(</sup>
Foreign Exchange Contracts:								
Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive								
Income (Loss) into Income (Loss) <sup>(2)</sup>		531	•	531	-	531		-
Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing Recognized in Earnings Based								
on an Amortization Approach		780	•	780	-	780		-
Net Income (Expense) Recognized on Cash Flow Hedges	\$	306	\$ •	\$ 306	\$ (14,186)	\$ (13,880) \$	\$	(3,411)
Year Ended December 31, 2019								
Total Amount of Line Items Presented in Consolidated Statement of Income	\$	3,687,926	\$ 780,172	\$ 4,468,098	\$ (3,069,539)	\$ 1,398,559 \$	5	220,913
Gain (Loss) on Fair Value Hedge Relationships:								
Interest Rate Contracts:								
Recognized on Derivatives	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 221,042	\$ 221,042 \$	6	-
Recognized on Hedged Items		-	-	-	(219,338)	(219,338)		-
Net Income (Expense) Recognized on Fair Value Hedges	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,704	\$ 1,704 \$	5	-
Gain (Loss) on Cash Flow Hedge Relationships:								
Interest Rate Contracts:								
Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive								
Income (Loss) into Income (Loss)	\$	(410)	\$ -	\$ (410)	\$ (12,041)	\$ (12,451) \$	5	-
Foreign Exchange Contracts:								
Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive								
Income (Loss) into Income (Loss) <sup>(3)</sup>		(2,127)	-	(2,127)	-	(2,127)		-
Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing Recognized in Earnings Based								
on an Amortization Approach		1,563	-	1,563	-	1,563		-
Net Income (Expense) Recognized on Cash Flow Hedges	\$	(974)	\$ -	\$ (974)	\$ (12,041)	\$ (13,015) \$	6	-

(1) \$3,411 related to termination of interest rate contracts is located in noninterest expense - other, net and the remaining \$14,186 related to continuing interest rate contracts is located in interest expense in the consolidated statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2020.

(2) Fully offset by a \$531 loss on foreign currency denominated loans (hedged items) which is also located in interest income - loans in the consolidated statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2020.

(3) Fully offset by a \$2,127 gain on foreign currency denominated loans (hedged items) which is also located in interest income - loans in the consolidated statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2019.

	h	nterest ncome Loans	Interest Income vestments	Total Interest Income	Interest Expense	Net Interest Income	Noninterest Income (Expense)
Year Ended December 31, 2018							
Total Amount of Line Items Presented in Consolidated Statement of Income	\$	3,348,737	\$ 682,396	\$ 4,031,133	\$ (2,599,837)	\$ 1,431,296	\$ 289,660
Gain (Loss) on Fair Value Hedge Relationships:							
Interest Rate Contracts:							
Recognized on Derivatives	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,848	\$ 36,848	\$ -
Recognized on Hedged Items		-	-	-	(36,284)	(36,284)	-
Net Income (Expense) Recognized on Fair Value Hedges	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 564	\$ 564	\$ -
Gain (Loss) on Cash Flow Hedge Relationships:							
Interest Rate Contracts:							
Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) into Income (Loss)	\$	(161)	\$ -	\$ (161)	\$ (8,320) (1)	\$ (8,481)	\$ (13,073) <sup>(1)</sup>
Foreign Exchange Contracts:							
Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive							
Income (Loss) into Income (Loss) <sup>(2)</sup>		3,388	-	3,388	-	3,388	-
Amount Excluded from Effectiveness Testing Recognized in Earnings Based on an Amortization Approach		2,159	-	2,159	-	2,159	-
Net Income (Expense) Recognized on Cash Flow Hedges	\$	5,386	\$ -	\$ 5,386	\$ (8,320)	\$ (2,934)	\$ (13,073)

(1) \$13,073 related to termination of interest rate contracts is located in noninterest expense - other, net and the remaining \$8,320 related to continuing interest rate contracts is located in interest expense in the consolidated statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2018.

(2) Fully offset by a \$3,388 loss on foreign currency denominated loans (hedged items) which is also located in interest income - loans in the consolidated statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2018.

## Effect of Cash Flow Hedge Accounting on the Consolidated Balance Sheet

	Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) on Derivatives								
Year Ended December 31,		2020		2019	2018				
Interest Rate Contracts	\$	2,176	\$	(50,270)	\$	4,140			
Foreign Exchange Contracts		(18)		(2,089)		3,289			
Total	\$	2,158	\$	(52,359)	\$	7,429			

## Effect of Derivatives not Designated as Hedging Relationships on the Consolidated Statements of Income

Net Amount of Gain or (Loss)	
Recognized	

Year Ended December 31,	2020	2019	2018
Interest Rate Contracts <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 7,414	\$ (365)	\$ 4,553
Foreign Exchange Contracts	-	-	(25)
Total	\$ 7,414	\$ (365)	\$ 4,528

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes \$252 loss on short-term derivatives indexed to SOFR and recognized in interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2020 and \$7,666 gain, \$365 loss and \$4,553 gain on derivatives with customers and related offsetting derivatives with counterparties including credit valuation adjustments and recognized in noninterest income/ expense for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. A summary of the cumulative basis adjustment for fair value hedging relationships included in the carrying amount of hedged liabilities as of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 is shown in the following table.

<b>Derivatives in Fair Val</b>	lue F	ledging R	elat	ionships						
				Cumula	ative Basis					
			A	djustme	Included in					
			the Carrying Amoun							
			Hedged Liabilities							
	(	Carrying	Н	ledged	Hedged					
	Α	mount of	Items			Items No				
		Hedged	C	urrently		Longer				
As of December 31,		iabilities	De	signated		Designated				
2020										
2020										
Bonds and Notes	\$	14,658,292	\$	332,302	\$	92				
	\$	14,658,292	\$	332,302	\$	92				
Bonds and Notes	<b>\$</b> \$	<b>14,658,292</b> 15,627,566	\$ \$	<b>332,302</b> 167,301	<b>\$</b>	<b>92</b> 231				
Bonds and Notes 2019	Ŧ				Ŧ	-				

## Asset/Liability Offsetting

As noted previously, derivative transactions with swap dealers include bilateral collateral and netting agreements that require the net settlement of covered contracts. Derivative transactions with customers are collateralized through loan agreements. Notwithstanding collateral and netting provisions, our derivative assets and liabilities are not offset in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The amount of collateral received or pledged is calculated on a net basis, by counterparty.

The following tables summarize derivative assets and liabilities, related accrued interest and amounts of collateral exchanged pursuant to our agreements.

	Gross	fset In the ance Sheets						
	Assets/Liabilities Presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheets		Cash Collateral Received/ Pledged <sup>(1)</sup>	Investment Securities Received/Pledged as Collateral <sup>(1)</sup>			Net Amount	
As of December 31, 2020								
Assets:								
Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives:								
Dealer	\$	44,209	\$ -	\$	-	\$	44,209	
Customer		624,224	-		-		624,224	
Clearinghouse		209,441	-		-		209,441	
Accrued Interest Receivable on Derivative Contracts		63,142	•		-		63,142	
Liabilities:								
Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives:								
Dealer		314,100	(268,290)		-		45,810	
Customer		32,719			-		32,719	
Clearinghouse		263,601	-		(50,628)		212,973	
Accrued Interest Payable on Derivative Contracts		9,025	-		-		9,025	

<sup>(1)</sup> Cash collateral received is recognized in the consolidated balance sheets whereas investment securities received are not recognized in the consolidated balance sheets.

Offsetting of Derivatives and Collateral				Amounts Not	Offect	In the		
	Grace	Amounts of						
				Consolidated I				
	Assets/Liabilities Presented in			Cash		vestment		
				Collateral	-	ecurities		
	the Co	onsolidated		Received/	Recei	ved/Pledged		Net
	Balaı	nce Sheets		Pledged <sup>(1)</sup>	as (	Collateral <sup>(1)</sup>		Amount
As of December 31, 2019								
Assets:								
Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives:								
Dealer	\$	53,526	\$	-	\$	-	\$	53,526
Customer		259,908		-		-		259,908
Clearinghouse		67,281		-		-		67,281
Accrued Interest Receivable on Derivative Contracts		15,190		-		-		15,190
Liabilities:								
Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives:								
Dealer		161,906		(115,490)		-		46,416
Customer		29,407		-		-		29,407
Clearinghouse		71,821		-		(62,532)		9,289
Accrued Interest Payable on Derivative Contracts		8,009		-		-		8,009
As of December 31, 2018								
Assets:								
Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives:								
Dealer	\$	118,503	\$	(99,220)	\$	-	\$	19,283
Customer		81,718		-		-		81,718
Clearinghouse		55,705		-		-		55,705
Accrued Interest Receivable on Derivative Contracts		7,479		-		-		7,479
Liabilities:								
Interest Rate Swaps and Other Derivatives:								
Dealer		39,218		(2,450)		-		36,768
Customer		70,068		-		-		70,068
Clearinghouse		45,555		-		(46,528)		_ (2
Accrued Interest Payable on Derivative Contracts		14,888		-		-		14,888

<sup>(1)</sup> Cash collateral received is recognized in the consolidated balance sheets whereas investment securities received are not recognized in the consolidated balance sheets.

(2) Cash and investment securities pledged as collateral fully offset the related gross liability on the consolidated balance sheet.

## Note 11 – Disclosure About Estimated Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The fair value of financial instruments represents the estimated amount to be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer or extinguish a liability (an exit price) in active markets among willing participants at the reporting date. The FASB has established a three-level fair value hierarchy aimed at maximizing the use of observable inputs – that is, inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability. Observable inputs are based on market data obtained from independent sources. Unobservable inputs are supported by limited or no market activity and require significant management judgment or estimation.

Due to the uncertainty of expected cash flows resulting from financial instruments, the use of different assumptions and valuation methodologies could significantly affect the estimated fair value amounts. Accordingly, certain estimated fair values may not be indicative of the amounts for which the financial instruments could be exchanged in a current or future market transaction.

A description of the methods, assumptions and inputs to the valuation process used to determine or estimate the fair value of each class of financial instruments within the threelevel hierarchy follows.

#### Level 1

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Our Level 1 assets at December 31, 2020 consist of assets held in a trust fund related to deferred compensation and nonqualified retirement plans. The trust fund includes investments in securities that are actively traded and have quoted net asset value prices that are directly observable in the marketplace.

#### Level 2

Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices in markets that are not active; and inputs that are observable, or can be corroborated, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Our Level 2 assets and liabilities at December 31, 2020 include our derivative contracts, collateral balances related to derivative contracts, federal funds sold and other overnight funds, U.S. Treasury and agency debt investment securities, Ginnie Mae MBS, corporate bonds, and the substantial majority of agency MBS and ABS.

The fair value of federal funds sold and other overnight funds is generally their face value, plus accrued interest, as these instruments are readily convertible to cash and are shortterm in nature.

The fair value of our investment securities classified as Level 2 is determined by a third-party pricing service that uses valuation models to estimate current market prices. Inputs and assumptions related to these models are typically observable in the marketplace. Such models incorporate prepayment assumptions and underlying collateral information to generate cash flows that are discounted using appropriate benchmark interest rate curves and volatilities. These third-party valuation models also incorporate information regarding non-binding broker/dealer quotes, available trade information, historical cash flows, credit ratings, and other market information. The estimated fair values of investment securities also appear in Note 4.

The fair value of our interest rate swaps and other derivatives is the estimated amount to be received to sell a derivative asset or paid to transfer or extinguish a derivative liability in active markets among willing participants at the reporting date. Estimated fair value is determined through internal market valuation models. These models use an income approach and incorporate benchmark interest rate curves and discounting (primarily the Overnight Index Swap rate for collateralized non-customer derivative contracts, SOFR for collateralized cleared derivative contracts and the USD LIBOR/swap curve for non-collateralized customer derivative contracts), volatilities, counterparty credit quality and other inputs that are observable directly or indirectly in the marketplace. We compare internally calculated derivative valuations to broker/dealer quotes to substantiate the results. The fair value of collateral assets and liabilities related to derivative contracts is their face value, plus accrued interest. as these instruments are cash balances; therefore, fair value approximates face value.

The following table presents information about valuation techniques and inputs to Level 2 fair value measurements.

## Information About Valuation Techniques and Inputs to Level 2 Fair Value Measurements

	Valuation Technique	Inpute
Federal Funds Sold	Carrying Value	Inputs Par/Principal Plus Accrued
and Other Overnight	ourrying value	Interest
Funds		
Investment Securities	Third-Party	Prepayment Rate
	Pricing Service	Lifetime Default Rate
		Loss Severity
		Benchmark Yield Curve
		Quoted Prices
Interest Rate Swaps	Discounted	Benchmark Yield Curve
and Other Derivatives	Cash Flow	Counterparty Credit Risk
		Volatility
Collateral Assets and	Carrying Value	Par/Principal Plus Accrued
Collateral Liabilities		Interest

#### Level 3

Level 3 inputs are unobservable and supported by limited or no market activity. Our Level 3 assets at December 31, 2020 include a small portion of agency MBS and ABS. Based on the lack of active trading volume and an orderly market for these securities, we classified these securities as Level 3. Fair value for Level 3 agency MBS is estimated through a thirdparty pricing service that uses valuation models to estimate current market prices. Fair value for a small portion of our Level 3 ABS is calculated internally using third-party models. Inputs into all of these valuation models include underlying collateral data and projected losses as well as information for prepayment speeds and discounting spreads. Due to the lack of marketplace information, the inputs into these valuation models primarily represent management assumptions, with some corroboration to market inputs where information is available.

Level 3 assets at December 31, 2020 also include \$55.1 million of loans originally measured at cost, which were written down to fair value as a result of impairment. The valuation of these assets is based on either the fair value of the underlying collateral, if the loan is collateral dependent, or the present value of expected future cash flows. Such valuations may include the use of independent appraisals or other marketbased information to develop a management estimate of fair value. As a result, these fair value measurements fall under Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy; however, they are excluded from the 'Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis' tables on pages 121 and 122 because they are not measured on a recurring basis.

Our Level 3 liabilities at December 31, 2020 include standby letters of credit whose market value is internally calculated based on information that is not observable either directly or indirectly in the marketplace.

No transfers into or out of Level 3 assets or liabilities occurred in 2020, 2019 and 2018.

The following table presents quantitative information about Level 3 fair value measurements as of December 31, 2020.

(\$ in Millions) Assets		air	Valuation	Unobservable	Range (Weighte	
		alue	Technique	Inputs	Average)	
Investment Securities:						
U.S. Agency MBS	\$	84	Third-Party Pricing Service	Prepayment Rate	*	
				Lifetime Default Rate	*	
				Loss Severity	*	
Other (included in Asset-Backed)		13	Discounted Cash Flow	Prepayment Rate	0% (0%)	
Impaired Loans		55	Appraisal /	Income/Expense Data	**	
			<b>Discounted Cash Flow</b>	Comparable Sales	**	
				Replacement Cost	**	
Liabilities						
Standby Letters of Credit	\$	13	Discounted Cash Flow	Mark-to-Market Spread	0.1-1.3% (1.0%)	

# Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

The following tables present the assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 for each of the fair value hierarchy levels.

Assets and Liabilities Me	easure	ed at					
Fair Value on a Recurr	ing Ba	sis					
December 31, 2020							
(\$ in Millions)	Le	vel 1	L	evel 2	Le	evel 3	Total
Assets							
Federal Funds Sold and							
Other Overnight Funds	\$	-	\$	835	\$	-	\$ 835
Investment Securities:							
U.S. Treasury Debt		-		14,362		-	14,362
U.S. Agency Debt		-		2,960		-	2,960
Residential MBS:							
Ginnie Mae		-		886		-	886
U.S. Agency		-		2,281		84	2,365
Commercial MBS:							
U.S. Agency		-		11,554		•	11,554
Corporate Bonds		-		394		-	394
Asset-Backed and Other		-		291		13	304
Interest Rate Swaps and							
Other Derivatives		-		878		•	878
Assets Held in Trust							
(included in Other Assets)		108		-		-	108
Collateral Assets (included							
in Other Assets)		-		268		-	268
Total Assets	\$	108	\$	34,709	\$	97	\$ 34,914
Liabilities							
Interest Rate Swaps and							
Other Derivatives	\$	-	\$	610	\$	-	\$ 610
Standby Letters of Credit							
(included in Other Liabilities)		-				13	13
Total Liabilities	\$		\$	610	\$	13	\$ 623

## Assets and Liabilities Measured at

## Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

(\$ in Millions)	Lev	vel 1	L	evel 2	Le	evel 3	Total
Assets							
Federal Funds Sold and							
Other Overnight Funds	\$	-	\$	1,810	\$	-	\$ 1,810
Investment Securities:							
Certificates of Deposit		-		400		-	400
U.S. Treasury Debt		-		16,062		-	16,062
U.S. Agency Debt		-		2,854		-	2,854
Residential MBS:							
Ginnie Mae		-		2,337		-	2,337
U.S. Agency		-		4,286		99	4,385
Commercial MBS:							
U.S. Agency		-		4,946		-	4,946
Corporate Bonds		-		373		-	373
Asset-Backed and Other		-		1,055		14	1,069
Interest Rate Swaps and							
Other Derivatives		-		381		-	381
Assets Held in Trust							
(included in Other Assets)		97		-		-	97
Collateral Assets (included							
in Other Assets)		-		115		-	115
Total Assets	\$	97	\$	34,619	\$	113	\$ 34,829
Liabilities							
Interest Rate Swaps and							
Other Derivatives	\$	-	\$	263	\$	-	\$ 263
Standby Letters of Credit							
(included in Other Liabilities)		-		-		11	11
Total Liabilities	\$	-	\$	263	\$	11	\$ 274

## Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

December 31, 2018								
(\$ in Millions)	Le	vel 1	L	evel 2	Le	evel 3	1	Fotal
Assets								
Federal Funds Sold and								
Other Overnight Funds	\$	-	\$	1,300	\$	-	\$	1,300
Investment Securities:								
Certificates of Deposit		-		975		-		975
U.S. Treasury Debt		-		15,268		-		15,268
U.S. Agency Debt		-		2,239		-		2,239
Residential MBS:								
Ginnie Mae		-		2,940		-		2,940
U.S. Agency		-		5,415		113		5,528
Non-Agency		-		13		-		13
Commercial MBS:								
U.S. Agency		-		2,867		-		2,867
Corporate Bonds		-		119		-		119
Asset-Backed and Other		-		1,331		12		1,343
Interest Rate Swaps and								
Other Derivatives		-		256		-		256
Assets Held in Trust								
(included in Other Assets)		81		-		-		81
Collateral Assets (included								
in Other Assets)		-		2		-		2
Total Assets	\$	81	\$	32,725	\$	125	\$	32,931
Liabilities								
Interest Rate Swaps and								
Other Derivatives	\$	-	\$	155	\$	-	\$	155
Collateral Liabilities								
(included in Bonds and Notes)		-		99		-		99
Standby Letters of Credit								
(included in Other Liabilities)		-		-		10		10
Total Liabilities	\$	-	\$	254	\$	10	\$	264

The following table presents the changes in Level 3 assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis.

