AgriBank District Retirement Plan
(formerly known as The Seventh Farm Credit District Retirement Plan)

Summary of Plan Provisions for Final Average Pay Participants

2018
# SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

## AgriBank District Retirement Plan

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Preface**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Name of Plan</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Plan Sponsor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Governmental Plan Status</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Single Employer Plan</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Type of Plan</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 History of Plan</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Plan Administrator</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8 Recordkeeper – John Hancock</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9 Trustee</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10 Funding of Benefits</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.11 Employee Contributions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.12 No PBGC Coverage</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part I – General Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Closure of Plan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Eligibility to Receive Benefits under Final Average Pay Formula</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Eligibility to Accrue Benefits under the Plan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Rehired Participants</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Credited Service</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Service with Other Farm Credit System Employers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 Military Service (USERRA)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8 Service for Rehired Participants</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9 Questions About Service and Benefits</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10 Vesting</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part II – Eligibility, Credited Service, and Vesting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Normal Retirement Date</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Normal Retirement Benefit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Service Following Normal Retirement Date</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Early Retirement Benefit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6 Mandatory Commencement of Retirement Benefit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7 No In-Service Distributions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8 Suspension of Benefit Payments</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part III – Commencement of Your Pension Benefit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Normal Retirement Date</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Normal Retirement Benefit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Service Following Normal Retirement Date</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Early Retirement Benefit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6 Mandatory Commencement of Retirement Benefit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7 No In-Service Distributions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8 Suspension of Benefit Payments</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Part IV – Calculating Your Pension Benefit

1. Normal Retirement Benefit – Final Average Pay Formula
2. Final Average Pay
3. Covered Compensation
4. Early Retirement Benefit – Final Average Pay Formula
5. Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit – Final Average Pay Formula
6. Disability Retirement Benefit
7. Benefit Limitations for Highly Paid Employees
8. Special Rule for Certain Participants in the Former Fourth District

### Part V – Distribution of Your Pension Benefit

1. Form of Payment of Your Pension Benefit
2. Important Tax Considerations

### Part VI – Pre-Retirement Death Benefit

6.1 Death Benefit Eligibility for Surviving Spouse
6.2 Amount and Form of Death Benefit Payment
6.3 Time of Payment of Death Benefit
6.4 Lump Sum Distribution of Small Amount Death Benefits
6.5 Death Benefit under Final Average Pay Formula and Cash Balance Formula

### Part VII – Procedures for Applying for a Pension Benefit

7.1 Application for Benefit
7.2 Valid Address

### Part VIII – Assignment of Pension Benefit / Qualified Domestic Relations Orders

8.1 Limited Assignment of Benefits
8.2 Qualified Domestic Relations Order Procedure

### Part IX – Claims Procedures

9.1 Claims Procedures

### Part X – Plan Amendments / Termination

10.1 Amendment of Plan
10.2 Termination of Plan
10.3 Merger of Plan
APPENDICES

Appendix A – AgriBank District Retirement Plan Participating Employers

Appendix B – Procedure Governing Plan Administrator’s Review of Claims for Eligibility and/or Benefits under the AgriBank District Retirement Plan
SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS – FINAL AVERAGE PAY FORMULA

AGRIBANK DISTRICT RETIREMENT PLAN

This Summary of Plan Provisions (“SPP”) is intended to highlight and explain some of the more important provisions of the Plan for those Participants whose pension benefit is determined under the Plan’s Final Average Pay Formula. This SPP, however, is not intended to be a complete summary of every provision of the Plan. If there is a conflict or any inconsistency between this SPP and the terms and provisions of the Plan, the terms and provisions of the Plan will control. If you have any questions after reading this SPP, or if you would like to review a copy of the Plan document itself, please contact Farm Credit Foundations.

PREFACE

The AgriBank District Retirement Plan (the “Plan”) provides benefits to Participants under both its Final Average Pay Formula provisions and its Cash Balance Formula provisions. This SPP is designed for those Participants whose pension benefit is determined under the Final Average Pay Formula provisions of the Plan, i.e., Full-Time or Part-Time Employees who were hired prior to October 1, 2001, and who did not elect to have their pension benefit determined under the Cash Balance Formula during the Choice Period in 2002.

Part I – General Information

1.1 Name of Plan. The formal name of the Plan is the AgriBank District Retirement Plan. Prior to January 1, 2008, the Plan was known as The Seventh Farm Credit District Retirement Plan.

1.2 Plan Sponsor. The Plan is sponsored by AgriBank, FCB (“AgriBank”) and by the associations and service corporations that are affiliated with AgriBank and that have adopted the Plan. A list of the participating Employers is attached to this SPP as Appendix A.

1.3 Governmental Plan Status. Because all of the Employers in the Plan are members of the federal Farm Credit System and are federally chartered “instrumentalities of the United States,” the Plan is considered to be a “governmental plan.” As a governmental plan, the Plan is not subject to the provisions of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”) or the regulations issued by the Department of Labor. Although the Plan is subject to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”), the application of certain Code provisions to governmental plans may differ from their application to plans maintained by nongovernmental employers.

1.4 Single Employer Plan. In light of the close relationship that exists between the various Employers participating in the Plan, and their status as “instrumentalities of the United States,” the Plan is considered to be a single employer plan. In other words, all of the Employers participating in the Plan are treated as if they were a single employer – the “Employer” – for purposes of administering the Plan.
Type of Plan. The Plan is a defined benefit pension plan. Under this type of plan, a Participant who retires at normal or early retirement age will receive a fixed and determinable pension. The benefits a Participant may receive under the Plan are summarized in Part IV of this SPP.

1.6 History of Plan. The Plan was originally established as The Seventh Farm Credit District Retirement Plan by Employers in the Seventh Farm Credit District on May 1, 1974. On May 1, 1992, at the same time that the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis and the Farm Credit Bank of St. Paul were consolidated to form AgriBank, the member organizations of the Sixth Farm Credit District became affiliated with the Seventh Farm Credit District, and the defined benefit plan maintained by the Sixth Farm Credit District was merged into the Plan. On January 1, 1994, Farm Credit Bank of Louisville and Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, ACA became participating Employers under the Plan. Also, beginning January 1, 1994, certain participants in the defined benefit plan maintained by the former Fourth Farm Credit District began receiving their retirement benefits under the Plan. Effective January 1, 2008, the name of the Plan was formally changed to the AgriBank District Retirement Plan.

1.7 Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator is the Farm Credit Foundations Trust Committee (the "Trust Committee"). In carrying out its responsibilities as Plan Administrator, the Trust Committee is assisted by both Farm Credit Foundations and the Plan’s recordkeeper.