					FI	HA/VA	Asset-			
	U	.S.			Non-	Wrapped	Backed		Standby	
	Ag	ency	Farme	r Mac		erformer	Securities		Letters of	
(\$ in Millions)	• •		Agricultural MBS		Residential MBS		and Other		Credit	
Balance at December 31, 2019	\$	99	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 14	\$	11	
Total Gains or Losses (Realized/Unrealized):										
Included in Other Comprehensive Income		(3)		-		-	-		-	
Purchases		-		-		-	14		-	
Issuances		-		-		-	-		12	
Settlements		(13)		-		-	(15)		(10)	
Accretion		1		-		-	-		-	
Balance at December 31, 2020	\$	84	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 13	\$	13	
Balance at December 31, 2018	\$	113	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 12	\$	10	
Total Gains or Losses (Realized/Unrealized):										
Included in Other Comprehensive Income		1		-		-	1		-	
Purchases		-		-		-	7		-	
Sales		-		-		-	(5)		-	
Issuances		-		-		-	-		13	
Settlements		(17)		-		-	(1)		(12)	
Accretion		2		-		-	-		-	
Balance at December 31, 2019	\$	99	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 14	\$	11	
Balance at December 31, 2017	\$	125	\$	78	\$	257	\$ 39	\$	10	
Total Gains or Losses (Realized/Unrealized):										
Included in Other Noninterest Income		-		-		38	8		-	
Included in Other Comprehensive Income		3		2		(22)	(8)		-	
Sales		-		(61)		(262)	(19)		-	
Issuances		-		-		-	2		8	
Settlements		(17)		(19)		(13)	(11)		(8)	
Accretion		2		-		2	1			
Balance at December 31, 2018	\$	113	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 12	\$	10	

## **Estimated Fair Value of Certain Other Financial Instruments**

The following table presents the estimated fair value of financial instruments that are recorded in the consolidated balance sheets at cost, as well as certain off-balance sheet financial instruments, as of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018. (\$ in Millions)

		De	December 31, 2020			December 31, 2019					December 31, 2018				
		arrying mount	-	timated ir Value	Fair Value Hierarchy		arrying mount		timated ir Value	Fair Value Hierarchy		arrying mount		stimated ir Value	Fair Value Hierarchy
Financial Asset	ts:														
Net Loans	\$	120,220	\$	124,075	Level 3	\$	108,199	\$	110,180	Level 3	\$	103,872	\$	103,906	Level 3
Financial Liabil	ities														
Bonds and Notes	\$	143,384	\$	146,959	Level 3	\$	132,230	\$	133,924	Level 3	\$	127,632	(1) \$	127,355 <sup>(1)</sup>	Level 3
Off-Balance Sh	eet F	inancial	Instr	uments:											
Commitments to															
Extend Credit	\$	-	\$	(112)	Level 3	\$	-	\$	(95)	Level 3	\$	-	\$	(89)	Level 3

## **Commitments to Extend Credit**

The fair value of commitments to extend credit is estimated using a discounted cash flow method by applying a risk-adjusted spread percentage to these obligations.

## Note 12 – Leased Property

We have operating leases for our corporate headquarters, banking center offices, certain equipment and vehicles. We determine if an arrangement is a lease and the related lease classification at inception. Right-of-use (ROU) assets and lease liabilities are recognized based on the present value of the future minimum lease payments over the lease term at commencement date. If available, we use the implicit rate in the lease in determining the present value of future payments. We use our incremental borrowing rate based on the information available at commencement date when the implicit rate in the lease is not available. ROU assets and lease liabilities are included in other assets and other liabilities, respectively, in our consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2020. Operating lease rentals are expensed on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease beginning on the date we take possession of the property. We determine the lease term by assuming the exercise of renewal and termination options that are reasonably certain. Our leases have remaining minimum lease terms of 1 year to 10 years, some of which include options to extend the leases for up to an additional 15 years. Rent expense for leases is reflected in occupancy and equipment expense in the accompanying consolidated statements of income. Additionally, the depreciable life of leased assets and leasehold improvements is limited by the expected lease term.

Other information related to our operating leases is as follows:

Operating Leases		
As of December 31,	2020	2019
Right-of-Use Assets	\$ 70,137 \$	75,666
Lease Liabilities	73,610	78,707
Year Ended December 31,	2020	2019
rear Linded December 31,		
Operating Lease Cost	\$ 13,971 \$	14,263
	\$ 	

Future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as of December 31, 2020 were as follows:

Future Minimum Operating Lease Payments						
Year Ending December 31,						
2021	\$	9,944				
2022		9,689				
2023		8,877				
2024		8,329				
2025		8,372				
Thereafter		39,465				
Total Future Minimum Lease Payments	\$	84,676				
Less Imputed Interest		11,066				
Lease Liabilities Reported as of December 31, 2020	\$	73,610				

In 2016, the Bank completed a sale-leaseback transaction associated with our corporate headquarters in Greenwood Village, Colorado. Upon completion of this sale-leaseback transaction, the resulting gain was deferred to be recognized ratably over the expected lease term of 15 years as an offset to occupancy and equipment expense in our consolidated statements of income. In connection with the Bank's adoption of the new lease accounting standard on January 1, 2019, the remaining deferred gain of \$8.6 million related to the saleleaseback transaction was recognized in retained earnings through a cumulative effect adjustment, as described in Note 2.

## **Note 13 – Related Party Transactions**

In the ordinary course of business, we enter into loan transactions with customers, the officers or directors of which may also serve on our Board of Directors. Such loans are subject to special review and reporting requirements contained in the FCA regulations, are reviewed and approved only at the most senior loan committee level within the Bank and are regularly reported to the Board of Directors. All related party loans are made in accordance with established policies on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral requirements, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with unrelated borrowers.

Total loans outstanding to customers whose officers or directors serve on our Board of Directors amounted to \$0.7 billion, \$10.0 billion and \$10.4 billion at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. The outstanding balance of these loans decreased by \$9.3 billion during 2020 primarily due to changes in our Board members during the year including one former director who also served on the Board of one of our largest affiliated Associations. Upon leaving our Board, the direct note loan balance to this affiliated Association and related director was removed as a related party loan. During 2020, \$1.0 billion of advances on related party loans were made and repayments on related party loans totaled \$1.0 billion. None of these loans outstanding at December 31, 2020 were delinquent, in nonaccrual or accruing restructured status or, in the opinion of management, involved more than a normal risk of collectability.

We conduct our lending operations through three operating segments: Agribusiness, Farm Credit Banking and Rural Infrastructure.

The accompanying table presents condensed disaggregated information for the segments. Allocations of resources and corporate items, as well as measurement of financial performance, are made at these operating segment levels. All customer activity, including loans and leases and related income, is specifically assigned to the business units that make up the operating segments. Investment securities and federal funds sold and other overnight funds, which are primarily held as a liquidity reserve to support our banking operations, are not specifically assigned to operating segments; however, the income from investment securities and federal funds sold and other overnight funds is attributed to the operating segments. Intersegment transactions are insignificant.

We do not hold significant assets in any foreign country. Substantially all of our agricultural export finance loans are U.S. dollar-denominated and 22 percent of these loans are guaranteed by the U.S. government. For the three years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, no customer made up 10 percent or more of our gross or net interest income.

## **Segment Financial Information**

				Farm Credit					
	Α	gribusiness		Banking	Rura	Infrastructure	Total CoBank		
2020 Results of Operations (\$ in Thousands):		_		_					
Net Interest Income	\$	805,946	\$	290,592	\$	469,994	\$	1,566,532	
Provision for Loan Losses (Loan Loss Reversal)		25,600		-		(4,600)		21,000	
Noninterest Income		158,167		12,401		111,268		281,836	
Operating Expenses		264,375		46,378		123,766		434,519	
Provision for Income Taxes		65,601		-		64,247		129,848	
Net Income	\$	608,537	\$	256,615	\$	397,849	\$	1,263,001	
Selected Financial Information at December 31, 2020 (\$ in Millions):									
Loans	\$	36,103	\$	60,516	\$	24,237	\$	120.856	
Less: Allowance for Loan Losses	Ψ	(490)	Ψ		Ψ	(146)	φ	(636)	
Net Loans	\$	35,613	\$	60,516	\$	24,091	\$	120,220	
Accrued Interest Receivable and Other Assets	Ψ	476	Ŷ	286	Ŷ	734	Ŷ	1,496	
Total Segment Assets	\$	36,089	\$	60,802	\$	24,825	\$	121,716	
Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds	•	,	Ŧ	;	Ţ	,	Ŧ	835	
Investment Securities								32,825	
Other Assets								3,210	
Total Assets	\$	36,089	\$	60,802	\$	24,825	\$	158,586	
2019 Results of Operations (\$ in Thousands):									
Net Interest Income	\$	726,147	\$	259,140	\$	413,272	\$	1,398,559	
Provision for Loan Losses		53,000		-		4,000		57,000	
Noninterest Income <sup>(1)</sup>		141,366		6,382		73,165		220,913	
Operating Expenses		239,990		42,961		120,551		403,502	
Provision for Income Taxes <sup>(1)</sup>		37,728		-		30,014		67,742	
Net Income <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	536,795	\$	222,561	\$	331,872	\$	1,091,228	
Selected Financial Information at		,		,		,			
December 31, 2019 (\$ in Millions):									
Loans	\$	33.168	\$	54,459	\$	21,227	\$	108.854	
Less: Allowance for Loan Losses	Ŧ	(472)	Ŧ	-	Ţ	(183)	Ŧ	(655)	
Net Loans	\$	32,696	\$	54,459	\$	21,044	\$	108,199	
Accrued Interest Receivable and Other Assets		251		191	·	461		903	
Total Segment Assets	\$	32,947	\$	54,650	\$	21,505	\$	109,102	
Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds								1,810	
Investment Securities								32,426	
Other Assets								1,666	
Total Assets	\$	32,947	\$	54,650	\$	21,505	\$	145,004	

<sup>11</sup> As discussed in Note 1, the 2019 period included reclassifications between the Agribusiness and Rural Infrastructure operating segments which had no impact on CoBank's consolidated net income.

## **Segment Financial Information**

			Farm Credit				
	Agribusiness		Banking	Rural	Infrastructure	Total CoBank	
2018 Results of Operations (\$ in Thousands):							
Net Interest Income <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	731,695	\$ 274,953	\$	424,648	\$	1,431,296
Provision for Loan Losses		54,000	-		12,000		66,000
Noninterest Income <sup>(1)</sup>		156,391	34,382		98,887		289,660
Operating Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>		215,940	40,378		107,489		363,807
Provision for Income Taxes <sup>(1)</sup>		43,583	-		56,791		100,374
Net Income	\$	574,563	\$ 268,957	\$	347,255	\$	1,190,775
Selected Financial Information at December 31, 2018 (\$ in Millions):							
Loans	\$	32,432	\$ 50,695	\$	21,367	\$	104,494
Less: Allowance for Loan Losses		(439)	-		(183)		(622)
Net Loans	\$	31,993	\$ 50,695	\$	21,184	\$	103,872
Accrued Interest Receivable and Other Assets		284	187		208		679
Total Segment Assets	\$	32,277	\$ 50,882	\$	21,392	\$	104,551
Federal Funds Sold and Other Overnight Funds							1,300
Investment Securities							31,292
Other Assets							1,873
Total Assets	\$	32,277	\$ 50,882	\$	21,392	\$	139,016

<sup>(1)</sup> In 2018, certain corporate and other information to reconcile total reportable segments with total consolidated results were separately disclosed as "Corporate/Other". In 2020 and 2019, such amounts are allocated to operating segments, and 2018 amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation.

# Note 15 – Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

Under the Farm Credit Act, we are primarily liable for the portion of outstanding Systemwide Debt Securities issued by CoBank. We are also contingently liable, as defined in statutory joint and several liability provisions, for the outstanding Systemwide Debt Securities issued by the other System banks. Total Systemwide Debt Securities of the System were \$322.7 billion at December 31, 2020.

There are several mechanisms in place affecting exposure to statutory joint and several liabilities. System banks are statutorily required to maintain eligible, unencumbered assets at a level at least equal in value to the total amount of debt for which such System bank is primarily liable. In addition, in the event of a default by a System bank, the Insurance Fund would be required to make timely payment of principal and interest on Systemwide Debt Securities, to the extent that net assets are available in the Insurance Fund, before the joint and several liability of the System banks would be triggered. At December 31, 2020, the aggregated assets of the Insurance Fund totaled \$5.5 billion. Finally, System banks must maintain certain financial criteria in order to participate in Systemwide debt issuances. If these criteria are not met, a troubled System bank's access to and participation in Systemwide debt issuances could be limited or denied.

On at least a quarterly basis, we assess our liabilities and contingencies in connection with outstanding legal proceedings utilizing the latest information available. For those matters where it is probable that we will incur a loss, and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, we record a liability in our consolidated financial statements. For other matters, where a loss is not probable or the amount of the loss is not estimable, we will not accrue legal reserves.

On April 15, 2016, we redeemed \$500.0 million in par value of our outstanding 7.875 percent subordinated notes (the Notes) due in 2018 totaling \$404.7 million. The redemption price was 100 percent of the principal amount, together with accrued and unpaid interest up to, but excluding, the date of redemption. In June 2016, a lawsuit was commenced by the filing of a complaint in the United States District Court Southern District of New York against CoBank by a number of investors (the "Plaintiffs") who had held CoBank's Notes. The Notes were redeemed at par plus accrued interest by CoBank in April 2016 due to the occurrence of a "Regulatory Event" (as defined under the terms of the Notes). The Plaintiffs have asserted a breach of contract claim and a breach of implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing claim alleging that CoBank impermissibly redeemed the Notes. The Plaintiffs have requested damages in an amount to be determined at trial, reasonable attorneys' fees and any other such relief as the court may deem just and proper. CoBank filed its answer in September 2016 and discovery concluded in January 2018. CoBank and Plaintiffs filed their respective motions for summary judgment in March 2018. There is presently no indication of when the court will rule on the motions for summary judgment. CoBank intends to vigorously defend against these allegations. The likelihood of any outcome of this proceeding cannot be determined at this time.

While the outcome of legal proceedings is inherently uncertain, based on information currently available, advice of legal counsel and available insurance coverage, we believe that the liabilities, if any, arising from our legal proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows. However, in the event of unexpected future developments, it is possible that the ultimate resolution of these matters, if unfavorable, may be material to the Bank's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows. We have various other commitments outstanding and contingent liabilities as discussed elsewhere in these notes to consolidated financial statements, including commitments to extend credit as discussed in Note 9.

## Note 16 – Quarterly Financial Information

Unaudited quarterly results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, are shown in the table below.

2020	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total
Net Interest Income	\$ 383,317	\$ 375,257	\$ 385,753	\$ 422,205	\$ 1,566,532
Provision for Loan Losses (Loan Loss Reversal)	26,000	16,000	4,000	(25,000)	21,000
Noninterest Income and Expenses, Net	27,340	20,943	33,264	71,136	152,683
Provision for Income Taxes	35,894	37,193	39,708	17,053	129,848
Net Income	\$ 294,083	\$ 301,121	\$ 308,781	\$ 359,016	\$ 1,263,001
2019	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total
Net Interest Income	\$ 359,675	\$ 349,736	\$ 336,827	\$ 352,321	\$ 1,398,559
Provision for Loan Losses (Loan Loss Reversal)	28,000	(7,000)	5,000	31,000	57,000
Noninterest Income and Expenses, Net	28,711	42,512	50,984	60,382	182,589
Provision for Income Taxes (Income Tax Benefit)	30,471	34,348	32,307	(29,384)	67,742
Net Income	\$ 272,493	\$ 279,876	\$ 248,536	\$ 290,323	\$ 1,091,228
2018	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total
Net Interest Income	\$ 371,041	\$ 372,550	\$ 341,092	\$ 346,613	\$ 1,431,296
Provision for Loan Losses (Loan Loss Reversal)	50,000	(10,000)	3,000	23,000	66,000
Noninterest Income and Expenses, Net	3,206	(6,031)	30,279	46,693	74,147
Provision for Income Taxes	33,423	27,165	16,511	23,275	100,374
Net Income	\$ 284,412	\$ 361,416	\$ 291,302	\$ 253,645	\$ 1,190,775

## Note 17 – Subsequent Events

We have evaluated subsequent events through March 2, 2021, which is the date the financial statements were issued.

In late February 2021, a severe winter weather event adversely impacted a limited number of our electric power infrastructure customers located in Texas. As a result, one of these customers filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Management has performed an evaluation of our credit exposure to this specific customer as well as exposure to other impacted customers. At this time, although the effects of the recent severe weather on the Texas electric power infrastructure market are still evolving, management does not believe the impact of any potential losses to be material to our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

## Note 18 – Affiliated Associations

CoBank is chartered by the FCA to serve the Associations that provide credit and related financial services to or for the benefit of eligible borrowers/shareholders for qualified purposes in specific geographic areas in the United States. The Associations are not authorized by the Farm Credit Act to participate directly in the issuance of Systemwide Debt Securities. Therefore, we are the primary funding source for our affiliated Associations. As of January 1, 2021, we have 20 affiliated Associations serving 23 states across the Northwest, West, Southwest, Rocky Mountains, Mid-Plains, and Northeast regions of the United States.

The Associations originate and service long-term real estate mortgage loans as well as short- and intermediate-term loans for agricultural and other purposes to full and part-time farmers. Associations may also make loans to, among others, processing and marketing entities, farm-related businesses, and rural residents for home purchase and improvements. The Associations may also purchase eligible loan participations from System entities and other lending institutions. Additionally, the Associations may serve as an intermediary in offering multi-peril crop insurance and credit life insurance, and providing additional financial services to borrowers.

The Farm Credit Act and FCA regulations require us to monitor and approve certain activities of our affiliated Associations. CoBank and our affiliated Associations operate under a creditor/debtor relationship evidenced by a General Financing Agreement (GFA) entered into separately with each Association. The GFA sets forth the creditor/debtor relationship between us and each Association and also references certain requirements contained in the Farm Credit Act and FCA regulations. The Associations' respective boards of directors are expected to establish and monitor the necessary policies and procedures to comply with all FCA regulations. In all other respects, the lending relationship with the Associations is substantially similar to that with our other borrowers.

We make loans to the Associations, which, in turn, make loans to their eligible borrowers. We have senior secured interests in substantially all of the Associations' assets, which extend to the underlying collateral of the Associations' loans to their customers. The total wholesale loans outstanding to our affiliated Associations were \$55.5 billion at December 31, 2020. During 2020, \$164.8 billion of advances on wholesale loans were made to our affiliated Associations and repayments totaled \$158.9 billion.

Our bylaws permit our Board of Directors to set the required level of Association investment in the Bank within a range of 4 to 6 percent of the one-year historical average of Association borrowings. In 2020, the required investment level was 4 percent. There are no capital sharing agreements between us and our affiliated Associations.

Our affiliated Associations are considered customers and thus operate independently and maintain an arms-length relationship with us, except to the extent that the Farm Credit Act requires us, as the funding bank, to monitor and approve certain activities of these Associations. Accordingly, the financial information of affiliated Associations is not included in our consolidated financial statements. We separately publish certain unaudited combined financial information of the District, including a condensed statement of condition and statement of income, which can be found on our website at www.cobank.com.

Effective July 1, 2019, the net assets of Farm Credit Services of Hawaii, ACA were sold to American AgCredit, ACA pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Combination.

Effective January 1, 2021, two of our affiliated Associations, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, ACA and AgPreference, ACA merged and are doing business as Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, ACA.

## Report of Management CoBank, ACB

March 2, 2021

To our Shareholders:

The consolidated financial statements of CoBank, ACB (CoBank) are prepared by management, which is responsible for their integrity and objectivity, including amounts that must necessarily be based on judgments and estimates. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as appropriate in the circumstances. The consolidated financial statements, in the opinion of management, fairly present, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of CoBank. Other consolidated financial information included in the Annual Report to Shareholders is consistent with that in the financial statements.

To meet its responsibility for reliable consolidated financial information, management depends on accounting and internal control systems which have been designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded and transactions are properly authorized and recorded. The systems have been designed to recognize that the cost must be related to the benefits derived. To monitor compliance, CoBank's internal audit staff performs audits of the accounting records, reviews accounting systems and internal controls, and recommends improvements as deemed appropriate. CoBank's 2020, 2019 and 2018 consolidated financial statements have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent auditors. In addition, our independent auditors have audited our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018. CoBank is also examined by the Farm Credit Administration (FCA).

The president and chief executive officer, as delegated by the Board of Directors, has overall responsibility for CoBank's system of internal controls and financial reporting, subject to the review of the audit committee of the Board of Directors. The president and chief executive officer reports periodically on those matters to the audit committee. The audit committee consults regularly with management and meets periodically with the independent auditors and internal auditors to review the scope and results of their work. The audit committee reports regularly to the Board of Directors. Both the independent auditors and the internal auditors have direct access to the audit committee, which is composed solely of directors who are not officers or employees of CoBank.

The undersigned certify that this CoBank Annual Report to Shareholders has been reviewed by the undersigned and has been prepared in accordance with all applicable statutory or regulatory requirements and that the information contained herein is true, accurate and complete to the best of their knowledge.

Kein Krif

Kevin G. Riel Chair of the Board

Tom Helverson

Thomas E. Halverson President and Chief Executive Officer

Chief Financial Officer

## Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting CoBank, ACB

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. CoBank's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed under the supervision of our president and chief executive officer and our chief financial officer to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the Bank's financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. As of the end of the Bank's 2020 fiscal year, management conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of the Bank's internal control over financial reporting based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, our management concluded that the Bank's internal control over financial reporting is effective as of December 31, 2020.

Our internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect transactions and dispositions of assets; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and the directors of CoBank; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Bank's assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

The effectiveness of the Bank's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020 has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their report appearing on pages 72 through 74, which expresses an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Bank's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020. There have been no changes in the Bank's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our most recent fiscal quarter (i.e., the fourth quarter of 2020) that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Bank's internal control over financial reporting.

# Controls and Procedures CoBank, ACB

We maintain a system of disclosure controls and procedures. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information disclosed by us in our quarterly and annual reports is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our president and chief executive officer and our chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions to be made regarding disclosure. The president and chief executive officer and the chief financial officer have evaluated our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this annual report and have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective as of that date.

We also maintain a system of internal controls. The term "internal controls," as defined by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Codification of Statement on Auditing Standards, AU-C Section 315, means a process effected by those charged with governance, management and other personnel that is designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of the entity's objectives with regard to the reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. We continually assess the adequacy of our internal controls over financial reporting and enhance our controls in response to internal control assessments and internal and external audit and regulatory recommendations. There have been no significant changes in our internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect such controls subsequent to the date we carried out our evaluations. In accordance with our internal control procedures, these financial statements were prepared under the oversight of the audit committee of our Board of Directors.

## Annual Report to Shareholders Disclosure Information Required by Farm Credit Administration Regulations CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited)

In accordance with Farm Credit Administration (FCA) regulations, CoBank has prepared this Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2020, in accordance with all applicable statutory or regulatory requirements.

Section

#### **Description of Business**

Territory served, eligible borrowers, types of lending activities engaged in, financial services offered, and related Farm Credit organizations.

Significant developments within the last 5 years that had or could have a material impact on earnings or interest rates to borrowers, acquisitions or dispositions of material assets, material changes in the manner of conducting business, seasonal characteristics, concentration of assets, and dependence, if any, upon a single customer or a few customers.

#### **Description of Property**

#### Location of Property

CoBank leases its national office building which is located in Greenwood Village, Colorado. CoBank also leases various facilities which are described on the inside back cover of this Annual Report to Shareholders. CoBank leases banking center offices in Ames, IA; Atlanta, GA; Austin, TX; Enfield, CT; Fargo, ND; Louisville, KY; Lubbock, TX; Minneapolis, MN; Omaha, NE; Rocklin, CA; Spokane, WA; Sterling, CO; St. Louis, MO; and Wichita, KS. CoBank leases office space in Washington D.C. and Singapore. Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation leases its headquarters office in Minneapolis, MN, as well as outside sales offices in Atlanta, GA; Enfield, CT; Louisville, KY; Lubbock, TX; Omaha, NE; Rocklin, CA; St. Louis, MO and Wichita, KS, some of which are located in CoBank banking centers.

CoBank has a national charter and, as a result, serves customers across rural America. Travel to customer locations may be difficult due to the rural nature of many of our customers' operations. In order to provide the appropriate level of customer contact and to optimize the efficiency and safety of management travel, CoBank utilizes a variety of transportation to serve its customers, including aircraft (both commercial and fractional interest).

Legal Proceedings and Enforcement Actions	Notes to Financial Statements	Note 15
Description of Capital Structure	Notes to Financial Statements	Note 6
<b>Description of Liabilities</b> Debt Outstanding	Notes to Financial Statements	Note 5
Contingent Liabilities	Notes to Financial Statements	Note 15
Selected Financial Data for the Five Years Ended December 31, 2020	Five-Year Summary of Selected Consolidated Financial Data	Page 33
Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	Management's Discussion and Analysis	Pages 31 to 71
Directors and Senior Officers		
Directors' Information	Board of Directors Disclosure	Pages 145 to 158
Senior Officers' Information	Senior Officers	Pages 159 to 173
Transactions with Directors and Senior Officers	Notes to Financial Statements	Note 13

Notes to Financial Statements	Note 1 Note 18
Management's Discussion and Analysis Notes to Financial Statements	Pages 31 to 71 Pages 81 to 129
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Five-Year Summary of Selected Consolidated Financial Data	Page 33
Management's Discussion and Analysis	Pages 31 to 71
Board of Directors Disclosure	Pages 145 to 158
Senior Officers	Pages 159 to 173

Location

# Annual Report to Shareholders Disclosure Information Required by Farm Credit Administration Regulations CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited)

	Section	Location
<b>Involvement in Certain Legal Proceedings</b> There were no matters that came to the attention of the Board of Directors or management regarding the involvement of current directors or senior officers in specified legal proceedings which are required to be disclosed.		
<b>Relationship with Independent Auditors</b> There has been no change in independent auditors or no disagreements on any matters of accounting principle or financial statement disclosure during the period.		
Financial Statements Financial Statements and Footnotes	Financial Information	Pages 75 to 129
Report of Management	Report of Management	Page 130
Report of Independent Auditors	Report of Independent Auditors	Pages 72 to 74
Aggregate Fees Incurred for Services Rendered by Independent Auditors	Board of Directors Disclosure	Page 147
Credit and Services to Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers and Ranchers and Producers or Harvesters of Aquatic Products	Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers	Page 176
Unincorporated Business Entities	Unincorporated Business Entities	Page 177
Regulatory Capital Disclosures	Regulatory Capital Disclosures	Pages 135 to 144
FCL Titling Trust Assets	FCL Titling Trust Assets	Page 178

CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

## Overview

The Farm Credit Administration (FCA) adopted final rules relating to regulatory capital requirements for the Farm Credit System (System) in 2016, which took effect January 1, 2017. The capital regulations include public disclosure requirements set forth in Title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations parts 628.61 through 628.63.

The following table summarizes the annual disclosure requirements and indicates where each matter is disclosed in this annual report.

Disclosure Requirement	Description	2020 Annual Report Reference
Scope of Application	Corporate entity and consolidated subsidiaries	Page 135
	Description of entity consolidation	Page 135
	Restrictions on transfers of funds or capital	Page 135
Capital Structure	Terms and conditions of capital instruments	Note 6 - Pages 99 to 101; Page 136
	Regulatory capital components	Page 136
Capital Adequacy	Capital adequacy assessment	Page 66
	Risk-weighted assets	Page 137
	Regulatory capital ratios	Page 65; Note 6 - Page 101
Capital Buffers	Quantitative disclosures	Pages 65, 137
Credit Risk	Credit risk management and policies	Pages 44 to 49
	Summary of exposures	Page 138
	Geographic distribution	Pages 139 to 140
	Industry distribution	Page 140
	Contractual maturity	Page 141
	Impaired loans and allowance for credit losses	Note 1 - Pages 82 to 83;
		Note 3 - Pages 88 to 89, 91 to 93
Counterparty Credit Risk-Related Exposures	General description	Pages 48 to 49, 141
	Counterparty exposures	Note 10 - Pages 110 to 118; Page 142
Credit Risk Mitigation	General description	Pages 138, 142
_	Exposures with reduced capital requirements	Note 10 - Pages 110 to 118;
		Pages 41, 47, 48 to 49, 138, 142
Securitization	General description	Pages 48, 143 to 144
	Securitization exposures	Pages 62 to 64, Note 4 - Pages 94 to 96;
	-	Note 11 - Pages 119 to 124; Pages 143 to 144
Equities	General description	Pages 137, 144
Interest Rate Risk for Non-Trading Activities	General description	Pages 50 to 53, 144
-	Interest rate sensitivity	Page 53

## Scope of Application

The disclosures contained herein relate to CoBank, ACB and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, CoBank, FCB and Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation (FCL), collectively hereinafter referred to as CoBank or the Bank. These entities are also consolidated in our financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). There are no consolidated entities for which any capital requirement is deducted from the Bank's total regulatory capital nor are there restrictions on transfers of funds or total capital with the entities described above. FCL is required to comply with the capital regulations on a standalone basis, but it is not required to make the disclosures contained herein for CoBank as a whole. FCL's capital ratios exceeded the minimum regulatory requirements at December 31, 2020.

In conjunction with other System entities, the Bank jointly owns the following service organizations: the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation (Funding Corporation), the FCS Building Association (FCSBA) and the Farm Credit System Association Captive Insurance Company (Captive). The investments in the Funding Corporation and the FCSBA are deducted from capital because only the institution that issued the equities may count the amount as capital. The Bank's investment in the Captive and certain investments in unincorporated business entities are included in risk-weighted assets and are not deducted from any capital component, in accordance with FCA regulations.

CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

## Capital Structure

Common equity tier 1 capital, which includes common stock and retained earnings, is the largest component of the Bank's capital structure. Preferred stock is included in total tier 1 regulatory capital, subject to certain limitations. Refer to Note 6 to the consolidated financial statements in this annual report for information on the terms and conditions of the main features of our common stock and preferred stock. Our allowance for credit losses is included in tier 2 regulatory capital, subject to certain limitations. See Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements in this annual report for a description of our allowance for credit losses. The following table provides a summary of the Bank's regulatory capital components.

		Average
Three Months Ended December 31, 2020		Balance
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital (CET1)		
Common Cooperative Equities:		
Statutory Minimum Purchased Borrower Stock	\$	2,492
Other Required Member Purchased Stock		950,444
Allocated Equities:		
Qualified Allocated Equities Subject to Retirement		2,667,187
Nonqualified Allocated Equities Subject to Retirement		-
Nonqualified Allocated Equities Not Subject to Retirement		3,086,577
Jnallocated Retained Earnings		3,016,887
Paid-In Capital		-
Regulatory Adjustments and Deductions Made to CET1		(95,857
Fotal CET1	\$	9,627,730
Tier 1 Capital		
Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock	\$	1,500,000
Regulatory Adjustments and Deductions Made to Tier 1 Capital		-
Fotal Additional Tier 1 Capital		1,500,000
Fotal Tier 1 Capital	\$	11,127,730
Tier 2 Capital		
Common Cooperative Equities Not Included in CET1	\$	-
Fier 2 Capital Elements:		
Allowance for Credit Losses		763,383
Regulatory Adjustments and Deductions Made to Tier 2 Capital		-
	\$	763,383
Fotal Tier 2 Capital	ψ	100,000

A reconciliation of total shareholders' equity in our consolidated balance sheet to total regulatory capital is presented below.

Reconciliation to the December 31, 2020 Consolidated Balance Sheet		d of Period
Total Shareholders' Equity	\$	11,909,605
Adjustments to Regulatory Capital:		
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income		(687,942)
Regulatory Adjustments and Deductions Made to CET 1		(95,857)
Tier 2 Allowance and Reserve		732,195
Total Capital	\$	11,858,001 <sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> The amount of total capital presented in the Regulatory Capital Components table above is the three-month average daily balance used in calculating capital ratios, as required by FCA regulations, whereas this amount is the amount outstanding as of December 31, 2020.

CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

## Capital Adequacy and Capital Buffers

The Bank's approach to assessing the adequacy of its capital to support current and future activities is described in "Capital Adequacy and Business Planning" beginning on page 66.

Our risk-adjusted regulatory capital ratios are calculated by dividing the relevant total capital elements (e.g. Total CET1) by riskweighted assets. The following table presents information on the components of risk-weighted assets included in the calculation of regulatory capital ratios.

	Average
Three Months Ended December 31, 2020	Balance
On-Balance Sheet Assets:	
Exposures to Sovereign Entities	\$ -
Exposures to Supranational Entities and Multilateral Development Banks	66,679
Exposures to Government-Sponsored Enterprises	14,456,094
Exposures to Depository Institutions, Foreign Banks, and Credit Unions	3,816,231
Exposures to Public Sector Entities	56,411
Corporate Exposures, including Borrower Loans and Leases	46,762,696
Residential Mortgage Exposures	-
Past Due and Nonaccrual Exposures	206,151
Securitization Exposures	431,618
Equity Investment Exposures	50,900
Other Assets	1,047,402
Off-Balance Sheet:	
Unfunded Loan Commitments	9,050,256
Equity Investment Commitments	22,770
Over-the-Counter Derivatives	721,493
Cleared Derivative Transactions	1,356
Letters of Credit	1,258,821
Unsettled Transactions	162,475
Total Risk-Weighted Assets Before Additions (Deductions)	\$ 78,111,353
Additions:	
Intra-System Equity Investments	\$ 95,857
Deductions:	
Regulatory Adjustments and Deductions Made to CET1	(95,857)
Regulatory Adjustments and Deductions Made to Additional Tier 1 Capital	-
Regulatory Adjustments and Deductions Made to Tier 2 Capital	-
Fotal Risk-Weighted Assets	\$ 78,111,353

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes exposures to Farm Credit System entities.

<sup>(2)</sup> Also includes exposures to other financial institutions that are risk-weighted as exposures to U.S. depository institutions and credit unions.

<sup>(3)</sup> For purposes of calculating the permanent capital ratio, average risk-weighted assets for the three months ended December 31, 2020 was \$77.5 billion.

As shown on page 65 of this annual report, the Bank exceeded all capital requirements as of December 31, 2020 to which it was subject, including applicable capital buffers. Because capital exceeded the buffer requirements, the Bank currently has no limitations on its distributions and discretionary bonus payments. The aggregate amount of eligible retained income was \$749.2 million as of December 31, 2020.

CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

## Credit Risk

For discussion related to CoBank's credit risk management and policies see "Credit Risk Management" beginning on page 44 of this annual report. Refer to "Impaired Loans" in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements in this annual report for qualitative disclosures including the definition of impaired loans and related policies. Refer to "Allowance for Loan Losses and Reserve for Unfunded Commitments" in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements in this annual report for a description of the methodology used to estimate our allowance for loan losses and our policy for charging-off uncollectible amounts.

The following table summarizes credit exposures related to loans, unfunded loan commitments, investment securities, letters of credit and equity investments. The contractual amount of a commitment to extend credit represents our maximum exposure to credit loss in the event of default by the borrower, if the borrower were to fully draw against the commitment.

		Average		End of	
Three Months Ended and As of December 31, 2020	Balance			Period	
Loans Outstanding	\$	117,063,935	\$	120,855,800	
Unfunded Loan Commitments		34,624,647		36,107,897	
Investment Securities		31,648,717		32,825,003	
Letters of Credit		1,557,410		1,551,788	
Equity Investment Commitments		53,576		57,100	

The table below shows derivatives by underlying exposure type, segregated between contracts traded in over-the-counter markets and those cleared through a central clearinghouse. Gross positive fair value represents the credit exposure attributed to derivatives before the mitigating effects of counterparty collateral.

Three Martha Ended and As of December 24, 2020	Average				End of			
Three Months Ended and As of December 31, 2020			ance	<b>B</b> 1/1		Per		<b>D</b> 1/1
	-	Notional Amount		s Positive ir Value		Notional Amount		s Positive ir Value
Over-the-Counter Derivatives:								
Interest Rate Contracts	\$	23,980,271	\$	698,669	\$	24,053,630	\$	668,285
Foreign Exchange Contracts		67,270		33		156,479		148
Total Over-the-Counter Derivatives	\$	24,047,541	\$	698,702	\$	24,210,109	\$	668,433
Cleared Derivatives:								
Interest Rate Contracts		24,362,422		233,155		29,048,226		209,441
Total Derivatives	\$	48.409.963	\$	931,857	\$	53,258,335	\$	877.874

CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

The following table illustrates the geographic distribution of our total loan commitments as of December 31, 2020.