The Plan Administrator may be reached for purposes of legal process at the following address:

Farm Credit Foundations Trust Committee
c/o Farm Credit Foundations
Attn: Vice-President, Employee Benefits
30 East 7th Street, Suite 3000
St. Paul, MN 55101

1.8 Recordkeeper – John Hancock. The Plan’s recordkeeper is John Hancock Retirement Plan Services (“John Hancock”), which primarily assists with matters related to benefit calculations, distribution requests, and beneficiary designations. John Hancock can provide you with information about the Plan’s features as well as your pension benefit under the Plan. This information can be accessed in two separate ways: through the Internet at www.mylife.jhrps.com or by calling John Hancock’s toll-free telephone number at 1-800-294-3575.

Most of the telephone services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through an automated voice response system. Participant Services Representatives are also available from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Eastern time on every business day (i.e., days on which the New York Stock Exchange is open) for help with other services. The Internet features are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

1.9 Trustee. The Trust Committee serves as the Trustee of the Plan. After receiving annual funding contributions from the employers participating in the Plan, the Trustee places the contributions and any earnings thereon are then used to provide benefits to Participants and their beneficiaries and to pay Plan expenses. The Trustee is legally responsible for the administration, management, and investment of the Trust account.
1.10 **Funding of Benefits.** The Employer pays the full cost of pension benefits under the Final Average Pay Formula provisions of the Plan by making contributions to a special Trust established to fund benefits under the Plan. The Employer has an obligation to make contributions to the Trust fund in an amount that the Plan’s actuary determines is necessary to cover the benefits provided by the Plan.

1.11 **Employee Contributions.** The Plan does not require or permit Employees to contribute to the Plan.

1.12 **No PBGC Coverage.** A governmental agency known as the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (the “PBGC”) insures the benefits payable under defined benefit plans. The PBGC does not, however, provide coverage for governmental plans. Because the Plan is considered to be a governmental plan, it is not eligible for coverage by the PBGC.

### Part II – Eligibility, Credited Service, and Vesting

2.1 **Closure of Plan.** The Plan has been closed to new Participants since January 1, 2007. Accordingly, you are eligible to participate in the Plan only if you became a Participant prior to that date.

2.2 **Eligibility to Receive Benefits under Final Average Pay Formula.** If you became a Participant in the Plan before it was closed and you were hired as a full-time or part-time Employee prior to October 1, 2001, and you have continued to serve in a full-time or part-time capacity, you are eligible to receive your pension benefit under the Final Average Pay Formula of the Plan unless, during the Choice Period in 2002, you elected to have your pension benefit determined under the Plan’s Cash Balance Formula.

2.3 **Eligibility to Accrue Benefits under the Plan.** Regardless of when you were hired, you are not eligible to accrue benefits (or, as may be applicable, to accrue additional benefits) under the Plan if:

- You are not a Full-Time Employee (i.e., regularly scheduled to work at least 32 hours/week) or a Part-Time Employee (i.e., regularly scheduled to work at least 20 hours/week);
- You are earning benefits under the U.S. Civil Service Retirement System;
- You are covered by a collective bargaining agreement;
- You are a non-resident alien who receives no U.S. source income from the Employer;
- You are classified by the Employer as a temporary employee;
- You are employed by an entity that is acquired by the Employer pursuant to a foreclosure on an obligation; and/or
- You are not classified by the Employer as being an eligible Employee even if it is later determined that the classification was incorrect.
2.4 **Rehired Participants.** If you terminate your employment after becoming a Participant in the Plan and you are later rehired, you will *not* be eligible to accrue additional benefits under the Plan after becoming rehired *unless*:

- You were rehired less than one year after your employment was terminated; or
- You became reemployed pursuant to the provisions of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (“USERRA”) following the completion of your service in the Uniformed Services; or
- You became reemployed within sixty (60) days after recovering from a Disability, and you had not yet commenced your benefits when you became reemployed.

**Note:** If you were rehired in the past, your eligibility to accrue additional benefits under the Plan will be determined under the provisions of the Plan as those provisions were in effect at the time you became reemployed.

2.5 **Credited Service.** Generally, you will receive Credited Service under the Plan for all periods of time during which you have worked as a Full-Time Employee or a Part-Time Employee for the Employer. Your Credited Service will also be increased for any unused sick leave or vacation hours that you may have accumulated at the time your employment was terminated.

(A) **Disabled Participants.** If you experience a Disability (i.e., you become eligible to receive benefits under your Employer’s long-term disability plan) while you are employed, you will generally continue to be credited with Credited Service under the Plan while you are receiving benefits under the long-term disability plan. However, the amount of Credited Service you may receive while on Disability is subject to certain limits. In particular, you may only receive Credited Service from the date of your Disability until the *earlier of*:

- The date that your period of Disability equals the Credited Service that you had earned before you became disabled;
- The date of your recovery from the Disability;
- The date that your retirement benefits commence; or
- Your Normal Retirement Date.

(B) **Rehired Participants.** If you are eligible to accrue additional benefits under the Plan after becoming reemployed, a number of special rules may apply in determining your Credited Service. These rules are set forth in detail in the Plan document. You may obtain additional information on your particular situation by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or accessing John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

2.6 **Service with Other Farm Credit System Employers.** As a general rule, your service with other employers in the Farm Credit System will be treated as Credited Service under the Plan if you became employed by an Employer participating in the Plan (see Section
1.4) within five (5) years after terminating your employment with the other Farm Credit System employer. However, your pension benefit from the Plan will be offset by any pension benefit or pre-retirement death benefit that you are, or would be, entitled to receive under the retirement plan of any other employer in the Farm Credit System, if the benefits from the other Farm Credit System employer’s plan are attributable to service that has been treated as Credited Service under the Plan.

Additionally, various special rules may apply if you were a participant in a defined benefit plan that was later merged into the Plan. This includes individuals who were participants under Supplement III to the Farm Credit System Consolidated Pension Plan in the former Sixth Farm Credit District and individuals who were participants in the Fourth District 1988 Amended Retirement Plan in the former Fourth Farm Credit District.

2.7 **Military Service (USERRA).** If you are absent from work due to service in the Uniformed Services and subsequently become reemployed pursuant to the provisions of USERRA, you will receive Credited Service for the entire period of your military service as long as you return to employment with the Employer within the period of time required by federal law.