Total Lending Portfolio - Geographic Distribution				
	Wholesale	Commercial		
As of December 31, 2020	Loans <sup>(1)</sup>	Loans		
California	44 %	8 %		
Nashington	19	1		
Texas	5 (2)	7		
Connecticut	11 <sup>(2)</sup>	1		
Kansas	5	4		
linois	-	7		
owa	-	6		
Vinnesota	-	5		
Dklahoma	4	1		
Colorado	2	3		
Dhio	-	4		
Nebraska	-	3		
<i>l</i> issouri	-	3		
Isia	-	3		
lew York	-	3		
ndiana	-	3		
Deorgia	-	3		
Torida	-	3		
atin America	-	3		
lew Mexico	3	-		
Visconsin	-	2		
lorth Dakota	-	2		
ſississippi	1 (2)	2		
Iorth Carolina	-	2		
/irginia	-	2		
Nabama	1 (2)	1		
rkansas	-	2		
South Dakota	-	2		
<i>N</i> aryland	1 (2)	-		
Itah	2	-		
Europe, Middle East, and Africa	-	1		
rizona	-	1		
lassachusetts	-	1		
ouisiana	-	1		
lichigan	-	1		
ennessee	-	1		
Dther	2 <sup>(2)</sup>	8		
Fotal	100 %	100 %		

<sup>(1)</sup> The distribution of wholesale loan commitments to Associations is based on the state in which the Association is headquartered and may not be representative of their underlying loan portfolio.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes participation interests in loan commitments to nonaffiliated Associations.

## CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

The following table illustrates the geographic distribution of our impaired loans as of December 31, 2020.

Impaired Loans - Geographic Distribution		
As of December 31, 2020	Share <sup>(1)</sup>	
Arkansas	20 %	
California	18	
Maryland	11	
Oklahoma	7	
lowa	7	
Washington	6	
Ohio	6	
Michigan	4	
Colorado	3	
Minnesota	3	
Arizona	2	
Wisconsin	2	
South Dakota	2	
Other	9	
Total	100 %	

(1) The distribution of impaired loans is based on the state in which the borrower is headquartered and may not be representative of their operations and business activities.

The following table illustrates the primary business/commodity distribution of our total loan commitments as of December 31, 2020.

Total Lending Portfolio - Distribution by Primary Business/Commodity	
As of December 31, 2020	

As of December 31, 2020	Share
Affiliated Associations	40 %
Farm Supply and Grain Marketing	13
Electric Distribution	8
Generation and Transmission	4
Nonaffiliated Entities	4
Agricultural Export Finance	4
Regulated Utility	3
Fruits, Nuts and Vegetables	3
Lease Financing (through FCL)	3
Fish, Livestock and Poultry	2
Forest Products	2
Dairy	2
Independent Power Producers	2
Water and Wastewater	2
Local Exchange Carriers	1
Competitive Local Telephone Exchange Carriers	1
Wireless	1
Sugar and Related Products	1
Cable	1
Other	3
Total	100 %

## CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

The following table presents a summary of the remaining contractual maturity of our loans, unfunded loan commitments, investment securities, letters of credit, derivatives and equity investments at December 31, 2020.

#### (\$ in Millions)

Contractual Maturity				
	In One Year	One to	After	
As of December 31, 2020	or Less	Five Years	Five Years	Total
Loans Outstanding	\$ 76,221	\$ 20,371	\$ 24,264	\$ 120,856
Unfunded Loan Commitments	19,903	8,835	7,370	36,108
Investment Securities	4,509	13,042	15,274	32,825
Letters of Credit	368	877	307	1,552
Derivatives (Notional Amounts)	18,251	21,721	13,286	53,258
Equity Investment Commitments	14	34	9	57

Refer to Note 3 to the consolidated financial statements in this annual report for amounts of impaired loans (with or without related allowance for credit losses), loans in nonaccrual status and greater than 90 days past due, loans past due greater than 90 days and still accruing interest, the allowance for credit losses, charge-offs, and changes in components of our allowance for credit losses.

## **Counterparty Credit Risk**

The use of derivative instruments exposes us to counterparty credit risk. Generally, when the fair value of a derivative contract is positive, we are exposed to credit risk. Our counterparty credit risk arising from derivative transactions is managed within credit methodologies and limits approved by the CoBank Loan Committee (CLC). Credit risk limits are established based on potential future exposure. Customer derivative transactions are typically secured through our loan agreements. For non-customer derivatives not cleared through a central clearinghouse, we minimize this risk by diversifying our derivative positions among various financial institution counterparties, using master netting agreements, and requiring collateral with zero thresholds and daily posting to support credit exposure limits, and deal exclusively with derivative counterparties that have an investment grade credit rating from a major credit rating agency. Credit exposure limits are established no less than annually and reflect our assessment of the creditworthiness of each counterparty. The Bank uses an internal model to determine the potential future exposure of over-the-counter derivatives which is used to measure compliance with established exposure limits. In addition, we monitor counterparty credit default swap spreads are taken into account in establishing counterparty limits.

Our over-the-counter derivative contracts require the Bank or its counterparties to post cash or securities as collateral when the fair values of the derivatives change based on changes in interest rates. The collateral exchanged between parties occurs daily with zero posting thresholds for all counterparties. Likewise, the Bank is required to pledge initial margin and make daily settlement payments related to our cleared derivative transactions. As a result of these derivative contracts, we are exposed to liquidity risk when changes in interest rates require us to post collateral to our counterparties, or make settlement payments for changes in the fair value of cleared derivatives. A downgrade in our creditworthiness would not result in additional collateral requirements for the Bank.

The fair value of collateral assets and liabilities related to derivative contracts is their face value, plus accrued interest, as these instruments are cash balances; therefore, fair value approximates face value.

Refer to Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements in this annual report for information related to interest rate swaps and other derivatives utilized by CoBank including a summary of the fair value of derivative assets and liabilities, collateral held and net unsecured exposure.

CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

## Credit Risk Mitigation

CoBank uses various strategies to mitigate credit risk in its lending, leasing, investing and derivatives activities. The disclosures in this section relate solely to credit risk mitigation instruments and activities that reduce regulatory capital requirements, which include certain guarantees in our lending and investment portfolios, and collateral or settlement payments in our derivatives portfolio.

## Loans

Our Agricultural Export Finance Division (AEFD) utilizes the U.S. government-sponsored export loan guarantee General Sales Manager (GSM) program for a portion of its export financing which guarantees payment in the event of default by the borrower. We further mitigate our exposure for certain agricultural export financing transactions by purchasing credit enhancement from non-government third parties. Refer to the Operating Segment Financial Review section beginning on page 38 of this annual report for additional discussion related to our AEFD.

As discussed on pages 46 and 47 of this annual report, our loans to affiliated Associations are collateralized by substantially all of the Association assets. In addition, the earnings, capital and loan loss reserves of the Associations provide additional layers of protection against losses in their respective retail loan portfolios. Lower regulatory capital requirements are commensurate with the lower risk profile associated with our loans to affiliated Associations.

As discussed on page 70 of this annual report, beginning in April 2020 we began participating in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which is a guaranteed loan program administered by the Small Business Administration.

## Investments

As described in "Credit Risk Related to Investments and Derivatives" beginning on page 48 of this annual report, credit risk in our investment portfolio is mitigated by investing primarily in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or a government-sponsored enterprise (U.S. Agency). Credit risk in our investment portfolio primarily exists in the 2 percent of our investment securities that are not guaranteed by the U.S. government or a U.S. Agency, which include asset-backed securities (ABS) and corporate bonds of midstream energy companies purchased under our lending authorities. Our ABS and midstream energy corporate bonds collectively total \$698.2 million of our total investment portfolio as of December 31, 2020. Credit risk in our investment portfolio also arises from counterparties to short-term investments, which include our overnight bank deposits and federal funds sold. With the exception of corporate bonds, which are risk-weighted based on the corporate counterparty, these exposures are captured in the Securitization section below.

The following table summarizes the loan and investment exposures whose capital requirements are reduced as a result of credit risk mitigants.

		Average Exposure	Risk Weighted	
Three Months Ended December 31, 2020	Amount		Exposures	
Guaranteed Loans	\$	1,607,985	\$ -	
Loans to Farm Credit System entities		58,795,813	11,759,163	
nvestment Securities Issued or Guaranteed by U.S. Government		16,529,280	-	
nvestment Securities Issued or Guaranteed by a U.S. Agency		13,484,655	2,696,931	
Total	\$	90,417,733	\$ 14,456,094	

#### Derivatives

As described in Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements in this annual report, transactions with dealers in our over-thecounter derivative portfolio as well as those cleared through a clearinghouse are collateralized or otherwise secured through settlement payments. As a result, at December 31, 2020, we posted financial collateral with dealers totaling \$268.3 million that was included in calculating risk-weighted assets. Total risk-weighted assets for our over-the-counter derivatives and cleared derivative transactions amounted to \$721.5 million and \$1.4 million, respectively, for the three-month period ended December 31, 2020.

# **Regulatory Capital Disclosures**

CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

## Securitization

The Bank participates in securitizations as investors through the purchase of MBS and ABS, which are included in our investment portfolio. As of December 31, 2020, CoBank did not retain any resecuritization exposures. The following disclosures relate only to ABS not guaranteed by the U.S. government or a U.S. Agency. The average balance of these unguaranteed securities was \$418.7 million for the three-month period ended December 31, 2020.

We are subject to liquidity risk with respect to these securitization exposures. In volatile market conditions, it could be difficult to sell such investments, if the need arises, and the discounts from face value would likely be significant. In addition, because of the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for the investments.

We monitor the credit and market risk of these exposures under policies established by our Asset and Liability Committee. Such policies, which apply to our total investment portfolio as described above, include regularly assessing, among other factors, changes in interest rates and credit ratings to evaluate potential negative impacts to cash flows expected to be collected from these investment securities.

For our ABS, CoBank has elected to utilize the Gross Up risk-based capital approach as outlined in FCA regulations, which results in our ABS being risk-weighted on an individual security level.

Below is a summary of our securitization exposures held during the three months ended December 31, 2020 by exposure type and categorized by risk-weight band.

Securitization Exposures Three Months Ended December 31, 2020	Average Exposu Amount		Risk Weighted Asset (Under Gross Up Approach)
Asset-Backed Securities	\$ 418,70	00	\$ 431,618
Total	\$ 418,70	0 3	\$ 431,618

Three Months Ended December 31, 2020	ge Exposure Amount	(Unc	/eighted Asse ler Gross Up .pproach)
Gross-Up Risk-Weight Bands:			
100% - 125%	\$ 418,700	\$	431,618
>125% and <1,250%	-		-
1,250%	-		-
Total	\$ 418,700	\$	431,618

For the three-month period ended December 31, 2020, we did not hold any off-balance sheet securitization exposures nor were any securitization exposures deducted from capital.

# **Regulatory Capital Disclosures**

CoBank, ACB

(Unaudited) (\$ in Thousands, Except as Noted)

Refer to "Liquidity and Capital Resources" beginning on page 62 for additional information related to purchases and sales of securitization exposures. Refer to Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements in this annual report for the amortized cost, unrealized gains (losses) and fair value of MBS and ABS held in our investment portfolio. In addition, Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements in this annual report describes the methods and assumptions, including any changes as applicable, applied in valuing our MBS and ABS.

## Equities

The Bank has certain exposure to equity investments. We make investments and are a limited partner in certain Rural Business Investment Companies (RBICs). These RBICs focus on small and middle market companies that create jobs and promote commerce in rural America. CoBank also holds investments in various unincorporated business entities (UBEs), as defined by FCA regulation. We hold these investments to acquire and manage unusual or complex collateral associated with loan workouts as well as to make mission-related investments. Our investments in RBICs and UBEs are not publicly traded and are accounted for under the equity method. We also hold an equity investment as a result of the bankruptcy of a former customer which is accounted for at cost less any impairment as there is no readily determinable fair value. There have been no sales or liquidations of these investments during the three months ended December 31, 2020.

## Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk, also referred to as market risk, is the risk that changes in interest rates may adversely affect operating results and financial condition. Refer to "Market Risk Management" beginning on page 50 of this annual report for a description of our primary interest rate risks and strategies used to mitigate those risks. The impact of interest rate changes on net interest income and the market value of equity are summarized in the tables found on page 53 of this annual report.

## Directors

At year-end 2020, CoBank had a total of 18 seated directors, comprised of 14 directors elected by customers from six different geographic regions, two outside directors (independent of any customer or Farm Credit System affiliation) and two appointed directors (customer affiliation permitted) to complement the expertise of the customer-elected Board members.

Director terms run for four years. Employees of Farm Credit System institutions, including CoBank, cannot serve on CoBank's Board of Directors within one year of employment.

In 2015, shareholders approved bylaw amendments implementing a plan to reduce the size of the Board of Directors. Pursuant to the plan, which began to take effect in 2016, a total of 10 Board seats were eliminated effective January 1, 2020, reducing the number of elected directors on the Board from 24 to 14. The Board will also have up to four appointed directors and will continue to have two outside directors with no customer or Farm Credit System affiliations.

## **Director Independence**

The Board must be composed at all times of at least 75 percent of directors who are deemed to be independent. The Board has adopted standards to assist it in making the annual affirmative determination of each director's independence status. A director will be considered "independent" if he or she meets the 14 criteria for independence set forth by the Board, which were established based upon leading industry practice and, in part, the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. For example, the loans from CoBank to an affiliated Association or Title III customer, as defined by the Farm Credit Act, where a CoBank director is also a director, must not comprise more than 15 percent of the total loans of CoBank. In addition, the Board has made a determination as to each independent director that no relationship exists which, in the opinion of the Board, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the director's responsibilities. In making these determinations, the Board reviewed and discussed information provided by the directors and by CoBank with regard to each director's business and personal activities as they may relate to CoBank and CoBank's management. As of December 31, 2020, 17 directors were considered to be independent.

## **Information About Committees of the Board of Directors**

The standing Board committees consist of the following: an Audit Committee, a Compensation and Human Resources Committee, an Executive Committee, a Governance Committee and a Risk Committee. The Board has adopted written charters for each of these committees. The full text of each charter is available on our website at www.cobank.com.

All standing Board committees report on their meetings at the regular meeting of the full Board. Minutes of each committee meeting are signed by the committee chair and recording secretary, or another individual acting in their place at the meeting.

In 2020, the Board of Directors held a total of eleven meetings and standing committees of the Board of Directors held a total of 32 meetings. The primary responsibilities of each committee are described on the following pages.

## **Standing Committees**

#### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee members are appointed by the Board chair in consultation with the Board officers and committee chairs. The Audit Committee is governed by a formal charter and chaired by one of the Board's outside directors. All members of the Audit Committee are independent of management of the Bank and any other System entity. During 2020, the Audit Committee met a total of seven times, including regular meetings in executive session with the head of the Internal Audit Division, the head of the Asset Review Division, and the Bank's independent auditors. The Audit Committee reviews and approves the quarterly and annual financial statements.

During 2020, Michael S. Brown served as Chair of the Audit Committee. The Board of Directors determined that Mr. Brown had the qualifications and experience necessary to serve as the Audit Committee "financial expert," as defined by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the FCA, and he was so designated. The Board also designated Gary A. Miller as a "financial expert" during 2020.

The primary purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by carrying out the following responsibilities:

- (1) Overseeing management's conduct of the Bank's financial reporting process and systems of internal accounting and financial controls;
- (2) Monitoring the independence and performance of the Bank's internal audit and asset review functions, the risk assessment process, and the independent auditors;
- (3) Ensuring the Bank's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
- (4) Providing an avenue of communication among the independent auditors, management and the Board; and
- (5) Performing those functions on behalf of, and serving as the Audit Committee for, the Bank's wholly-owned subsidiary, Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation ("FCL").

Management has the primary responsibility for the consolidated financial statements and the financial reporting process, including the system of internal controls. The Audit Committee oversees the Bank's independent auditors, systems of internal accounting and financial controls, and financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. In this regard, the Audit Committee helps to ensure independence of the Bank's independent auditors, the integrity of management and the adequacy of disclosure to shareholders. The Audit Committee has unrestricted access to representatives of the Internal Audit Division, independent auditors and financial management.

The Audit Committee preapproves all audit and audit-related services and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and terms thereof) to be performed for the Bank by its independent auditors, as negotiated by management.

The Audit Committee reviewed the audited consolidated financial statements in the Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2020 with management and the Bank's independent auditors. The independent auditors are responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of the Bank's audited consolidated financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, including a discussion of the quality of the Bank's accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments, the clarity of disclosures in the consolidated financial statements and the adequacy of internal controls. The Audit Committee discussed with the independent auditors the results of the 2020 audit and all other matters required to be discussed by Statements on Auditing Standards. In addition, the Audit Committee received, reviewed and discussions described above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Bank's Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2020 and for filing with the FCA.

Aggregate fees incurred by the Bank for services rendered by its independent auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 were as follows:

Year Ended December 31,	2020	2019
Audit	\$ 1,815,925 \$	1,713,500
Audit-related	20,000	351,336
Tax	95,000	-
All Other	2,700	2,700
Total	\$ 1,933,625 \$	2,067,536

Audit fees were for the annual audit of the consolidated financial statements for 2020 and 2019.

Audit-related fees for 2020 and 2019 included fees for assurance and related services associated with certain compliance procedures. Audit-related fees for 2019 also included attestation services in connection with internal control reviews.

Tax fees for 2020 related to asset depreciation services.

All other fees for 2020 and 2019 represent our annual subscription to accounting research tools as well as costs related to continuing education.

#### Compensation and Human Resources Committee

The Compensation and Human Resources Committee members are appointed by the Board chair in consultation with the Board officers and committee chairs. All members of the Compensation and Human Resources Committee are independent of management. The committee is primarily responsible for representing the Board in matters related to human capital, and total reward programs for the Bank, including salary, incentive and benefits programs, and in facilitating the terms of employment, compensation and evaluation of and succession planning for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Compensation and Human Resources Committee has responsibility for monitoring succession planning for other senior leaders. The Compensation and Human Resources Committee also reviews the results of the Bank's affirmative action program and human equity initiatives. The Compensation and Human Resources Committee also has responsibility, in consultation with the Governance Committee, in matters related to the Bank's director compensation program and philosophy.

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of the Board chair and two Board vice chairs. The committee is primarily responsible for developing for Board consideration recommendations surrounding the design and implementation of the Bank's strategic plan. It acts on behalf of the Board between Board meetings when necessary. The committee reviews the Bank's annual business and financial plan and recommends such plan for approval by the Board. The committee also provides advice and counsel to the Board and management on policy matters related to capital and finance, and recommends to the Governance Committee capital bylaws and amendments for approval by the Board.

#### Governance Committee

The Governance Committee members are appointed by the Board chair in consultation with the Board officers and committee chairs. The committee is primarily responsible for monitoring and recommending for Board consideration corporate governance processes and structures that are consistent with leading practices for boards and board committees. The committee reviews and recommends special compensation for Board members, if any, due to exceptional demands placed on the time of Board members. The committee reviews and directs the annual Board self-evaluation and a periodic director peer evaluation. The committee also oversees the Bank's director nomination process, which is conducted by an independent Nominating Committee (see page 148), and director election process. In addition, the committee annually assesses the needs of the Board – taking into account the experience and background of current directors – and also recommends the appointment and reappointment of outside and appointed directors to the full Board.