2.8 **Service for Rehired Participants.** If you terminated employment after you became a Participant in the Plan and were later rehired, and you were eligible to accrue additional benefits under the Plan after you were rehired, a number of special rules may apply in determining your Credited Service. These rules are set forth in detail in the Plan document. You may obtain additional information on your particular situation by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or accessing John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

2.9 **Questions About Service and Benefits.** Due to the Plan’s history and the relationship between the Employers participating in the Plan (see Section 1.4) and other employers in the Farm Credit System, the rules as to when and how service is properly counted as Credited Service under the Plan and how benefits will be calculated are complicated. These rules are set forth in detail in the Plan document. You may also obtain additional information on your particular situation by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or accessing John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

2.10 **Vesting.** You will be fully vested – i.e., you will be entitled to receive a benefit under the Plan – after you have completed five (5) full years of Credited Service. If you terminate employment before you are fully vested, you will have no right to any benefits under the Plan.

**Part III – Commencement of Your Pension Benefit**

3.1 **Normal Retirement Date.** The Normal Retirement Date under the Plan is the date on which you turn 65 if you have already completed at least five (5) years of participation in the Plan. Otherwise, your Normal Retirement Date will be the date on which you complete five (5) years of service and have attained age 65.
3.2 **Normal Retirement Benefit.** As a general rule, you may begin to receive the full amount of your accrued pension benefit if you retire from employment (a) on or after your Normal Retirement Date, or (b) after attaining age 62 with at least thirty (30) years of Credited Service.

Benefits will normally commence on the first day of the month following the month in which you retire. The amount of your Normal Retirement Benefit is determined by the formula discussed in Section 4.1 below.

3.3 **Service Following Normal Retirement Date.** If you choose to work beyond your Normal Retirement Date, you will continue to receive Credited Service and will continue to accrue an additional pension benefit. When you retire, your pension benefit will commence on the first day of the month following your retirement date.

3.4 **Early Retirement Benefit.** You may also begin receiving a reduced pension benefit as early as age 55 if you terminate your employment (through retirement or some other termination of employment other than death) and have at least five (5) years of Credited Service. The amount of the reduction is discussed in Section 4.4 below.

3.5 **Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit.** If your employment is terminated prior to your Normal Retirement Date and you have at least five (5) years of Credited Service, you may choose to begin receiving your accrued pension benefit at age 55 or at any other time before you attain your 65th birthday. You will, however, be required to begin receiving your pension benefit once you have attained age 65.

3.6 **Mandatory Commencement of Retirement Benefit.** If you have retired and have not commenced your pension benefit by the time you reach age 70½, you will generally be required to do so under the “required minimum distribution” provisions in the Internal Revenue Code.

3.7 **No In-Service Distributions.** The Plan is designed to provide you with a retirement benefit. Therefore, the Plan does not authorize the distribution of your pension benefit until such time as you have terminated employment with the Employer and are eligible for a Normal Retirement Benefit, an Early Retirement Benefit, or a Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit.

3.8 **Suspension of Benefit Payments.** If you become reemployed after you have begun to receive your accrued pension benefit, your benefit payments will be suspended during your period of reemployment if either (a) your new employment would result in you completing more than 1,000 hours of service in a Plan Year, or (b) the Plan Administrator determines, based on the Plan Administrator’s review of the facts and circumstances, that you were not entitled to commence benefits under the terms of the Plan.

### Part IV – Calculating Your Pension Benefit

4.1 **Normal Retirement Benefit – Final Average Pay Formula.** Your Normal Retirement Benefit (i.e., the full amount of your accrued pension benefit) under the Final Average Pay Formula is calculated using the following formula:
Years of Credited Service as of retirement date (determined on a daily basis)

-- multiplied by the sum of --

(a) 1.5% of your Final Average Pay; and

(b) 0.25% of the amount by which your Final Average Pay exceeds your Covered Compensation

**Note 1:** The definition for the term Credited Service is summarized in Section 2.5 above. The definitions for the terms Final Average Pay and Covered Compensation are summarized in Sections 4.2 and 4.3 below.

**Note 2:** In calculating your benefit, please remember that, if any part of your Credited Service under the Plan is attributable to your employment by another Farm Credit System Employer, the amount of your benefit under the Plan will be subject to an offset for the amount of any benefit that you have received or may be entitled to receive under the retirement plan or plans of that other Farm Credit System employer. The Plan’s offset provision is summarized in more detail in Section 2.6 above.

### 4.2 Final Average Pay

Your Final Average Pay is the average of your eligible earnings during the sixty (60) consecutive month period of your service with the Employer in which you had the highest earnings. (Because the Final Average Pay Formula in the Plan is designed to yield a monthly benefit, your Final Average Pay is calculated by dividing by 60 the sum of your eligible earnings during the 60 consecutive months of your service in which you had the highest earnings.)

Subject to the exceptions listed below, your eligible earnings include all wages that are reportable as income for federal income tax purposes (e.g., base salary, incentive payments, bonuses, commissions, overtime, and shift differential). Eligible earnings also include any amounts you have contributed on a pre-tax basis to a cafeteria plan and/or a 401(k) plan.

Eligible earnings do **not** include:

- Non-cash awards;
- Expense reimbursements;
- Severance pay;
- Hiring bonuses;
- Retention pay (if paid after you terminate employment with the Employer);
- Employer contributions to any qualified defined benefit pension plan (e.g., the AgriBank District Retirement Plan);
• Contributions (including Employee elective deferrals) to any nonqualified deferred compensation plan (e.g., the Farm Credit Foundations Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan and the AgriBank District Pension Restoration Plan);

• Distributions from any nonqualified deferred compensation plan;

• Amounts that are payable to you from any nonqualified deferred compensation plan and which are required to be included in your taxable income as a result of a violation of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code, even if those amounts have not actually been distributed to you;

• Contributions (other than Employee elective deferrals) made by an Employer to The Seventh Farm Credit District Retirement Savings Plan, the Farm Credit Foundations Defined Contribution / 401(k) Plan, or any successor plan;

• Payments for unused vacation time;

• The value of fringe benefits (e.g., health and welfare benefits, group life insurance benefits, etc.);

• Payments made pursuant to an employer-sponsored employee wellness program;

• Customer recruitment and/or Employee referral bonuses; and/or

• Any amount received as flex dollars (after December 31, 2001).

The total amount of eligible earnings that may be taken into account in calculating your Final Average Pay is also limited by the Internal Revenue Code. See Section 4.7 for more information.

4.3 Covered Compensation. “Covered Compensation” is the average of the Social Security Wage Base for the thirty-five (35) years prior to the age at which you are eligible to receive unreduced Social Security benefits. Depending on when you were born, your eligibility for unreduced Social Security benefits may be as early as age 65 or as late as age 67.