## Risk Committee

The Risk Committee members are appointed by the Board chair in consultation with the Board officers and committee chairs. The committee is primarily responsible for overseeing the enterprise risk management practices of the Bank, including management's ability to assess and manage the Bank's credit, market, interest rate, liquidity, operational, technology, strategic and reputation, and legal, regulatory and compliance risks. The committee also provides an open avenue of communication between management and the Board in order to effectively manage risks.

## **Other Committees**

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for 2020 consisted of 22 customer-owner representatives and two retired CoBank directors, all of whom were elected by the Bank's shareholders. No member of the Board or management served on the Nominating Committee. The Bank uses an independent Nominating Committee which is charged with the responsibility to identify qualified candidates for Board membership and to review director nominations, helping to ensure that the Bank continues to attract a highly qualified and diverse Board. The Nominating Committee seeks candidates who are recognized leaders and who fulfill specific needs for skill set, industry knowledge, and geographic and other forms of diversity on the Board. Customers are encouraged to submit resumes of candidates for elected positions. The Nominating Committee makes a best effort to recommend at least two candidates for each position up for election. Shareholders and interested candidates may gather signatures for petitions to run for the Board following the conclusion of the Nominating Committee's work. A nominee must not have reached age 70 on or prior to the date the term of office is to begin and must meet other eligibility requirements established by Bank bylaws and federal regulations.

## Board Restructuring Committee

The Board Restructuring Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors in December 2019 and consisted of five CoBank directors and five customer-owner representatives. The purpose of this committee was to conduct a thorough study of the composition of the Board and to consider other factors to strengthen governance. The committee met two times in 2020 and delivered a final report to the Board of Directors in May 2020. The committee did not recommend material changes to the Board's current governance structure and processes.

The following represents certain information regarding the directors as of December 31, 2020, including business experience during the past five years. The terms of directors are scheduled to expire as of December 31 of the years indicated.

1 – Audit Committee	4 – Governance Committee	8 – Executive Committee Chair
2 – Compensation and Human	5 – Risk Committee	9 – Governance Committee Chair
Resources Committee	6 – Audit Committee Chair	10 – Risk Committee Chair
3 – Executive Committee	7 – Compensation and Human Resources Committee Chair	

Name	Term Expires	Principal Occupation and Other Business Affiliations
Robert M. Behr <sup>1</sup>	2024	Principal Occupation:
		Chief Executive Officer: Citrus World, Inc., processing and marketing Florida's Natural
Age: 66		brand citrus juices, Lake Wales, FL (since September 2015);
Year Service Began: 2013		Chief Executive Officer: Citrus World Services, Inc., citrus marketing, Lake Wales, FL;
		Chief Executive Officer: Florida's Natural Food Service, Inc., citrus marketing,
		Lake Wales, FL;
		Chief Executive Officer: Florida's Natural Growers, Inc., citrus marketing, Lake Wales, FL;
		Chief Executive Officer: Hickory Branch Corporation, a citrus producer, Lake Wales, FL;
		Former Chief Operating Officer: Citrus World, Inc. (December 2009 through August 2015).
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Owner: Behr Citrus Management Inc., a citrus grove, Lakeland, FL;
		Owner: CPI 3034 LLC, a citrus grove, Winter Haven, FL;
		Director/Vice President: CUPS Co-op I, Inc., a citrus producer, Bartow, FL;
		Director/Vice President: CUPS Co-op II, Inc., a citrus producer, Bartow, FL;
		Director: Farm Credit of Central Florida, ACA, an agricultural credit association, Lakeland, FL;
		Chair: Florida's Natural Growers Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization, Lake Wales, FL;
		Director: Fresh N Natural Foods (PTE LTD), a distributor of Florida's Natural juice
		products, Republic of Singapore;
		Director: Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership, a non-profit organization
		providing executive education to cooperative leaders, Columbia, MO;
		Owner: MBN Property, a citrus grove, LaBelle, FL;
		Owner: Resurrection Grove LLC, a citrus grove, Winter Haven, FL;
		Owner: Summer Breeze Fruit Co., a citrus grove, Gainesville, FL;
		Director: Winter Haven Citrus Growers Association, citrus processing and marketing, Tampa, FL.
Michael S. Brown <sup>1,6</sup>	2024	Principal Occupation:
		Former Managing Director, Global Head of Multinational Coverage: JPMorgan Chase, N.A.,
Age: 62		a commercial bank, London, England (retired in June 2013).
Year Service Began: 2017		Other Business Affiliations:
č		Owner/Manager: Bayswater LLC, a property management company, San Diego, CA.

Name	Term Expires	Principal Occupation and Other Business Affiliations
Russell G. Brown <sup>1</sup>	2024	Principal Occupation:
		Market President (Northern Neck Region): Atlantic Union Bank, a regional bank, Warsaw, VA.
Age: 62		Other Business Affiliations:
Year Service Began: 2017		Owner: Cobham Hall Farm, grain and timber farm, Warsaw, VA;
		Alternate Director: The Farm Credit Council, a national trade association, Washington, D.C.;
		Vice Chair: Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, a rural electric distribution cooperative,
		Warsaw, VA;
		Treasurer: Richmond County Industrial Development Authority (IDA), an economic
		development organization, Warsaw, VA;
		Vice Chair: VA-MD-DE Association of Electric Cooperatives, a trade association,
		Richmond, VA;
		Chair: VA-MD-DE Association of Electric Cooperatives Educational Scholarship
		Foundation, a nonprofit organization, Richmond, VA.
Stephen J. Epperson ⁵	2020	Principal Occupation:
		Chief Executive Officer: Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc., an electric distribution cooperative,
Age: 51		Ulysses, KS;
Year Service Began: 2020		Chief Executive Officer: Southern Pioneer Electric Company, a not-for-profit, electric company,
		Ulysses, KS.
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Director: Kansas Electric Cooperatives, a statewide organization for electric cooperatives, Ulysses, KS;
		Director: Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, a generation and transmission company, Hays, KS.
William M. Farrow, III <sup>4</sup>	2022	Principal Occupation:
		Former Director, President and Chief Executive Officer: Urban Partnership Bank,
Age: 65		a commercial bank, Chicago, IL (retired in December 2017);
Year Service Began: 2007		Owner: Winston and Wolfe LLC, a technology development and advisory company,
		Chicago, IL.
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Advisor: Cedar Street Asset Management LLC, an asset management firm, Chicago, IL;
		Director: Cboe Global Markets, Inc., an options and volatility trading
		resource, Chicago, IL;
		Director: Echo Global Logistics, a provider of technology-enabled transportation and
		supply chain management services, Chicago, IL;
		Director: NorthShore University Health System, a hospital system, Evanston, IL;
		Director: WEC Energy Group, an electric and natural gas distribution company,
		Milwaukee, WI.

Name	Term Expires	Principal Occupation and Other Business Affiliations
Benjamin J. Freund <sup>4</sup>	2021	Principal Occupation:
		Owner/Officer: Freund's Farm, Inc., a dairy farming operation, East Canaan, CT;
Age: 65		Owner/Managing Member: CowPots, LLC, a manufacturer of biodegradable plantable
Year Service Began: 2014		pots, East Canaan, CT.
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Officer: Canaan Valley Agricultural Cooperative, Inc., a manure management cooperative,
		East Canaan, CT;
		Advisory Board Member: Connecticut Farmland Preservation Advisory Board, adviser to
		Connecticut Commissioner of Agriculture, Hartford, CT;
		Director: Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, the issuer of Systemwide debt,
		Jersey City, NJ.
Daniel T. Kelley <sup>2,7</sup>	2021	Principal Occupation:
		Owner/Operator: Kelley Farms, a corn and soybean farming operation, Normal, IL.
Age: 72		Other Business Affiliations:
Year Service Began: 2004		Director: Global Farmer Network, a nonprofit organization, Des Moines, IA;
		Director: Illinois 4-H Foundation, a nonprofit organization, Urbana, IL;
		Chair: Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting
		agricultural leadership development, Bloomington, IL;
		Director: Midwest Grain, LLC, a grain merchandising company, Bloomington, IL;
		Director: Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, an insurance company, Columbus, OH;
		Director: Nationwide Trust Company, a federal savings bank, Columbus, OH.
David J. Kragnes <sup>4</sup>	2024	Principal Occupation:
		Owner/Operator: David Kragnes Farm, a corn and bean row crop farming operation,
Age: 68		Felton, MN.
Year Service Began: 2009		Other Business Affiliations:
		Director: The Farm Credit Council, a national trade association, Washington, D.C.;
		Advisory Board Member: Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives, a cooperative
		education center, Fargo, ND

education center, Fargo, ND.

Name	Term Expires	Principal Occupation and Other Business Affiliations
Michael W. Marley <sup>4</sup>	2023	Principal Occupation:
		Owner: Corrales Dairy, LLC, a dairy farm, Roswell, NM;
Age: 58		Owner: Marley Farms, Ltd., an irrigated farming operation, Roswell, NM.
Year Service Began: 2020		Other Business Affiliations:
		Managing Member: Berken Energy, LLC, a renewable energy company, Colorado Springs, CO;
		Owner: C2P Holdings, LLC, a bio gas startup, Roswell, NM;
		Owner: Corrales Farm, LLC, an irrigated farm and dairy facility, Roswell, NM;
		Southwest Council Member: Dairy Farmers of America, a milk cooperative, Dallas, TX;
		Director: Gandy Marley, Inc., an oil field disposal service, Roswell, NM;
		Owner: Marley Ranches, Ltd., a ranching operation, Roswell, NM;
		Owner: Roswell Wool, LLC, a commission wool merchant, Roswell, NM;
		Owner: SAP, LLC, a royalty override, Roswell, NM.
Jon E. Marthedal <sup>3, 4, 9</sup>	2021	Principal Occupation:
First Vice Chair		Owner/Operator: Marthedal Farms, a grape, raisin, blueberry and almond farming operation,
		Fresno, CA;
Age: 64		Former Owner/Operator: Keystone Blue Farms, LLC, a blueberry farming operation, Fresno, CA;
Year Service Began: 2013		Owner/Officer: Marthedal Enterprises Inc., a provider of farm management and custom
		agriculture services, Fresno, CA.
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Vice Chair: The Farm Credit Council, a national trade association, Washington, D.C.;
		President: California Blueberry Association, a state trade organization, Fresno, CA;
		Director: California Blueberry Commission, a state commission, Fresno, CA;
		Vice Chair: California Raisin Marketing Board, a state marketing board, Fresno, CA;
		Vice Chair: Raisin Administrative Committee, a federal marketing order, Fresno, CA;
		Director: Sun-Maid Growers of California, a raisin processing and marketing cooperative,
		Kingsburg, CA.

Name	Term Expires	Principal Occupation and Other Business Affiliations
Gary A. Miller <sup>1</sup>	2023	Principal Occupation:
		President and Chief Executive Officer: GreyStone Power Corporation, an electric distribution cooperative,
Age: 60		Douglasville, GA.
Year Service Began: 2020		Other Business Affiliations:
		Director: Community Assurance Captive, captive insurance for health system, Grand Caymans, Cayman Islands;
		Director: Development Authority of Douglas County, economic development organization, Douglasville, GA;
		Alternate Director: Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, statewide trade organization, Tucker, GA;
		Advisory Board Alternate Director: Georgia Transmission Corporation, a power transmission cooperative, Tucker, GA;
		Chair: GRESCO Utility Supply, Inc., an electric material supplier, Smarr, GA;
		Director: Hospital Authority for Douglas County, oversight body of hospital system, Douglasville, GA;
		Advisory Board Alternate Director: Oglethorpe Power Corporation, power generation cooperative, Tucker, GA;
		Director: WellStar Health System, hospital system, Marietta, GA;
		Director: WellStar Foundation, a supporting organization to WellStar Health System, Marietta, GA.
Catherine Moyer <sup>2</sup>	2022	Principal Occupation:
		Chief Executive Officer and General Manager: The Pioneer Telephone Association, Inc.
Age: 45		(d/b/a Pioneer Communications), a telecommunications provider, Ulysses, KS;
Year Service Began: 2010		Chief Executive Officer: High Plains Telecommunications, Inc., a telecommunications provider, Ulysses, KS.
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Director: The Farm Credit Council, a national trade association, Washington, D.C.;
		Vice Chair: Federal Communications Commission, Precision Ag Connectivity Task Force, a federal telecommunications regulator, Washington, D.C.;
		Chair: Kansas Lottery Commission, providing oversight of Kansas lottery and games, Topeka, KS;
		Director: Rural Trust Insurance Company, a provider of property and casualty insurance to small telecommunications providers, Greenbelt, MD;
		Chair: Telcom Insurance Group, a provider of property and casualty coverage to small
		telecommunications providers, Greenbelt, MD.

Name	Term Expires	Principal Occupation and Other Business Affiliations
David S. Phippen <sup>2</sup>	2022	Principal Occupation:
		Owner: Phippen Brothers, LP, an almond farm, Ripon, CA;
Age: 70		Owner: Phippen/Gatzman LP, an almond farm, Manteca, CA;
Year Service Began: 2019		Owner: Primo Nut Company, LP, an almond processing and sales organization, Manteca, CA;
		Owner: Tap Land Company, LP, an almond farm, Manteca, CA;
		Owner: Travaille & Phippen, Inc., an almond farm, Manteca, CA;
		Owner: Tri-P, Inc., an almond farm, Manteca, CA;
		Owner: Xcel Shelling, LP, an almond shelling organization, Manteca, CA.
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Director: San Joaquin County Farm Bureau, a farm trade association, Stockton, CA.
Scheherazade S. Rehman <sup>5</sup>	2022	Principal Occupation:
		Professor: The George Washington University, an educational institution, Washington, D.C.
Age: 57		Other Business Affiliations:
Year Service Began: 2019		Director: American Consortium on European Studies, an education, research and outreach
		organization, Washington, D.C.;
		Director: European Union Research Center, an organization promoting scholarly and
		policy-oriented research and discussions on the European Union, Washington, D.C.;
		President and Managing Partner: International Consultants Group, a consulting firm, Washington, D.C.;
		Director: International Trade and Finance Association, an academic/professional association,
		Winnsboro, SC.
Kevin G. Riel <sup>3,8</sup>	2021	Principal Occupation:
Chair		President and Former Chief Executive Officer: Double 'R' Hop Ranches, Inc., a diversified farming
		operation primarily growing hops, together with apples, grapes and row crops,
Age: 55		Harrah, WA (retired as Chief Executive Officer in January 2019);
Year Service Began: 2014		Former President and Chief Executive Officer: Tri-Gen Enterprises, Inc., an agricultural marketing
		company, Harrah, WA (company dissolved in September 2019);
		Managing Partner: WLJ Investments, LLC, a land holding and management company,
		Harrah, WA.
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Advisory Board Member: Nationwide Insurance Board Advisory Committee, an insurance
		company, Columbus, OH;
		Director and Governance Committee Chair: Yakima Chief Hops, a hops supplier and processor,
		Yakima, WA.

Name	Term Expires	Principal Occupation and Other Business Affiliations
Kevin A. Still <sup>3, 5</sup>	2022	Principal Occupation:
Second Vice Chair		President and Chief Executive Officer: Co-Alliance, LLP, a partnership of five cooperatives
		supplying energy, agronomy and animal nutrition, and producing swine and
Age: 63		marketing grain, Avon, IN;
Year Service Began: 2002		Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer: Excel Co-op, Inc., Frontier Co-op, Inc., IMPACT Co-op, Inc.,
		LaPorte County Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, and Midland Co-op, Inc.,
		agricultural retail cooperatives, Avon, IN;
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Officer: Agronomy Services, LLP, an agricultural retail organization, Fairmont, IN;
		Officer: Alliance Feed, LLC, an agricultural retail coop, Avon, IN;
		Vice Chair: Endeavor Ag and Energy LLP, a propane and agronomy organization, Avon, IN;
		Chair: Local Harvest Food, a food broker, Avon, IN;
		President: Northwind Pork, LLC, a pork producing operation, Kewanna, IN;
		Owner/President: Still Farms, LLC, a grain farm, Galesburg, IL;
		Director: Wholestone Farms II, LLC, a food company, Pipestone, MN.
Edgar A. Terry <sup>5, 10</sup>	2023	Principal Occupation:
		Owner/President: Terry Farms, Inc., a vegetable and strawberry farming operation,
		Ventura, CA;
Age: 61		Owner/Limited Partner: Ag. Center LTD, a real estate company, Ventura, CA;
Year Service Began: 2016		Owner/Officer: Amigos Fuerza, Inc., a provider of farm labor contracting, Ventura, CA;
		Owner/Limited Partner: Central AP, LLP, farmland real estate, Ventura, CA;
		Owner/Partner: JJE, LLC, farmland real estate, Ventura, CA;
		Owner/Officer: Moonridge Management, Inc., a provider of back office and HR consulting,
		Ventura, CA;
		Owner/Vice President: Rancho Adobe, Inc., farmland real estate, Ventura, CA;
		Owner/President: Willal, Inc., a sales and marketing company, Ventura, CA;
		Senior Adjunct Professor: California Lutheran University, an educational institution,
		Thousand Oaks, CA.
		Other Business Affiliations:
		Advisory Board Chair: Center for Economic Research and Forecasting, an economic
		forecasting and fundraising advisory board, Thousand Oaks, CA;
		Director: Farm Credit System Audit Committee, providing financial audit oversight,
		Jersey City, NJ;
		Director: Limoneira Company, a publicly held agribusiness and real estate development
		Company, Santa Paula, CA;

Name	Term Expires	Principal Occupation and Other Business Affiliations
Brandon J. Wittman <sup>2</sup>	2022	Principal Occupation:
		Chief Executive Officer and General Manager: Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., an electric
Age: 50		distribution cooperative, Huntley, MT.
Year Service Began: 2018		Other Business Affiliations:
		Director: The Farm Credit Council, a national trade association, Washington, D.C.;
		Customer Advisory Committee Member: Border States Electric, a utility material supply
		service provider, Bismark, ND;
		Manager's Advisory Committee Member: Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative,
		a wholesale power supplier, Great Falls, MT;
		Director: Montana Electric Cooperatives Association, an electric cooperatives
		statewide association, Great Falls, MT.

## **Compensation of Directors**

In 2019, CoBank's Board adopted a new director compensation program in response to the elimination of the statutory maximum limit on director compensation by the 2018 Farm Bill. This new program, developed in consultation with Pay Governance LLC, a third party compensation consultant, provides a compensation package that the Board believes is fair and reasonable and enables the recruitment and retention of individuals to the Bank's Board with the requisite expertise and experience to represent shareholder interests. The program is based on the Bank's director compensation. The program provides for compensation in the form of cash retainers to be paid in quarterly installments, and directors may elect to defer payment of all or part of their director compensation in accordance with agreements and applicable law. The director compensation program covers attendance at all Board and committee meetings, customer and trade association meetings and special assignments. CoBank's director compensation program also allows special compensation in excess of the retainers described below only in the event that exceptional circumstances or demands are placed on the time of Board meeting or Board planning meeting or any other required meeting as determined by the Board.