The purpose of the Covered Compensation component of the Final Average Pay Formula may be explained as follows: Social Security is an important source of your retirement income. While you are working, you contribute to Social Security through payroll taxes (i.e., a FICA tax), and your Employer makes an equal Social Security contribution on your behalf. The contributions that you and your Employer make, however, are based only on the portion of your earnings that do not exceed the Social Security Wage Base. This figure is adjusted every year by the Internal Revenue Service; you may obtain current information by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or by accessing John Hancock's website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

If your 60-month Final Average Pay is greater than the average wages on which you have paid Social Security (FICA) tax, then you will receive the “excess benefit” portion of the Final Average Pay Formula (i.e., Covered Compensation). This excess benefit helps replace some of the benefit that you will not receive from Social Security due to wages on which you did not pay Social Security (FICA) tax.
Normal Retirement Benefit – Hypothetical Calculation

In order to illustrate how your Normal Retirement Benefit is calculated using the formula described in Section 4.1, consider the following example:

Assume that you retire on December 1, 2010, at age 65 with 32 Years of Credited Service. Your Final Average Pay was $6,000 per month. Your Normal Retirement Benefit would be calculated as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
1.50\% \text{ of } \$6,000 \text{ (Final Average Pay)} & \quad 90.00 \\
\text{-- plus --} & \\
0.25\% \text{ of } \$843 \text{ ($6,000 Final Average Pay - $5,157 Covered Compensation)} & \quad 2.11 \\
\text{-- multiplied by --} & \\
\text{Your 32 Years of Credited Service} & \quad 32 \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{** TOTAL MONTHLY NORMAL RETIREMENT BENEFIT **} & \quad \$2,947.52
\end{align*}
\]

4.4 **Early Retirement Benefit – Final Average Pay Formula.** As noted in Section 3.4 above, you may begin receiving a reduced pension benefit as early as age 55 if you terminate your employment (through some form of termination of employment other than death) and have at least five (5) years of Credited Service. Your early retirement benefit will be calculated using the same formula that is used to calculate a Normal Retirement Benefit (as summarized in Section 4.1), but it will be reduced to reflect that you will be receiving payments over a longer period of time. Specifically, the amount of your early retirement benefit will be reduced by 0.25% for each month that benefits are commenced before you reach your Normal Retirement Date.

The reduction that will be made for early commencement is illustrated in the examples below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months Prior to Normal Retirement Date</th>
<th>Reduction Calculation</th>
<th>Percentage Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>0.25% times 12 months</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>0.25% times 24 months</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 months</td>
<td>0.25% times 60 months</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120 months</td>
<td>0.25% times 120 months</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The exact amount of the reduction that will be made if you retire early will depend on how many months before your Normal Retirement Date your benefits are commenced. You may obtain information on the reduction that will apply if you retire early by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or accessing John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

There is one important exception to the normal reduction for early retirement benefits. In particular, as noted in Section 3.2, you can begin receiving the full amount of your accrued pension benefit if, at the time you retire from employment, you are age 62 with at least thirty (30) years of Credited Service.
In order to illustrate how your Early Retirement Benefit is calculated using the formula described in Section 4.4, consider the following example:

Assume that you retire on December 1, 2010, at age 55 with 25 Years of Credited Service. Your Final Average Pay was $6,000 per month. Your Early Retirement Benefit would be calculated as follows:

\[
1.50\% \text{ of } $6,000 \text{ (Final Average Pay)} \quad 90.00 \\
\text{ -- plus -- } \\
0.25\% \text{ of } $0 \text{ (}$6,000 \text{ Final Average Pay - } $7,135 \text{ Covered Compensation)} \quad 0 \\
\text{ -- multiplied by -- } \\
\text{Your 25 Years of Credited Service} \quad 25 \\
\text{ -- minus -- } \\
3\% \times 10 \text{ years (or } 0.25\% \times 120 \text{ months)} \quad 30\% \\
\text{** TOTAL MONTHLY EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFIT **} \quad $1,575.00
\]

Note: Because the Participant's Final Average Pay in this example is less than the Social Security Wage Base for someone born in 1955, the Participant's benefit will be calculated solely on Final Average Pay times 1.5\% times Years of Credited Service.

4.5 **Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit – Final Average Pay Formula.** Your Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit is calculated using the same formula that is used to calculate an Early Retirement Benefit (as summarized in Section 4.4).

4.6 **Disability Retirement Benefit.** As noted in Section 4.2, your Final Average Pay is based on your highest paid sixty (60) months of consecutive service with the Employer. Your pay during any period of your Disability is assumed, for purposes of calculating benefits under the Plan, to be identical to your base salary as of the date of your Disability. For example, if you are disabled for two years before you retire, your Final Average Pay will be based on (a) 24 months of the base salary you were earning at the time of your Disability, and (b) the 36 months of your actual earnings before your Disability, assuming that this 60-month period represents the highest paid 60 consecutive months of your employment with the Employer.

4.7 **Benefit Limitations for Highly Paid Employees.** The Internal Revenue Code limits the amount of annual compensation that may be taken into account in calculating your benefits under the Plan. This limit is often referred to as the “401(a)(17) limit.” Participants who first became a Participant in the Plan (or one of the plans which was subsequently merged with the Plan) on or prior to December 31, 1995, are subject to a higher limit than other Participants. The Internal Revenue Service periodically adjusts the 401(a)(17) limit to reflect changes in the cost of living.
The Internal Revenue Code also limits the amount of the benefit that may be paid each year from a defined benefit plan. This limit is often referred to as the “415 limit.” The Internal Revenue Service periodically adjusts the 415 limit to reflect changes in the cost of living.

You may obtain information on the latest year’s limits by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or by accessing John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com. If your pension benefit is affected by either the 401(a)(17) limit or the 415 limit, the Plan will notify you individually of the applicable limitation.

4.8 Special Rule for Certain Participants in the Former Fourth District. Employees of the former Fourth Farm Credit District who were actively employed on January 1, 1994, or later will have part of their pension benefit calculated according to the formula and provisions of the Farm Credit Institutions in the Fourth District 1988 Amended Retirement Plan (the “Fourth District Plan”), and part of their pension benefit calculated under the Plan. Any pension benefit that such individuals accrued through December 31, 1993, will be calculated under the Fourth District Plan. Any pension benefit that such individuals accrued after December 31, 1993, will be determined under the terms of the Plan.

Part V – Distribution of Your Pension Benefit

5.1 Form of Payment of Your Pension Benefit. You can choose how your pension benefit will be paid from a variety of options.

(A) Default Payment Methods. If you do not choose a payment option, the Plan will automatically pay benefits to you based on your marital status, as explained below:

(1) Unmarried Participant. If you are not married at the time you commence your pension benefit, you will receive a Single Life Annuity. That is, you will receive monthly payments during your lifetime. When you die, the payments will stop.

(2) Married Participant. If you are married at the time you commence your pension benefit, you will receive a Joint and 50% Survivor Life Annuity. That is, you will receive monthly payments during your lifetime and, if you die before your Spouse, he/she will then receive 50% of the amount of your benefit for the remainder of his/her life. If your Spouse dies before you, all payments will stop upon your death.

(B) Waiver of Joint and 50% Survivor Life Annuity for Married Participant. If you are married at the time you commence your pension benefit and wish to receive your benefit in any form other than a 50% Joint and Survivor Life Annuity, you may elect one of the alternative forms of payment specified below. However, your election will generally be valid only if your Spouse consents in writing to the alternative form of payment before your benefit payments are scheduled to commence.
Optional Payment Methods. You may choose from any of the following optional payment methods by completing a distribution election form at the time of your retirement:

1. **Single Life Annuity.** In a Single Life Annuity, you will receive equal monthly payments for the remainder of your lifetime. When you die, the payments will stop.

2. **Joint and Survivor Annuity Option.** If you wish to provide for a survivor, you may choose a 50% or 100% annuity option for any beneficiary you name at the time your annuity begins. Under these annuity options, you will receive a reduced monthly benefit for the remainder of your lifetime and your beneficiary, if he/she survives you, will then receive either 50% or 100% of the amount of your monthly benefit for the remainder of his/her life.

   If you select this option, you will be required to designate your beneficiary when you commence your benefits. Once benefits have commenced, you will not be able to designate a new or different beneficiary for the “survivor” portion of the annuity that will become payable after your death. If the person you have named as your beneficiary dies before you, but after your benefits have commenced, your annuity amount will remain at the reduced amount you elected. All payments will then cease upon your death. *Once benefits have commenced, you cannot reassign the survivor’s share of the Joint and Survivor benefit to another joint annuitant.*

3. **Certain and Life Option.** Under a Certain and Life Option, you will receive a monthly pension benefit for the remainder of your lifetime, and those payments will be guaranteed for either five (5) years or ten (10) years, depending on which amount of time you select and when you die. The guarantee period begins with your first benefit payment. For example, if you die after receiving 12 monthly payments, your beneficiary will receive the other 48 monthly payments if you elected the Five-Year Certain and Life Option. The monthly benefit in a Ten-Year Certain and Life Option will be less than the monthly benefit in a Five-Year Certain and Life Option to account for the fact that payments are guaranteed to be made over a longer period of time.

   If you select this option, you will be required to designate your beneficiary – that is, the individual or entity that will receive monthly payments for the remainder of the “term certain” period following your death – when you commence your benefits. However, you will be able to change your beneficiary designation at any time after your pension benefit payments have commenced.

4. **Joint and Survivor Annuity Option with Ten-Year Certain and Life.** If you wish to provide for a survivor, you may choose from the 50% or 100% Joint and Survivor Annuity Option with Ten-Year Certain and Life. Under these options, if you die within the first ten (10) years of your payments, your beneficiary will continue to receive your monthly
payments, for the remainder of the ten-year “term certain” period. At the end of the ten-year “term certain” period, your beneficiary will then receive a monthly amount (either 50% of 100% of your monthly benefit) for the remainder of his/her life.

If you select this option, you will be required to designate your beneficiary when you commence your benefit. You will be able to designate an alternate beneficiary for the remainder of the ten-year “term certain” period in the event your beneficiary dies after you have commenced your benefit.

Once benefits have commenced, however, you will not be able to designate a new or different beneficiary for the “survivor” portion of the annuity that will become payable after your death and upon the end of the ten-year “term certain” period. If the person you have named as your beneficiary dies before you, but after your benefit has commenced, your annuity amount will remain at the reduced amount you elected. All payments will then cease upon the later of your death or the end of the “term certain” period. **Once benefits have commenced, you cannot reassign the survivor’s share of the Joint and Survivor benefit to another joint annuitant.**

(5) **One-Half Lump Sum and One-Half Monthly Annuity.** If you select this option, one-half of your accrued vested pension benefit will be paid in a lump sum, and the other half will be paid in a monthly annuity. The monthly annuity part of this option may be a Single Life Annuity (as described above in Subsection (1)) or any of the other Actuarially Equivalent annuity options listed in Subsections (2) through (4) of this Section 5.1(C).

(6) **Lump Sum Payment.** Effective January 1, 2008, you may elect to have your accrued vested pension benefit distributed in a lump sum, if you satisfy a number of conditions. Those conditions include the following:

(a) At the time of your retirement (or other termination of employment for reasons other than death), you are entitled to benefits under the Final Average Pay Formula; and

(b) At the time of your retirement (or other termination of employment for reasons other than death), you are eligible for a Normal Retirement Benefit, an Early Retirement Benefit, or a Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit (see Sections 3.2, 3.4, and 3.5); and

(c) At the time the lump sum payment is made, you are age 55 or older.

The lump sum amount is the present value of your Single Life Annuity, based on mortality and interest rate assumptions defined in the Plan.

(D) **Mandatory Lump Sum Distribution for Amounts of $1,000 or Less.** If, at the time of termination of employment, the total present value of your accrued vested pension benefit (not merely the amount of your monthly benefit payment itself) is $1,000 or less, your benefit must be paid in a lump sum distribution, to be made as soon as practicable following your termination of employment.
Optional Lump Sum Distribution for Amounts of More than $1,000, but Less than $10,000. If, at the time of your termination of employment, the total present value of your accrued vested pension benefit (not merely the amount of your monthly benefit payment itself) is more than $1,000 but less than $10,000, you may (but do not have to) elect to have your benefit paid in a lump sum distribution, to be made as soon as practicable following your termination of employment. If the present value is more than $5,000, and you were married at the time of your termination of employment, your lump sum election will only be valid if you obtain the required spousal consent. For more information on this option, you may call John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or access John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

IRA Rollover Distribution Option. If you elect, or are required, to receive a lump sum distribution of all or part of your pension benefit, you may (but do not have to) elect to have the lump sum portion of your benefit directly “rolled over” by the Plan into an eligible retirement plan (e.g., an Individual Retirement Account (“IRA”), the Farm Credit Foundations Defined Contribution/401(k) Plan, or another employer’s qualified plan that accepts rollovers). This direct rollover option may not be available if you already are, or will turn, age 70½ in the year of the lump sum distribution. For more information on this rollover option, you may call John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or access John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

Issues to Consider in Selecting a Form of Payment. There are a number of issues that you should bear in mind before you elect the form of payment of your pension benefit. Among the more important considerations are the following:

1. **Death Before Benefit Commences.** If you die before your pension benefit payments commence, your benefit election will be disregarded. Survivor benefits will be payable only to a surviving Spouse, as summarized in Section 6.1 below. If you are not married, no benefits will be paid following your death.