For 2020, director compensation was comprised of a cash retainer for all Board members in the annual amount of \$110,000, plus an additional retainer paid to Board officers and committee chairs. The Board chair received a \$40,000 retainer while each of the Board vice chairs received a \$17,500 retainer. The Audit Committee chair received a \$22,500 retainer, while the Compensation and Human Resources Committee chair and the Risk Committee chair each received a \$13,500 retainer. The Executive Committee chair and Governance Committee chair each received a retainer as Board chair or vice chair, respectively, and did not receive an additional retainer for serving as a committee chair. The Board approved special compensation of \$1,500 for Board members who served on the 2020 Board Restructuring Committee. The Board did not approve any adjustments for unexcused absences in 2020. Additional information for each director who served during 2020 is provided in the following table.

Current CoBank policy regarding reimbursements for travel, subsistence and other related expenses states that for meetings designated by the Board and approved special assignments, Board members shall be reimbursed for reasonable travel and related expenses that are necessary and that support CoBank's business interests. As may be appropriate, CoBank may share in the reimbursement of expenses with other organizations. A copy of CoBank's policy is available to shareholders upon request to the Bank's Office of General Counsel. The aggregate amount of reimbursement for travel, subsistence and other related expenses for all directors as a group was \$122,546, \$368,796 and \$474,427 for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

The following table presents the number of days served at Board meetings and other official CoBank activities, and compensation paid to each director for the year ended December 31, 2020.

		Number of Days			
	Number of Days Served at Board	Served in Other Official CoBank	Total Compensation		
Name of Director	Meetings	Activities	Paid During 2020		
Robert M. Behr <sup>(1)</sup>	14	22	\$111,500		
Michael S. Brown <sup>(2)</sup>	14	30	\$132,500		
Russell G. Brown <sup>(1)</sup>	14	32	\$111,500		
Stephen J. Epperson	14	27	\$110,000		
William M. Farrow III	14	12	\$110,000		
Benjamin J. Freund <sup>(1) (3)</sup>	14	18	\$111,500		
Daniel T. Kelley <sup>(1) (4)</sup>	14	25	\$125,000		
David J. Kragnes <sup>(3)</sup>	14	15	\$110,000		
Michael W. Marley	14	16	\$110,000		
Jon E. Marthedal <sup>(1) (3) (5)</sup>	14	34	\$129,000		
Gary A. Miller	14	19	\$110,000		
Catherine Moyer <sup>(3)</sup>	14	20	\$110,000		
David S. Phippen	14	17	\$110,000		
Scheherazade S. Rehman	14	22	\$110,000		
Kevin G. Riel <sup>(6)</sup>	14	42	\$150,000		
Kevin A. Still <sup>(7)</sup>	14	18	\$127,500		
Edgar A. Terry <sup>(8)</sup>	14	23	\$123,500		
Brandon J. Wittman <sup>(3)</sup>	14	15	\$110,000		
Total	252	407	\$2,112,000		

<sup>(1)</sup> Messrs. Behr, R. Brown, Freund, Kelley, and Marthedal received \$1,500 for service on the 2020 Board Restructuring Committee.

<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. Brown received a \$22,500 retainer for service as the Chair of the Audit Committee.

<sup>(3)</sup> In 2020, these directors represented CoBank's interests by serving on the boards of various trade groups and other organizations important to the Bank. Days of service related to these activities and compensation received (if any) are not included in this report.

<sup>(4)</sup> Mr. Kelley received a \$13,500 retainer for service as the Chair of the Compensation and Human Resources Committee.

<sup>(5)</sup> Mr. Marthedal received a \$17,500 retainer for service as the First Vice Chair of the Board.

<sup>(6)</sup> Mr. Riel received a \$40,000 retainer for service as the Chair of the Board.

<sup>(7)</sup> Mr. Still received a \$17,500 retainer for service as the Second Vice Chair of the Board.

<sup>(8)</sup> Mr. Terry received a \$13,500 retainer for service as the Chair of the Risk Committee.

# Senior Officers CoBank, ACB

## Thomas E. Halverson, President and Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Halverson, 56, was appointed president effective March 6, 2017 and has served as chief executive officer since January 1, 2017. Mr. Halverson is responsible for implementing the Bank's strategic and business direction as set by the Board of Directors. Prior to his current position, Mr. Halverson was CoBank's chief banking officer. Before joining CoBank in July 2013, Mr. Halverson spent more than 15 years with Goldman Sachs, most recently as managing director and chief of staff for Goldman Sachs Bank USA. Prior to that he served in a variety of executive positions at the firm, including head of credit risk management for Goldman Sachs in Asia ex-Japan. Before joining Goldman Sachs, Mr. Halverson served as principal credit officer for country risk at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Mr. Halverson serves on the Board of Directors of the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation and is Vice Chairman of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

## Deboleena Bose,

## **Chief Human Resources Officer**

Ms. Bose, 49, was appointed as chief human resources officer effective August 17, 2020. Ms. Bose is responsible for designing and implementing human capital initiatives, including talent acquisition and retention strategies, compensation and payroll, employee benefits and learning, and leadership and organizational development initiatives, including engagement. She is a member of CoBank's Management Executive Committee and supports the board's Compensation and Human Resources committee. Prior to joining CoBank, Ms. Bose served as Vice President of Human Resources for Michigan-based Whirlpool Corporation. Previously, Ms. Bose spent 21 years with General Electric in various positions in Asia, Europe and North America, including six years leading human resources for the global onshore wind business of General Electric's renewable energy portfolio.

## David P. Burlage, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Burlage, 57, was appointed chief financial officer effective November 16, 2009. Mr. Burlage is responsible for directing the Bank's financial affairs and developing its overall financial position. He oversees the treasury, financial planning and analysis, capital planning, accounting, tax and reporting functions of the Bank. Prior to his current position, Mr. Burlage served as senior vice president of the Finance Division. Mr. Burlage began his career as an auditor with Arthur Andersen & Co. He has over 35 years of financial experience. Mr. Burlage serves as director on the board of the Young Americans Center for Financial Education. He is a licensed CPA in the State of Ohio and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

#### Timothy M. Curran, Chief Risk Officer

Mr. Curran, 54, was appointed chief risk officer effective June 1, 2017. Mr. Curran is responsible for the Bank's risk management framework, including significant policies and practices, and leadership on overall risk governance and mitigation in areas including credit, operational, asset/liability, market, liquidity, fraud and anti-money laundering, enterprise security and reputational risk. Prior to joining CoBank, Mr. Curran was the head of risk management for the Treasury and Trade Solutions business at Citigroup (Citi). Previously, Mr. Curran served in additional senior roles at Citi which included chief risk officer for Citi Holdings. Prior to joining Citigroup in 2003, he worked in risk management and other leadership roles for FleetBoston Financial Corp., BankBoston (both now Bank of America) and Cargill. Mr. Curran has more than 32 years of experience in the financial services and commodity markets. He serves on the Board of Governors of the Farm Credit System Association Captive Insurance Company. Mr. Curran received a commission as an officer in the U.S. Army achieving the rank of Captain. Mr. Curran is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

# Senior Officers CoBank, ACB

## F. William Davis,

## **Executive Vice President, Farm Credit Banking Group**

Mr. Davis, 62, was appointed executive vice president of the Farm Credit Banking Group effective August 1, 2018. In this role, Mr. Davis is responsible for CoBank's relationships with our 20 affiliated Associations and other Farm Credit institutions, the Bank's Digital Business Solutions Division and Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation (FCL). Prior to his current position, Mr. Davis was CoBank's chief credit officer. Before joining CoBank in March 2017, Mr. Davis was chief credit officer for Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica) and Frontier Farm Credit, a CoBank affiliated Association that operates under a strategic alliance with FCSAmerica. Previously, Mr. Davis was FCSAmerica's senior vice president of credit and before that director of credit underwriting. Prior to joining FCSAmerica, he held senior credit positions with Farm Credit Services of Western Missouri and the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis. He serves on the Board of Directors of AgVantis, Inc., a service provider to System Associations.

## M. Mashenka Lundberg,

## **Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel**

Ms. Lundberg, 53, was appointed chief legal officer effective January 1, 2017 and has served as general counsel since February 18, 2014. She is responsible for all aspects of CoBank's legal function, including providing legal counsel to all areas of CoBank's business operations. Ms. Lundberg also oversees the Bank's board relations and regulatory functions and the Legal and Loan Processing Division. Prior to joining CoBank, Ms. Lundberg was a partner with the law firm of Bryan Cave from 2012 to 2014. Prior to that time, Ms. Lundberg was a partner with the law firm of Holme Roberts & Owen and served as the firm's General Counsel and also on the firm's Executive Committee. She has extensive experience in the field of corporate law and represented a wide range of corporate clients in a variety of transactions during her career in private practice. Ms. Lundberg serves on the Board of Directors and the finance committees of Mile High United Way, a social services organization in the Denver area, and the Dumb Friends League, the community-based animal welfare organization in the Rocky Mountain Region.

#### Eric Itambo, Chief Banking Officer

Mr. Itambo, 50, was appointed chief banking officer effective July 1, 2018. He is responsible for all business segments and banking product groups, capital markets, digital banking services and oversight of the Farm Credit Banking segment. Prior to joining CoBank, Mr. Itambo spent over 20 years with Citigroup, most recently as Managing Director and U.S. Head – Commercial Lending Management for Citigroup's Global Commercial Banking Group. During this time, Mr. Itambo built extensive experience in corporate and investment banking, capital markets, commercial banking and commercial real estate finance businesses, including risk and portfolio management. Mr. Itambo serves as chairman of the Board of Directors of FCL.

## Andrew D. Jacob, Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Jacob, 60, was appointed chief operating officer effective September 1, 2019. He is responsible for oversight of the Bank's Operations and Information Technology divisions. He also oversees the Business Transformation Services group which includes the disciplines of data strategy, process excellence, business analysis, project execution and change management. Mr. Jacob is also responsible for CoBank's Corporate Communications, Knowledge Exchange and Government Affairs divisions as well as the Corporate Social Responsibility program. Prior to his current position, Mr. Jacob was CoBank's chief regulatory, legislative and compliance officer (CRLCO) from 2015 to 2019. Mr. Jacob also served as CoBank's ethics, compliance, and standards of conduct officer. Before joining CoBank in January 2011 as the executive vice president responsible for the Bank's regulatory, legislative and compliance functions, Mr. Jacob spent nearly 25 years with the Farm Credit Administration, where he served in a variety of examination and policy leadership roles. Mr. Jacob is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

# Senior Officers CoBank, ACB

## Michael L. Short, Chief Credit Officer

Mr. Short, 59, was appointed as the chief credit officer effective January 1, 2019. Mr. Short had previously served as the interim chief credit officer from August 2018. As chief credit officer, he is responsible for all of CoBank's credit approval and credit related administrative functions including loan approval, credit support and analysis, credit guidelines, credit training, loan compliance and monitoring, collateral audit and special assets. Prior to serving as the interim chief credit officer, he was the senior vice president of credit approvals from June 2017 to August 2018 and has held leadership positions in Capital Markets and Special Assets since joining CoBank in 2013. He began his financial services career with Bank of America, and went on to John Hancock, where he held several senior positions during his eleven years there. Mr. Short has more than 27 years of financial services experience.

## Robert L. O'Toole

Mr. O'Toole, 58, served as chief human resources officer through August 16, 2020 and assisted in the transition of his responsibilities to Ms. Bose from August 17, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

#### **Robert F. West**

Mr. West, 62, served as head of the Infrastructure Banking Group through June 30, 2020.

## Overview

This section describes the compensation programs for CoBank's President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and other senior officers, as defined by FCA regulations (collectively, senior officers), as well as those programs for any highly compensated employees as defined by FCA regulations. This section also presents the compensation earned by our CEO, as well as aggregate compensation earned by our other senior officers and any highly compensated employees, for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018.

The Board of Directors, through its Compensation and Human Resources Committee (Committee), has adopted a total compensation philosophy for the Bank. Our total compensation philosophy is intended to align the interests of our senior officers with those of our shareholders and is more fully described below. We accomplish this by providing incentive compensation that rewards performance in relation to the business and financial plan established by our Board of Directors.

Our compensation programs contain a number of elements that are aligned with "best practices" for executive compensation, including:

- The majority of total compensation for senior officers is delivered through performance-based, variable incentive programs for 2020 the CEO's target total direct compensation mix was approximately 23 percent base salary and 77 percent performance-based, variable incentives;
- A substantial portion of performance-based, variable compensation is based on three-year performance goals;
- We have an incentive compensation recovery ("clawback") provision for all members of the Bank's Management Executive Committee, including the CEO;
- Award levels for the short-term and long-term incentive plans are "capped";
- The formulaic maximum payout for the annual short-term incentive plan is 225 percent of target, and the maximum payout is 150 percent of target for the long-term incentive plans without any application of the ten percent discretionary element available to the Board of Directors for the 2020 short-term incentive plan and the long-term incentive plans beginning with the 2019-2021 plan;
- The short-term and long-term incentive plans have a minimum return on active patron stock investment that must be achieved before any incentives can be earned;
- As of December 31, 2020, no employees were employed subject to the terms of an employment agreement; and
- The Committee engages an independent executive compensation consultant to conduct an annual assessment of compensation related risks.

We believe these elements balance our risk profile with total compensation while aligning our compensation program with our shareholders' long-term interests and best practices in governance of executive compensation.

As described in the "Financial Condition and Results of Operations" section of Management's Discussion and Analysis on page 32 of this Annual Report, in 2020 CoBank reported strong financial performance while fulfilling its mission in a safe and sound manner. As a result of our performance, our short-term incentive plan for 2020 was funded between the target and maximum award levels based upon performance goals set at the beginning of 2020. In addition, based on strong performance in the 2018 through 2020 period against performance goals set at the beginning of 2018, our long-term incentive plan was also funded between the target and maximum award levels. These and other elements of our senior officers' compensation are explained below.

#### **Compensation Philosophy and Objectives**

The Bank's total compensation philosophy is designed to maintain a compensation program that will:

- Attract, retain and reward employees with the skills required to accomplish the Bank's strategic business objectives;
- Provide accountability and incentives for achievement of those objectives;
- Link compensation to Bank performance, Business Unit results and increased shareholder value;
- Properly balance the risk profile of the Bank with both short- and long-term incentives;
- Operate within a consistent philosophy and framework;
- Create a culture of adherence to core values and strong ethical behavior;
- Be integrated with the Bank's business processes, including business planning, performance management and succession planning; and
- Enhance management of risk and accountability.

The total compensation philosophy seeks to achieve the appropriate balance among market-based salaries, benefits and variable incentive compensation designed to incent and reward both the current and long-term achievement of our strategic business objectives, business and financial plans and mission fulfillment. It also seeks to incent prudent risk taking within Board-established parameters with the proper balance and accountabilities between short- and long-term business performances. For senior officers, CoBank strives to deliver a significant portion of total target compensation through performance-based pay, with the actual proportion of total compensation provided through both short- and long-term incentives varying with actual financial performance, the achievement of Board-approved strategic business objectives and each senior officer's individual performance. We believe this philosophy fosters a performance-oriented, results-based culture wherein compensation varies from one year to the next on the basis of actual results achieved. We also find that this variable performance-based compensation approach is properly aligned with an acceptable risk profile and shareholder returns.

## **Process for Compensation Decisions**

The Board of Directors has established the Committee to oversee the design, implementation and administration of compensation and benefits programs for CoBank. The Committee meets regularly to execute the responsibilities of its charter. The Committee reviews the performance of the Bank's CEO semi-annually, and the Board of Directors approves the compensation level of the CEO, comprised of salary, benefits and supplemental compensation, including short- and long-term incentive compensation. The CEO is responsible for setting the compensation levels of the Bank's Management Executive Committee, who, in turn, are responsible for the compensation of all other employees. In addition, the Committee reviews the compensation of the members of the Management Executive Committee and reviews and approves for recommendation to the Board of Directors the Bank's incentive plans.

The Committee generally makes a final decision regarding the CEO's incentive compensation in its February meeting to fully take into consideration the prior year's corporate performance and results of the formal evaluation of CEO performance conducted by the Board. Decisions about salary and performance also occur at other meetings in the year, as considered appropriate. The Committee utilizes an independent advisor to annually compare the CEO's compensation level to a select peer group of financial institutions. This evaluation helps ensure that such compensation is appropriate for the CEO's experience and competencies and is competitive with positions of similar scope and complexity at relevant financial institutions. The comparative peer group is composed of companies with significant corporate and commercial lending activities, and which have other similar characteristics such as asset size, net income or significant customer relationships.

For 2020, the Committee engaged Pay Governance LLC (Consultant) directly to serve as its independent advisor on executive and Board compensation matters. On an annual basis, the Committee assures the qualifications and independence of the Consultant as an independent and objective advisor. For 2020, Pay Governance did not provide any other services to CoBank that were not approved in advance by the Committee. In 2020, the Committee conducted an RFP process related to the selection of the Committee's independent compensation advisor and chose to retain Pay Governance LLC after evaluating five firms.

## **Components of CoBank Total Compensation Program**

Given the cooperative ownership structure of CoBank, no equity or stock-based plans are used to compensate any employee, including senior officers. Senior officers' compensation primarily consists of four components – salary, short-term incentive plan, long-term incentive plan and retirement benefits – as described below. All employees participate in salary, the short-term incentive plan and retirement benefits, while senior officers and specified other key employees are also eligible to participate in the long-term incentive plan. All senior officers can elect to defer certain incentive payments through a nonqualified deferred compensation plan. In addition, senior officers are eligible for supplemental retirement benefits, as discussed on page 169.