2. **Adjustment for Optional Form of Payment.** If you receive benefits in any form other than the Single Life Annuity, the amount of your monthly benefit will be reduced to reflect that the payments may be made over two lifetimes and/or for a guaranteed period of time.

3. **Change in Form of Payment.** You may elect (and change) the form of payment of your pension benefit at any time before your benefit begins. Once you start receiving payments, however, your form of payment cannot be changed.

4. **Death of Beneficiary Before Benefit Commences.** If you select any of the forms of payment options other than the Five-Year Certain and Life Option, the Ten-Year Certain and Life Option, or the One-Half Lump Sum and One-Half Monthly Annuity Option, and the joint annuitant that you designated dies before you commence your pension benefit, your form of payment election will be disregarded. Under such circumstances, unless you timely elect a different form of payment, you will receive a Single Life Annuity.
(5) **Designation of Beneficiary.** You may change the designation of your Period Certain Beneficiary (i.e., the individual or entity designated to receive a guaranteed number of payments following your death as part of the Certain and Life Options) at any time, before or after your pension benefit payments have commenced. However, for all other forms of payment, once the distribution of your pension benefit begins, you may not change your Designated Beneficiary.

(6) **Divorce.** If you elect a Joint and Survivor Annuity Option and you become divorced after you retire and have commenced your pension benefit, you will continue to receive the reduced Joint Survivor benefits for the remainder of your lifetime (subject to the provisions of any applicable Qualified Domestic Relations Order, see Part VIII) and, if your former Spouse survives you, he/she will receive the monthly survivor benefit.

(7) **Lump Sum Option.** If you select the lump sum option, the amount you receive will depend on whether you are eligible for an Early Retirement Benefit or a Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit.

(a) If you are eligible for an Early Retirement Benefit, you will receive the amount that is Actuarially Equivalent to the Early Retirement Benefit that would otherwise be payable to you on the date of the lump sum payment, including the value of any early retirement subsidies to which you may be entitled.

(b) If you are eligible for a Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit, you will receive the amount that is Actuarially Equivalent to the Deferred Vested Retirement Benefit that would otherwise be payable to you on the date of the lump sum payment, without taking into account any early retirement subsidies to which you might be entitled.

5.2 **Important Tax Considerations.** You should be aware that the pension benefit you receive from the Plan is considered to be taxable income under federal law. If you receive a lump sum form of distribution from the Plan and do not elect to have such payment paid directly to an IRA or to another eligible retirement plan, the payment will be subject to a mandatory 20% federal income tax withholding and may also be subject to any applicable state income withholding.

If you receive any other form of distribution, taxes will automatically be withheld on your benefit payments unless you specifically request otherwise in writing. The amount withheld will depend on your filing status and the number of exemptions you claim.

You can change your tax withholding at any time. To do so, you must request the appropriate forms by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or by accessing John Hancock’s website at [www.mylife.jhrps.com](http://www.mylife.jhrps.com). These forms must then be completed and returned to New York Life so that your revised withholding instructions may be put into effect.
If you choose not to have taxes withheld from your benefit, you must pay them when you file your tax return. You may be required to pay estimated taxes – and possibly tax penalties – if you decide not to have taxes withheld, or if the amount withheld is not enough to cover the actual taxes due.

Please also note that if your pension benefit is distributed to you in a lump sum and you have not attained age 59½ at the time of the distribution, federal tax laws may impose a 10% penalty on the amount of the payment you receive.

In light of the complexity and constantly changing nature of many federal and state tax laws, you may wish to consult with a qualified tax adviser before you begin receiving benefits under the Plan.

**Part VI – Pre-Retirement Death Benefit**

6.1 **Death Benefit Eligibility for Surviving Spouse.** If you die prior to the time you begin receiving your pension benefit under the Plan, your surviving Spouse may be eligible for a death benefit from the Plan. In order for your surviving Spouse to receive such a death benefit, each of the following conditions must be satisfied:

(A) You must have been entitled to a pension benefit under the Final Average Pay Formula of the Plan at the time of your death;

(B) You must have completed at least five (5) years of Credited Service at the time of your death;

(C) You must have been married to your surviving Spouse for at least one year at the time of your death; and

(D) You must have died prior to the date of your first benefit payment.

**Note:** If, at the time of your death, you were not married or had not been married to your surviving Spouse for at least one year, no death benefit will be paid under the Plan.

6.2 **Amount and Form of Death Benefit Payment.** The amount of death benefit payable to your surviving Spouse is determined based on your age, Credited Service, and Final Average Pay at the time of your death.

(A) If you are at least age 55 at the time of your death, the death benefit that your surviving Spouse will receive will be equivalent to the survivor portion of a Joint and 50% Survivor Life Annuity that would have been paid to your surviving Spouse if you had commenced receiving your pension benefit the day before your death. For example, if you die at age 58 while still actively employed, and your monthly pension benefit would have been $2,200 had you retired the day before your death, your surviving Spouse would receive a death benefit in the form of monthly payments in the amount of $1,100 for the remainder of his/her life.

(B) If you are not at least age 55 at the time of your death, the death benefit that your surviving Spouse will receive will be equivalent to the survivor portion of a Joint and
50% Survivor Life Annuity that would have been paid to your surviving Spouse if you had lived to age 55, retired, and commenced receiving your pension benefit on the day that you turned age 55.

6.3 Time of Payment of Death Benefit. Unless otherwise required by the provisions summarized in Section 6.4 below, the death benefit payable to your surviving Spouse will commence on the later of (a) the month that you died or (b) the month that you would have attained age 55 had you not died.

6.4 Lump Sum Distribution of Small Amount Death Benefits.

(A) Mandatory Lump Sum Distribution for Amounts of $1,000 or Less. If, at the time of your death, the total present value of the death benefit to which your surviving Spouse is entitled (not merely the amount of a monthly benefit payment) is $1,000 or less, the death benefit must be paid to your surviving Spouse in a lump sum distribution, to be made as soon as practicable following your death.

(B) Optional Lump Sum Distribution for Amounts of More than $1,000, but Less than $10,000. If, at the time of your death, the total present value of the death benefit to which your surviving Spouse is entitled (not merely the amount of a monthly benefit payment) is more than $1,000 but less than $10,000, your surviving Spouse may (but does not have to) elect to have the death benefit paid to him/her in a lump sum distribution, to be made as soon as practicable following your death.

(C) IRA Rollover Distribution Option. If your surviving Spouse elects, or is required, to receive a death benefit in a lump sum distribution, he/she may elect to have the distribution directly “rolled over” by the Plan into an eligible retirement plan (e.g., an IRA, the Farm Credit Foundations Defined Contribution / 401(k) Plan, or another employer’s qualified plan that accepts rollovers). This direct rollover option may not be available if your surviving spouse already is, or will turn, age 70½ in the year of the lump sum distribution. More information on this rollover option is available by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or by accessing John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

6.5 Death Benefit under Final Average Pay Formula and Cash Balance Formula. If, at the time of your death, you had an accrued vested benefit under both the Final Average Pay Formula and the Cash Balance Formula provisions of the Plan, your surviving Spouse will receive a death benefit under both the Final Average Pay Formula as well as the Cash Balance Formula. The death benefit attributable to your accrued vested benefit under the Final Average Pay Formula will be determined by the Plan provisions summarized in this Part VI. The death benefit attributable to your accrued vested benefit under the Cash Balance Formula is summarized in the SPP for the Cash Balance Formula provisions of the Plan.

Part VII – Procedures for Applying for a Pension Benefit

7.1 Application for Benefit. If you are entitled to a pension benefit under the Plan at the time you terminate your employment, you must complete an election form and submit it to John Hancock before your benefits can begin. If you are retiring, you generally should contact
John Hancock within ninety (90) days prior to your retirement date in order to request a retirement application. After receiving your completed application, and once your Final Average Pay formula benefit is definitively determined, a benefit election package will be sent to your address of record. This election package will offer you a choice of payment methods for your pension benefit, the option to have your benefit directly deposited into your bank or other financial institution, and the ability to have federal and/or state income taxes withheld from your benefit payments.

In the event that you did not commence your pension benefit immediately after terminating employment but later decide to do so, you may initiate the process of commencing your benefits by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or by accessing John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

7.2 **Valid Address.** It is important that you keep your address and other contact information completely up to date at all times with John Hancock. If you do not keep your current address on file, the Plan may have difficulty locating you and your benefit payments may be delayed.

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**Part VIII – Assignment of Pension Benefit / Qualified Domestic Relations Orders**

8.1 **Limited Assignment of Benefits.** Your pension benefit belongs to you and may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged, or garnished except pursuant to a Qualified Domestic Relations Order ("QDRO"), as summarized in Section 8.2 below.

8.2 **Qualified Domestic Relations Order Procedure.** If you and your Spouse become divorced or legally separated, a court may enter a “domestic relations order” requiring the payment of all or part of your pension benefit under the Plan to your Spouse, former Spouse, child(ren), or other dependent(s). If the “domestic relations order” meets certain requirements under the Internal Revenue Code and satisfies the Plan’s rules regarding the time and form of pension benefit payments, the order will be considered a QDRO. Only after the QDRO determination has been made will the Plan be required to give effect to the order.

The Plan Administrator has delegated to John Hancock the responsibility for determining whether a domestic relations order is a QDRO. If you are involved in a divorce or action for a legal separation and it appears that a “domestic relations order” might be entered, you or your attorney should contact John Hancock before the order is submitted to a judge for the judge’s signature. John Hancock can provide information about the Plan’s QDRO procedures and model language for your attorney to use. This will help avoid situations in which the order has to be revised after it has already been approved by a court in order to satisfy the requirements for QDROs that are set forth in the Code. John Hancock can also provide information about the fee that will be charged for reviewing a “domestic relations order,” including when the fee will be charged and the amount of the fee. You may reach a John Hancock representative by calling John Hancock at 1-800-294-3575 or by accessing John Hancock’s website at www.mylife.jhrps.com.

The Plan Administrator may deduct the cost of reviewing and approving the QDRO from your account.
Part IX – Claims Procedures

9.1 **Claims Procedures.** The claims procedures for the Plan are contained in Appendix B, which is attached hereto.

Part X – Plan Amendments / Termination

10.1 **Amendment of Plan.** The Plan may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the participating Employers or, depending on the nature of the amendment, by the Farm Credit Foundations Plan Sponsor Committee. An amendment will not reduce your vested Accrued Benefit except to the extent that a reduction may be required or permitted by law.

10.2 **Termination of Plan.** The Plan is intended to remain in existence for the foreseeable future. However, the participating Employers have the right to terminate the Plan at any time. If the Plan is ever terminated, or if there is a partial termination that affects you, any benefit that you have accrued will become 100% vested as of the termination date. Your pension benefit in such an eventuality will be based on your Credited Service and Final Average Pay only to the date of the termination of the Plan.

In the event of a complete termination of the Plan, the benefit that you have earned will be paid from the assets of the Plan.

10.3 **Merger of Plan.** If the Plan is merged with another plan, or if assets from the Plan are transferred to another plan, the benefit that you have already accrued will be protected. Your benefit under the new (merged) plan will be just as great as the amount to which you would have been entitled if the Plan had been terminated immediately prior to the merger.
**APPENDIX A**

**AGRIBANK DISTRICT RETIREMENT PLAN**

**PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS**

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APPENDIX B

AGRIBANK DISTRICT RETIREMENT PLAN

PROCEDURE GOVERNING PLAN ADMINISTRATOR’S REVIEW OF CLAIMS FOR ELIGIBILITY AND/OR BENEFITS UNDER THE AGRIBANK DISTRICT RETIREMENT PLAN

BACKGROUND

- The Farm Credit Foundations Trust Committee (the “Trust Committee”) serves as the Plan Administrator of the AgriBank District Retirement Plan (the “Plan”).

- The Plan Administrator has full discretionary authority to administer the Plan. Among other things, this authority includes the power to:

  o Determine the eligibility of Employees to participate in the Plan;

  o Resolve any factual questions that might arise in the course of administering the Plan;

  o Adopt any procedures and regulations necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the Plan;

  o Construe and enforce the terms of the Plan; and

  o Adjudicate claims for benefits under the Plan.