<b>Overview of Senior Officers' Compensation</b>								
Component	CoBank Philosophy	Design Characteristics						
Salary	<ul> <li>Market-based compensation</li> <li>Provides a foundation for other components</li> <li>Competitive relative to positions of similar scope and complexity at a select peer group of financial institutions</li> <li>Reflects individual performance, competencies and responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Traditional salary structure with salary ranges for each job grade</li> <li>Structure reviewed annually</li> <li>Salaries based on market and individual performance</li> <li>Merit budgets based on market and other factors</li> </ul>						

	ficers' Compensation (continued)	Design Characteristics
Component	CoBank Philosophy	Design Characteristics
Short-Term Incentive Plan	<ul> <li>Links rewards to achievement of annual goals</li> <li>Recognizes corporate, Business Unit and individual performance</li> <li>Aligns the interests of shareholders and senior officers through bankwide financial and strategic business objectives</li> <li>Balances short-term results with the risk profile of the Bank</li> <li>Links pay to performance outcomes</li> <li>Establishes competitive incentive opportunities relative to peers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Multiple corporate and Business Unit financial and non-financial goals</li> <li>Limited discretionary component to reflect exceptional events</li> <li>Awards are capped</li> <li>Minimum performance for each goal required</li> <li>Minimum return on active patron stock investment of 11 percent must be achieved in plan year in order for any payout to be made</li> <li>Individual payouts require minimum individual performance level and are based on equal weighting of individual and corporate/Business Unit performance</li> <li>Clawback provision for the Bank's Management Executive Committee, including the CEO</li> </ul>
Long-Term Incentive Plan	<ul> <li>Provides opportunities for compensation tied to CoBank's sustained performance</li> <li>Provides balance through emphasis on long-term results, compared to short-term orientation of annual short-term incentive plan</li> <li>Encourages longer-term retention of plan participants</li> <li>Promotes the creation of profitable growth in shareholder and customer value, and enhances the sustainability of CoBank to serve its customers while providing proper balance to the risk profile of the Bank</li> <li>Aligns the interests of shareholders and senior officers through bankwide financial and strategic business objectives</li> <li>Links pay to performance outcomes</li> <li>Establishes competitive incentive opportunities relative to peers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>the CEO</li> <li>Multiple corporate financial and non-financial goals</li> <li>Awards are capped</li> <li>Three-year performance periods</li> <li>New plan starts each year (plans overlap)</li> <li>Minimum performance for each goal required</li> <li>Minimum return on active patron stock investment of 11 percent and capital threshold must be achieved in each year of the plan for a full payout</li> <li>No individual performance factor although a minimum level of individual performance determines level of payout</li> <li>Clawback provision for the Bank's Management Executive Committee, including the CEO</li> </ul>
Retirement Benefits	<ul> <li>Provide for a source of income subsequent to retirement</li> <li>Encourage longer-term retention of employees</li> <li>Provide for competitive total compensation opportunities over the employee's career</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Benefits vary based on date of hire</li> <li>Senior officers hired prior to January 1, 2007 participate in a defined benefit plan and supplemental retirement plan</li> <li>Senior officers hired on or after January 1, 2007 do not participate in a defined benefit plan but receive additional, non- elective employer contributions to the 401(k) retirement savings plan</li> <li>Other retirement benefits include a 401(k) retirement savings plan and access to health care benefits. Substantially all participants pay the full premiums associated with postretirement health care benefits</li> <li>Clawback provision for the Bank's Management Executive Committee, including the CEO</li> </ul>

## Salary

#### Overview

#### **Salary Considerations**

- o Individual performance, competencies and experience
- Maintenance or expansion of responsibilities and scope of position
- Peer group data and internal equity
- o Overall CoBank merit increase budget, as applicable, based on market and other factors

Salaries represent a foundational component of CoBank's total compensation program, as the value of other components is determined in relation to base salary. Senior officer salaries are market-based and established taking into consideration individual performance, the specific competencies and experience the senior officer brings to CoBank, the responsibilities and scope of the position, peer group data and internal equity. Salaries for senior officers are reviewed annually, and adjusted if necessary.

#### Short-Term (Annual) Incentives

#### Overview

#### Short-Term Incentive Plan (STIP)

- o Corporate and individual performance weighted equally
- o Corporate financial performance measures are balanced: profitability, loan quality and operating efficiency
- For ten Business Units, a portion of the STIP corporate performance measures are determined based on metrics specific to the unit's performance
- Board of Directors also provides subjective evaluation related to achievement of the Bank's strategic business objectives
- All employees are eligible to participate
- For 2020, CoBank performed at or above maximum award levels on three corporate performance goals, and between the target and the maximum award level on two corporate performance goals
- For the ten Business Units, the corporate factor includes between two and four additional unit performance measures using metrics that may include transaction quality, transaction volume, and revenue and profitability, as appropriate. Business Units' performance varied within 8 percentage points of the overall corporate performance.
- The Board of Directors retains the discretion to apply a ten percent subjective upward or downward modification to the corporate performance factor.

Short-term incentive payments are based on a combination of annual corporate and individual performance. The short-term incentive plan aligns the interests of shareholders and employees through the establishment of a balanced scorecard of bank-wide and, in certain cases, Business Unit financial results and strategic business objectives. Under the terms of the plan, a minimum return on active patron stock investment must be achieved for the plan year in order for a payout to be approved, ensuring that shareholders are rewarded first. The return minimum was 11 percent for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The actual short-term incentive award is determined as follows:

Salary × Individual Annual Short-Term Incentive Target × Corporate Performance Factor × Individual Performance Factor

Based on the formulaic outcomes of the corporate and individual performance factors, participants can earn from zero to 225 percent of their individual annual short-term incentive target. Payments are typically made during March, but always following the end of the year to which the award is applicable. Participants are not eligible to receive a short-term payout if they are no longer employed by CoBank at the time of the scheduled payout, unless otherwise provided for in an agreement. The key elements of the actual payout are described below.

• Individual Annual Short-Term Incentive Target — Annual short-term incentive targets are set for all employees at the beginning of the year. For the 2020 performance period, the target short-term incentive level for the CEO was 95 percent of salary. For the other senior officers, the targets ranged from 50-65 percent.

• Corporate Performance Factor — The corporate performance factor is determined at the end of the year based on annual actual business results relative to a balanced scorecard of financial measures and strategic business objectives, as established at the beginning of each year by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors retains discretion to make adjustments to the corporate performance factor and to apply an upward or downward adjustment of up to ten percent to the corporate performance factor, where appropriate, in addition to providing a subjective performance result for the achievement of strategic business objectives.

CoBank utilizes a balanced scorecard for measuring short-term performance to emphasize overall success in executing our strategy and managing risks. The short-term incentive corporate scorecard establishes certain key performance indicators, of which 80 percent focus on the achievement of specified financial measures related to profitability, lending-related activities, transaction quality and operating efficiency, and 20 percent focus on the achievement of the strategic business objectives that are established at the beginning of each year by the Board of Directors. The final performance result is determined by comparing the actual performance of each measure to the targets established at the beginning of the year and taking into consideration any discretionary adjustments made by the Board of Directors. Each scorecard performance measure is weighted separately, and the factor is set such that if performance of each measure is within a range of 98 to 102 percent of target, the result is a performance factor of 100 percent. The formulaic results of the performance factor can vary from zero to 150 percent, depending on performance against the targets and without any application of the ten percent discretionary element available to the Board of Directors. The Committee approves the overall performance factors and funding of the STIP for actual performance relative to target. The 2020 short-term incentive corporate scorecard is as follows:

# 2020 Short-Term Corporate Scorecard

	Weig	ght
Performance Measure	Business Unit	All Other
Net Income	12.5 %	20 %
Return on Common Equity (Excl AOCI)	12.5	15
Strategic Business Objectives	20	20
Loan Quality (Adverse Loans to Total Regulatory Capital)	10	20
Operating Expense Ratio	15	25
Unit Specific Measures	30	N/A

For ten Business Units, 30 percent of the corporate performance factor is represented by unit specific performance measures for transaction quality, transaction volume, and revenue and profitability, as appropriate.

• Individual Performance Factor — At the beginning of each year, all CoBank employees, including the CEO and other senior officers, establish individual goals they seek to achieve that year in support of the business. These individual goals are anchored to the Bank's business and financial plan, as well as the Bank's strategic business objectives and also include key behavioral expectations appropriate for that employee. The CEO is responsible for administering the short-term incentive plan and approves the individual performance factors of the other senior officers. The Board of Directors approves the goals and individual performance factor of the CEO. The assessment of an individual's actual performance with respect to his or her annual goals is reflected as an individual performance factor and ranges from zero to 150 percent.

The actual short-term incentive awards for 2020, 2019 and 2018 for the CEO, other senior officers and any highly compensated employees are presented in the Summary Compensation Table on page 172.

## **Long-Term Incentives**

#### Overview

#### Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP)

- Awards based upon corporate performance for overlapping three-year periods
- Corporate financial performance measures are balanced: profitability, loan quality and capital consideration
- Board of Directors also provides subjective evaluation related to the achievement of corporate strategic business objectives
- For the 2018 through 2020 performance period, CoBank performed at or above maximum award level on three corporate performance goals and between the target and maximum award level on one corporate performance goal

CoBank utilizes a long-term incentive compensation plan that provides senior officers and specified other key employees with the opportunity for compensation tied to CoBank's sustained success. The long-term incentive plan provides accountability and balance for the annual outcomes measured in the short-term plan. Participants in the long-term plan directly influence the outcomes of actions and risks taken during each three-year performance period, which provides the proper balance between short-term results and long-term value creation. Eligibility for participation is limited to those individuals who clearly have the ability, potential and performance to drive the success of strategies and initiatives critical to long-term value creation for shareholders. The purpose of this plan is to encourage longer-term retention of plan participants, to promote the creation of sustainable and profitable growth in shareholder and customer value, and to enhance the ability of CoBank to serve its customers while providing proper balance to the risk profile of the Bank. The long-term incentive plan aligns the interests of shareholders with those of senior officers and key employees through the establishment of bank-wide financial targets and strategic business objectives, and reinforces a long-term focus on financial performance.

Long-term incentive plan payouts are based on corporate performance in the achievement of key financial metrics and strategic business objectives over a three-year performance period, as defined by CoBank's long-term corporate scorecard. These long-term performance metrics and objectives are established at the beginning of each three-year performance period by the Board of Directors in connection with the annual business and financial plan. A minimum return on active patron stock investment of 11 percent, ensuring that shareholders are rewarded first, as well as a minimum total regulatory capital ratio of 11.5 percent must be achieved in each year of the three-year performance period for a full payout to be approved.

The actual long-term incentive award is determined as follows:

Salary × Individual Long-Term Incentive Target × Corporate Performance Factor

Based on the corporate performance factor, participants can earn from zero to 150 percent of their individual long-term incentive target. Payments are typically made during March of each year following the end of the three-year performance period to which the award is applicable. Participants are eligible to receive a prorated award at the time of the scheduled payout if they are no longer employed at CoBank at the time of payment and their termination meets plan eligibility requirements for reasons related to retirement, death or disability, or if otherwise provided for in an agreement. Participants are not eligible to receive any payment at the time of the scheduled payout if they are no longer employed by CoBank and do not otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for payment. The key elements of the actual payout are described below.

- Individual Long-Term Incentive Target For the 2018 through 2020 performance period, the long-term incentive target for the CEO was 145 percent. For the remaining senior officers, the targets ranged from 30 to 75 percent during the period.
- Corporate Performance Factor Corporate performance is determined at the end of a designated three-year period based on actual business results relative to a balanced scorecard of bank-wide financial measures established at the beginning of the three-year performance period, and strategic business objectives, as established at the beginning of each year of the three-year performance period by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors retains the right to make adjustments to the corporate performance factor, where appropriate, in addition to providing a subjective performance result for the achievement of strategic business objectives.

CoBank utilizes a balanced scorecard for measuring long-term corporate performance to emphasize overall success in executing our strategy and managing risks. The long-term incentive corporate scorecard establishes certain key performance indicators, of which 80 percent focus on the achievement of specified financial measures established at the beginning of the three-year performance period related to profitability, loan quality and capital consideration, and 20 percent focus on the achievement of the strategic business objectives that are established at the beginning of each year of the three-year performance period by the Board of Directors. The final performance result, or corporate performance factor, is determined by comparing the actual performance of each measure to the financial targets established at the beginning of each three-year performance period and an average of strategic business objective results during each year in the three-year performance measure is weighted separately and performance within a range of 98 to 102 percent of target for the financial measures is recognized at a performance factor of 100 percent. The corporate performance factor can vary from zero to a maximum of 150 percent depending on performance against the targets. The Committee approves the corporate performance factor based on actual performance in comparison to target. The long-term incentive corporate scorecards for the three-year performance periods 2018 through 2020, 2019 through 2021, and 2020 through 2022 are as follows:

# Long-Term Incentive Corporate Scorecards: 2018 – 2020, 2019 – 2021 and 2020 – 2022 Periods

Performance Measure	Weight
Net Income	27.5 %
Return on Common Equity (Excl AOCI)	27.5 %
Strategic Business Objectives	20 %
Loan Quality (For 2018-2020, Adverse Loans/Total Regulatory Capital; for 2019-2021 and 2020-2022, Adverse Loan Ratio)	25 %

The actual long-term incentive awards for 2020, 2019 and 2018 for the CEO and other senior officers are presented in the Summary Compensation Table on page 172.

# **Employment Agreement**

As of December 31, 2020, no employees were employed subject to the terms of an employment agreement.

## **Retirement Benefits**

## Overview

We have employer-funded qualified defined benefit pension plans, which are noncontributory and cover employees hired prior to January 1, 2007. Depending on the date of hire, benefits are determined either by a formula based on years of service and final average pay, or by the accumulation of a cash balance with interest credits and contribution credits based on years of service and eligible compensation. We also have noncontributory, unfunded, nonqualified supplemental executive retirement plans (SERPs) covering two senior officers employed at December 31, 2020, and one senior officer who left the Bank in 2020, as well as specified other senior managers. For 2020, there were no additional executive retirement plans in place. All employees are also eligible to participate in a 401(k) retirement savings plan, which includes employer matching contributions. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2007 receive additional, non-elective employer contributions to the 401(k) retirement savings plan. All retirement-eligible employees, including senior officers, are also currently eligible for other postretirement benefits, which primarily include access to health care benefits. Substantially all participants pay the full premiums associated with the postretirement health care benefits.

## Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Senior officers hired prior to January 1, 2007 are participants in the defined benefit pension plans. Pursuant to these plans, the benefits are determined based on years of service and final average pay. Eligible compensation for senior officers, as defined under the final average pay formula, is the highest 60 consecutive-month average, which includes salary and incentive compensation measured over a period of one year or less, and excludes long-term incentive awards, expense reimbursements, taxable fringe benefits, relocation allowance, short- and long-term disability payments, nonqualified deferred compensation distributions, lump sum vacation payouts and all severance payments. Retirement benefits for senior officers are calculated assuming payment in the form of a single life annuity with five years certain and retirement at age 65. However, the actual form and timing of retirement benefit payments are based on participant elections. The plans require five years of service to become vested. All senior officers participating in the defined benefit pension plans have been employed for more than five years and, as such, are fully vested in the plans. The benefit formula is the sum of 1.5 percent of eligible compensation up to Social Security covered compensation plus 1.75 percent of eligible compensation up to Social Security taxable wage bases up to the participant's Social Security retirement age.

Federal laws limit the amount of compensation we may consider when determining benefits payable under the qualified defined benefit pension plans. We maintain SERPs that pay the excess pension benefits that would have been payable under our qualified defined benefit pension plans.

## Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan

We have a nonqualified deferred compensation plan that allows senior officers and other eligible key employees to defer all or a portion of their incentive compensation. Additionally, the Bank makes contributions to this plan on behalf of participants whose benefits under the 401(k) retirement savings plan are limited due to federal tax laws. Contributions are made at the same percentages as available under the 401(k) retirement savings plan. The compensation that is deferred is invested in any number of investment options selected by the participants. These investment options are either identical or substantially similar to those available to all participants in the Bank's 401(k) retirement savings plan. The participant is subject to all risks and returns of amounts invested. The election to defer is irrevocable and the deferred amounts cannot be paid except in accordance with specified elections as permitted by law. At that time, the participant will receive payment of the amounts credited to his or her account under the plan in a manner that has been specified by the participant. If a participant dies before the entire amount has been distributed, the undistributed portion will be paid to the participant's beneficiary.

## **Compensation Risk Management**

The Committee considers potential risks when reviewing and approving compensation programs. The Board of Directors approves the total compensation philosophy and programs to ensure there is a proper balance and alignment between the overall acceptable risk profile of the Bank and the manner in which prudent risk taking is reflected in the design of the underlying program. We have designed our compensation programs, including our incentive compensation plans, with specific features to address potential risks while rewarding employees for achieving short-term and long-term financial and strategic objectives through prudent business judgment and appropriate risk taking. The objective is to motivate employees to take prudent risk within Board-approved parameters while ensuring employees are also accountable for the long-term outcomes of their actions. The following elements have been incorporated in our compensation programs available for our senior officers:

- *A Balanced Mix of Compensation Components* The target compensation mix for our senior officers is composed of salary, short-term incentive, long-term incentive and retirement benefits, representing a mix that is weighted toward long-term performance and service with CoBank.
- No Production Based Incentive Plans The STIP and LTIP are the only incentive plans within CoBank and are funded based upon a balanced scorecard of the Bank's financial and business results. There are no additional "production" or "sales" based incentives tied to number of customers, number of loans, number of products, loan volume or any other metric that solely measures top-line results.
- Multiple Performance Factors Our incentive compensation plans include balanced scorecards of organization-wide financial performance, Business Unit performance and integration with individual performance assessments through our performance management system.
  - Incentive plans include a Board-determined subjective evaluation of our achievement of strategic business objectives
  - The short-term incentive is dependent on multiple performance metrics, including a subjective measure of performance against strategic business objectives and an assessment of individual performance
  - The long-term incentives are cash-based, with three-year performance metrics to complement our annual short-term incentives
  - Board of Directors retains discretion to adjust performance factors
  - Targets and ranges of performance for each metric are approved by the Board of Directors prior to the beginning of the performance period
- *Multiple Year Performance Measurement* Our long-term incentives include a three-year performance measurement period that requires sustained corporate performance complemented by a required minimum level of shareholder return and capital threshold in order for the plan to be fully funded.
- *Caps on Incentive Payments* Our incentive compensation plan payments are subject to caps that limit the maximum award that may be paid.
- *Threshold Performance Requirements for Each Metric* Our incentive compensation plan payments are contingent upon achieving minimum performance levels for each financial performance goal.
- *Threshold Individual Performance Requirements* Our incentive compensation plans require a minimum individual performance level before a payment may be made for any given performance year.
- Compensation and Human Resources Committee Discretion The Committee subjectively evaluates the Bank's achievement of strategic business objectives and approves all incentive plan funding following a review of the Bank's performance against plan performance criteria established and approved prior to the beginning of each year of an incentive plan performance period.
- *Clawback Policy* Provides for recoupment/recovery of compensation in the event of a financial restatement or other actions (see "Recoupment of Compensation (Clawback)" below).
- Shareholder Return A minimum return on active patron stock investment must be achieved for incentive compensation payments to be approved.

## CoBank 2020 Annual Report

• *Fixed Director Compensation Benchmarked to Market Norms* – The director compensation program provides fixed pay levels with no performance incentives to align with common board compensation practices and avoid any potential conflict of interest when the Board of Directors establishes performance goals for Bank incentive programs and evaluates performance of the Bank.

Additionally, the Compensation and Human Resources Committee considers an assessment of compensation-related risks for all of our employees, annually. The assessment includes a review of multiple facets of our compensation program including governance practices, program documentation, incentive plan design, processes, employment practices, benefits program, and cultural considerations. Reviews of various aspects of our programs are also conducted by independent auditors, whose reports are provided to our Board of Directors. Based on this assessment, the Committee concluded that our compensation plans do not create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse impact on CoBank. In making this conclusion, the Committee reviewed the key design elements of our compensation programs in relation to industry "best practices" as presented by the Consultant, as well as the design features and administrative processes that mitigate any potential risks, such as through our internal controls and oversight by management and the Board of Directors.

## **Recoupment of Compensation (Clawback)**

CoBank has an incentive compensation recovery ("clawback") policy to encourage the highest ethical standards, to further ensure incentive plans do not encourage excessive risk-taking and to ensure the alignment of compensation with accurate financial data. The policy provides that in the event of a restatement of the financial statements, the Bank may seek recovery from members of the Bank's Management Executive Committee of incentive compensation and nonqualified retirement benefits that would not otherwise have been paid if the correct financial information had been used to determine the amount payable. The policy includes circumstances under which the "clawback" policy could be enforced to include ethical misconduct, theft, misappropriation, violation of Bank policy, or materially imprudent judgment that caused financial or reputational harm to the Bank, including where the covered executive knowingly failed to take corrective action with regard to other employees under his or her direct control who engaged in such behavior. The Board of Directors may only seek recovery or reduction of compensation under this policy within the three-year period following the date the Bank filed the incorrect report.

## **Summary Compensation Table**

The following table summarizes compensation earned by our CEO as well as aggregate compensation earned by our other senior officers for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018. Our current Board policy regarding reimbursements for travel, subsistence and other related expenses states that all employees, including senior officers, shall be reimbursed for actual reasonable travel and related expenses that are necessary and that support our business interests. A copy of our policy is available to shareholders of CoBank and of our affiliated Farm Credit Associations upon request.

## Summary Compensation Table<sup>(1)</sup> (\$ in Thousands)

					Annual			_							
Name of Individual or Number in Group <sup>(2)</sup>	Year	Sa	lary		hort-Term Incentive npensation <sup>(3)</sup>	6	Long-Term Incentive ompensation <sup>(3)</sup>		Change in Pension Value <sup>(4)</sup>	-	eferred/ quisites <sup>(5)</sup>		)ther <sup>(6)</sup>		Total
CEO:	i cai	Uu	lial y	001	ipensation		mpensation		Value	I CI	quisites				Total
Thomas E. Halverson	2020	\$	876	\$	1,758	\$	1,705	\$	-	\$	237	\$		\$	4,576
Thomas E. Halverson	2019	•	846	Ŧ	1,355	•	1,256	•	-	Ŧ	248	•	-	•	3,705
Thomas E. Halverson	2018		800		1,373		1,078		-		213		1		3,465
Aggregate Number of Senior Officers (excluding	the CEO):														
10	2020	\$	3,439	\$	3,685	\$	2,940	\$	3,063	\$	958	\$	487	\$	14,572
10	2019		3,970		3,518		2,735		1,462		883		1,087		13,655
12	2018		4,151		4,097		2,660		1,183		968		1,952		15,011

(1) Disclosure of the total compensation paid during 2020 to any designated senior officer is available to shareholders of CoBank and of our affiliated Farm Credit Associations upon request. Compensation amounts do not include earnings or losses on nonqualified deferred compensation, as such earnings or losses are not considered above-market or preferential.

<sup>(2)</sup> The senior officers are those officers defined by FCA regulation §619.9310.

(3) Incentive compensation amounts represent amounts earned in the reported fiscal year, which are paid in March of the subsequent year to persons who continue to be employed by CoBank or unless otherwise provided for as part of normal retirement or in an employment agreement. The short-term incentive compensation amounts are calculated based on relevant performance factors for the reported fiscal year, while the long-term incentive compensation amounts are calculated based on the relevant performance factors for the three-year performance period ended in the reported fiscal year.

(4) The Change in Pension Value increased in 2020 primarily due to the additional service and eligible pay of participants, the form of pension benefit elected by two senior officer participants who left the bank in 2020, as well as a change in the discount rate.

(5) Represents company contributions to a qualified retirement savings plan and nonqualified deferred compensation plan, as well as payment of tax return preparation and financial planning expenses, relocation, certain travel-related costs, wellness benefits, life insurance benefits, long-term disability benefits and associated income tax impact.

(6) For 2020, \$75 represents an amount paid to a Senior Officer who joined the bank in 2020 and \$412 represents amounts paid to two senior officers who left the bank in 2020 for separation pay and certain other benefits pursuant to the terms of an agreement. For 2019, \$1,087 represents an amount paid to a Senior Officer who left the bank in 2019 for separation pay and certain other benefits pursuant to the terms of an agreement. For 2018, \$18 represents amounts paid to Senior Officers as part of a board approved initiative to share tax reform savings with customers and associates. Also for 2018, \$1,952 includes \$500 for an amount paid to an executive who joined the Bank in 2018; \$213 for the balance of sign-on payments due to two executives who joined the Bank in 2018; for separation pay and certain other benefits pursuant to the terms of an agreement.

## **Pension Benefits**

The following table presents certain pension benefit information by plan for the senior officer group as of December 31, 2020. The CEO does not participate in the defined benefit pension plan.

Pension Benefits Table (\$ in The	busands)					
Number in Group <sup>(1)</sup>	Plan Name	Number of Value Years of Credited Accumu		uarial Present Value of ccumulated Benefits	P Di	Payments uring Last scal Year <sup>(3)</sup>
Aggregate Number of Senior Officers						
3	CoBank, ACB Retirement Plan	20.78	\$	3,411	\$	50
3	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	20.78		6,149		63
Total			\$	9,560	\$	113

<sup>(1)</sup> The senior officers included in the pension benefits disclosure are those defined by FCA regulations §619.9310 and §620.6.

<sup>(2)</sup> Represents an average for the aggregate senior officer group.

<sup>(3)</sup> Represents post-retirement benefit payments made during the last fiscal year.

# Report on Compensation CoBank, ACB

Members of the Compensation and Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors are appointed by the Board chair in consultation with the Board officers and committee chairs. All members of the Compensation and Human Resources Committee (Committee) qualify as independent directors as defined by Board policy.

The Committee approves the overall compensation philosophy at the Bank utilizing an independent, Committee-appointed, executive compensation consultant, which includes establishing the compensation philosophy which guides program design including pay mix comprised of base pay, short- and long-term incentive compensation plans and employee benefits. In so doing, the Committee has developed and implemented compensation policies and programs that support the Bank's core values and links compensation to overall Bank and individual performance, ensuring a proper balance with the risk profile of the Bank, thereby contributing to the value of the shareholders' investment in the Bank.

The Committee is responsible for establishing the performance standards for the President and Chief Executive Officer and the compensation structure for other Bank employees. The Committee reviews the Board's performance evaluation of the President and Chief Executive Officer, approves an overall performance rating, and recommends for full Board approval all aspects of compensation (base salary, performance-based compensation including all incentives, benefits, and perquisites) for the President and Chief Executive Officer, consistent with the business and financial objectives of the Bank, the results achieved by the executive, Board directed performance objectives, and competitive compensation practices. The Committee carefully evaluates incentive-based compensation programs and payments thereunder to ensure they are reasonable and appropriate to the services performed by senior officers. The Committee monitors the terms and provisions of the incentive-based compensation programs for senior officers and assesses the balance of financial rewards to senior officers against the risks to the institution. The Committee carefully evaluates whether senior officer compensation, incentive, and benefit programs are designed to support the Bank's long-term business strategy and mission as well as promote safe and sound business practices. The Committee reviews the institution's projected long-term obligations for compensation and retirement benefits. The Committee operates under a written charter, adopted by the Committee and the Board of Directors, which more fully describes the Committee's responsibilities.

The Committee has reviewed and discussed the Senior Officers Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on this review and discussion, the Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, and the Board approved, that the Senior Officers Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Members of the 2021 Compensation and Human Resources Committee:

Catherine Moyer, Chair Daniel T. Kelley David S. Phippen Kevin G. Riel Brandon J. Wittman

March 2, 2021

# Code of Ethics CoBank, ACB

CoBank sets high standards for honesty, ethics, integrity, impartiality and conduct. Each year, every associate certifies compliance with the letter, intent and spirit of our Associate Responsibilities and Conduct Policy, which establishes the ethical standards of our organization, and each senior officer is required to disclose additional information. Additionally, our president and chief executive officer, chief banking officer, chief operating officer, chief risk officer, chief credit officer, general counsel, chief financial officer and other senior financial professionals certify compliance with the letter, intent and spirit of our Code of Ethics. Our Code of Ethics supplements our Associate Responsibilities and Conduct Policy and establishes additional responsibilities specifically related to the preparation and distribution of our financial statements and related disclosures. Details about our Code of Ethics are available at www.cobank.com. At your request, we will provide you with a copy of our Code of Ethics, free of charge. Please contact:

Corporate Communications Division P. O. Box 5110 Denver, CO 80217 (303) 740-4061

The Bank also has a confidential hotline maintained by a third party and a special website through which complaints about business ethics or standards of conduct, financial reporting irregularities, internal controls or violations of law can be reported anonymously by directors, officers, employees, customer-owners and external parties. The confidential hotline can be reached by calling 1-888-525-5391 and the online reporting site is found at www.cobank.ethicspoint.com.

# Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers CoBank, ACB

Under the Farm Credit Act, CoBank does not have authority to lend directly to young, beginning, and small farmers. Rather, we recognize that Associations serve young, beginning, and small farmers, which we support through wholesale funding, partnering on Association programs as they deem appropriate, and completing reporting required by regulations. We believe the future of agriculture and rural America is well served when loan programs are developed by Associations to aid ambitious and capable young, beginning, and small farmers. Therefore, we have adopted a written policy that encourages the board of directors at each of our affiliated Associations to establish a program to provide sound and constructive credit and other services to young, beginning, and small farmers and ranchers and producers or harvesters of aquatic products (YBS farmers and ranchers). Each affiliated Association provides us annually with a report measuring achievement with respect to these programs for YBS farmers and ranchers. A summary of the combined reports for our affiliated Associations and certain participations CoBank purchased from Associations follows.

	Loan Numbers			Loan Volume			
	Percent of				Percent of		
	Number	Portfolio	Dollars		Portfolio		
Loans and Commitments Outstanding at December 31, 2020:							
Young	20,877	16.08 %	\$	7,478,209	7.73		
Beginning	30,791	23.72		10,833,663	11.20		
Small	46,404	35.74		7,945,148	8.21		
Gross New Loans and Commitments Made During 2020:							
Young	5,719	16.37 %	\$	2,352,163	8.18 9		
Beginning	8,552	24.47		3,592,823	12.50		
Small	12,122	34.69		2,381,101	8.28		

## **Small Farmers and Ranchers**

Number / Volume of Loans Outstanding by Loan Size at December 31, 2020

Number / Volume	\$0 -	- \$50,000	\$50,001 – \$100,000	\$100,001 – \$250,000	\$2	250,001 and greater
Total Number of Loans to Small Farmers and Ranchers		14,598	10,059	13,300		8,447
Total Loan Volume to Small Farmers and Ranchers (\$ in Thousands)	\$	381,668	\$ 761,873	\$ 2,174,654	\$	4,626,953

Key definitions are as follows:

*Young Farmer or Rancher* – A farmer, rancher or producer or harvester of aquatic products who is age 35 or younger as of the date the loan was originally made.

*Beginning Farmer or Rancher* – A farmer, rancher or producer or harvester of aquatic products who had 10 years or less of experience at farming, ranching or producing or harvesting aquatic products as of the date the loan was originally made.

*Small Farmer or Rancher* – A farmer, rancher or producer or harvester of aquatic products who normally generated less than \$250,000 in annual gross sales of agricultural or aquatic products at the date the loan was originally made.

The Young, Beginning, and Small farmer and rancher categories are not mutually exclusive, therefore, certain farmers and ranchers may be classified in more than one category in the tables above.

Beyond providing appropriate wholesale lending for Association YBS farmers and ranchers programs and submitting reports to our regulator, CoBank has partnered with Associations on successful financing programs designed to attract quality farm operations, meeting the intended purpose of providing vital capital to start-up farming operations and promoting the flow of capital into rural areas. CoBank also has its own programs to serve the credit needs of agribusiness cooperatives and rural infrastructure providers of all sizes as well as rural communities using our mission-related investments authorities. CoBank has also reached out to non-traditional forms of agricultural production, such as local foods, community supported agriculture, and urban agriculture, to better understand their financing needs and provide support within the legal constraints of CoBank lending authorities.

# Unincorporated Business Entities CoBank, ACB

CoBank holds investments in various unincorporated business entities (UBEs), as defined by FCA regulation. We hold these investments for two primary purposes: to acquire and manage unusual or complex collateral associated with loan workouts and to make mission-related investments.

Our UBEs are displayed in the table below.

		Level of	
Name	Entity Type	Ownership	Scope of Activities
CoBank - Farm Credit Holdings, LLC	Limited Liability	100 %	Holds acquired property
	Company		
Farm Credit FCB Holdings, LLC	Limited Liability	100	Holds acquired property
	Company		
FarmStart, LLP	Limited Liability	45	Provides needed funding to operations with farm resources, farm-related expertise and
	Partnership		good business plans, but limited access to capital in the Northeast.
Midwest Growth Partners, LLLP	Limited Liability	48	Invests in entities with operations located in rural areas in the upper Midwest that are
	Limited Partnership		seeking to either launch a new business, grow an existing business or recapitalize
			an existing business.

# CoBank 2020 Annual Report

# FCL Titling Trust Assets CoBank, ACB

CoBank's wholly-owned leasing subsidiary, Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation (FCL), has purchased beneficial interests in leases and assets through a motor vehicle titling trust. Participation in these trusts is obtained through the purchase of beneficial interests in a designated series of titling trusts backed by eligible motor vehicle leases, as approved by the FCA and subject to certain conditions.

The following table presents the asset amount by trust/subtrust as of December 31, 2020.

FCL Titling Trust Assets (\$ in Thousands)	
Titling Trust	Amount
Altec Titling Trust	\$ 17,414

### CERTIFICATION

I, Thomas E. Halverson, President and Chief Executive Officer of CoBank, ACB (CoBank or the Bank), a federally chartered instrumentality under the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, certify that:

- (1) I have reviewed this annual report of CoBank;
- (2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- (3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows of CoBank as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- (4) CoBank's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting for CoBank and have:
  - a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Bank, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b. designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c. evaluated the effectiveness of the Bank's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d. disclosed in this report any change in the Bank's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Bank's most recent fiscal quarter (the Bank's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of this annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Bank's internal control over financial reporting; and
- (5) CoBank's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Bank's auditors and the audit committee of the Bank's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a. all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Bank's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial information; and
  - b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Bank's internal control over financial reporting.

Ton Helverson

Thomas E. Halverson President and Chief Executive Officer

Dated: March 2, 2021

### CERTIFICATION

I, David P. Burlage, Chief Financial Officer of CoBank, ACB (CoBank or the Bank), a federally chartered instrumentality under the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, certify that:

- (1) I have reviewed this annual report of CoBank;
- (2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- (3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows of CoBank as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- (4) CoBank's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting for CoBank and have:
  - a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Bank, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b. designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c. evaluated the effectiveness of the Bank's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d. disclosed in this report any change in the Bank's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Bank's most recent fiscal quarter (the Bank's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of this annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Bank's internal control over financial reporting; and
- (5) CoBank's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Bank's auditors and the audit committee of the Bank's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a. all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Bank's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial information; and
  - b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Bank's internal control over financial reporting.

David P. Burlage Chief Financial Officer

Dated: March 2, 2021

#### **Customer Privacy**

Your financial privacy and the security of your other non-public information are important to us. We, therefore, hold your financial and other non-public information in strictest confidence. Federal regulations allow disclosure of such information by us only in certain situations. Examples of these situations include law enforcement or legal proceedings or when such information is requested by a Farm Credit System institution with which you do business. In addition, as required by Federal laws targeting terrorism funding and money laundering activities, we collect information and take actions necessary to verify your identity.

CoBank's 2021 Quarterly and Annual Reports to Shareholders are available free of charge on request by calling or visiting one of our banking center locations and through our website at www.cobank.com on approximately May 10, 2021, August 9, 2021, November 9, 2021, and March 1, 2022 (Annual Report).

# **OFFICE LOCATIONS**

# **COBANK NATIONAL OFFICE**

6340 South Fiddlers Green Circle Greenwood Village, CO 80111 303-740-4000 800-542-8072

# FARM CREDIT LEASING SERVICES CORPORATION

1665 Utica Avenue South, Suite 400 Minneapolis, MN 55416 952-417-7800 800-444-2929

# WASHINGTON, D.C., OFFICE

50 F Street, N.W., Suite 900 Washington, DC 20001 202-650-5860

## **U.S. REGIONAL OFFICES**

#### AMES BANKING CENTER

2515 University Boulevard Suite 104 Ames, IA 50010 515-292-8828

#### **ATLANTA BANKING CENTER\***

2300 Windy Ridge Parkway Suite 370S Atlanta, CA 30339 770-618-3200 800-255-7429 FCL: 770-618-3226

#### **AUSTIN BANKING CENTER**

4801 Plaza on the Lake Drive Austin, TX 78746 855-738-6606

#### **ENFIELD BANKING CENTER\***

240B South Road Enfield, CT 06082-4451 860-814-4043 800-876-3227 FCL: 860-814-4049

#### FARGO BANKING CENTER

4143 26th Avenue South Suite 101 Fargo, ND 58104 701-277-5007 866-280-2892

# LOUISVILLE BANKING CENTER\*

2000 High Wickham Place Suite 101 Louisville, KY 40245 502-423-5650 800-262-6599 FCL: 800-942-3309

#### LUBBOCK BANKING CENTER\*

5715 West 50th Lubbock, TX 79414 806-788-3700 FCL: 806-788-3705

#### MINNEAPOLIS BANKING CENTER\*

1665 Utica Avenue South Suite 400 Minneapolis, MN 55416 952-417-7900 800-282-4150 FCL: 800-444-2929

#### **OMAHA BANKING CENTER\***

13810 FNB Parkway Suite 301 Omaha, NE 68154 402-492-2000 800-346-5717

#### **SACRAMENTO BANKING CENTER\***

3755 Atherton Road Rocklin, CA 95765 916-380-3524 800-457-0942 FCL: 800-289-7080

#### **SPOKANE BANKING CENTER**

2001 South Flint Road Suite 102 Spokane, WA 99224 509-363-8700 800-378-5577

#### **STERLING BANKING CENTER**

229 South 3rd Street Sterling, CO 80751 970-521-2774

#### **ST. LOUIS BANKING CENTER\***

635 Maryville Centre Drive Suite 130 St. Louis, MO 63141 314-835-4200 800-806-4144 FCL: 800-853-5480

#### WICHITA BANKING CENTER\*

245 North Waco Suite 130 Wichita, KS 67202 316-290-2000 800-322-3654 FCL: 800-322-6558

 Farm Credit Leasing office within this CoBank location

## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE

350 Orchard Road #15-07 Shaw House Singapore 238868 65-6534-526





6340 South Fiddlers Green Circle Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111 800.542.8072