PURPOSE OF THIS PROCEDURE

- The purpose of this Procedure is to provide a framework for the handling of claims for eligibility and/or benefits under the Plan, and appeals from the denial of such claims.

- In adopting this Procedure, the Trust Committee has attempted to balance the desire for prompt resolution of eligibility and/or benefit claim requests (and the appeals from the denials thereof) with the need for sufficient time to render thorough and thoughtful claim determinations.

GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE HANDLING OF CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS

- **Eligibility Issues.** In most circumstances where an Employee is or may be eligible to participate in the Plan, such individual will be notified of his/her eligibility to participate. If, for some reason, such notification does not occur and the Employee believes he/she is eligible to participate in the Plan, the Employee should immediately contact his/her Employer. If, following such a request, the Employee is advised that he/she is not eligible to participate in the Plan, the Employee may challenge that decision by filing a claim pursuant to the Procedure set forth below.
• **Benefits Issues.** In most circumstances where a Participant or beneficiary is, or may be, entitled to commence distribution of benefits under the Plan, he/she will be notified of his/her right to benefits and will be provided with a pension letter detailing benefit options available to him/her and instructions for requesting commencement of benefits. If, following such notification, the Participant or beneficiary disputes the amount of benefits to be paid, the timing of such payments, or the conditions under which such benefits will be paid, he/she may file a claim pursuant to the Procedure set forth below.

  o In limited circumstances (e.g., death or Disability), the Plan may be unaware that a Participant has experienced a distribution event. In those situations, the Participant (or his/her beneficiary) should promptly notify the Plan of the applicable distribution event, at which time he/she will be provided with relevant distribution information. If, following this notification, the Participant (or his/her beneficiary) disputes the amount of benefits to be paid, the timing of such payments, or the conditions under which such benefits will be paid, he/she may file a claim pursuant to the Procedure set forth below.

  • Responsibility for the initial handling of all claims for eligibility and/or benefits under the Plan, and the initial appeal from the denial of any such claims, is delegated to a “Claims Reviewer.” The Trust Committee then adjudicates any appeals from the Claims Reviewer’s denial of a claim for benefits.

  • For purposes of this Procedure, the Trust Committee has appointed Farm Credit Foundations to serve as “Claims Reviewer.”

**PROCEDURE**

1. **Form of Claims.** Claims under the Plan must be made in writing and must include, at a minimum, the following information:

   a. The nature of the claim (e.g., dispute over amount of pension benefit, individual’s alleged entitlement to benefit, etc.);

   b. The name of the Plan (i.e., the AgriBank District Retirement Plan);

   c. The name of the individual(s) claiming benefits and the relationship of such individual(s) to the Participant (or former Participant); and

   d. An explanation of why such individual(s) believes he/she is eligible for benefits under the Plan.

   **Note 1:** A claim for benefits will be considered to have been submitted under this Procedure only if it is in writing and contains all the information set forth in this Paragraph 1. Casual inquiries regarding eligibility and/or benefits will not be considered a “claim” under this Procedure.

   **Note 2:** Claims may be submitted via mail/express delivery or electronically to the relevant street/e-mail address below. If the claim is submitted via e-mail, the claimant should include in the subject line a statement describing the nature of the claim (e.g., “Claim for Benefits under the AgriBank District Retirement Plan”):
2. **Initial Decision by Claims Reviewer.** The Claims Reviewer shall issue its decision on any claim that is submitted in accordance with Paragraph 1 above within ninety (90) days after receipt of the claim. If the Claims Reviewer, in its sole discretion, determines that the claim information is incomplete, the Claims Reviewer may request any additional information necessary to finalize the claim. The 90-day time limit shall be tolled – i.e., will temporarily stop running – during the pendency of any information request. If the claim is denied in whole or in part, the Claims Reviewer shall issue its decision in writing, and include specific reasons for the decision and specific references to the Plan provisions on which the decision is based.

3. **Appeal from Initial Decision by Claims Reviewer.** A claimant whose claim has been denied in whole or in part by the Claims Reviewer may (but is not required to) appeal (i.e., request reconsideration of) that decision to the Claims Reviewer. Any such appeal must be submitted by the claimant (or his/her duly authorized representative) to the Claims Reviewer at the address referenced in Paragraph 1, in writing, no more than sixty (60) days from the date of the initial denial. In pursuing his/her claim, the claimant shall be entitled to review pertinent documents and submit any issues and/or comments in writing.

4. **Decision on Review by the Claims Reviewer.** A decision shall be made by the Claims Reviewer, in writing, no more than ninety (90) days after receipt of the request for review (i.e., the initial appeal of the denied claim in accordance with Paragraph 3 above). If the Claims Reviewer, in its sole discretion, determines that the claim information is incomplete, the Claims Reviewer may request any additional information necessary to finalize the claim. The 90-day time limit shall be tolled during the pendency of any information request. If the claim is denied in whole or in part, the Claims Reviewer shall issue its decision in writing, and include specific reasons for the decision and specific references to the Plan provisions on which the decision is based.

5. **Appeal of Claims Reviewer’s Decision to Trust Committee.** Following the initial denial of any claim under the Plan by the Claims Reviewer, or, if the claimant has appealed the initial denial of the claim to the Claims Reviewer pursuant to Paragraph 3 above, following an unsuccessful appeal to the Claims Reviewer on a denied claim, a claimant (or his/her duly authorized representative) may appeal to the Trust Committee for a full review of the denied claim. The claimant (or his/her duly authorized representative) must submit to the Trust Committee, in writing, any and all information necessary to evaluate the claim – including references to the specific terms of the Plan and any applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code or Treasury Regulations – relating to the denial of the claim. Such submission must be made within sixty (60) days of the denial of the appeal by the Claims Reviewer. If
the claim information is incomplete, the Trust Committee may request any additional information that it deems necessary to finalize the claim. In pursuing this stage of the appeal, the claimant is entitled to review pertinent documents and submit any issues and/or comments in writing.

Appeals to the Trust Committee should be sent via U.S. mail or express delivery. No e-mails. The following address should be used:

Farm Credit Foundations Trust Committee  
c/o Farm Credit Foundations  
Attn: Vice-President, Employee Benefits  
30 East 7th Street, Suite 3000  
St. Paul, MN 55101

6. **Decision on Review by the Trust Committee.** The Trust Committee shall issue its decision on any denied claim appeal within 180 days after receipt of the request for review. If the Trust Committee, in its sole discretion, determines that the claim information is incomplete, the Trust Committee may request any additional information necessary to finalize the claim. The 180-day time limit shall be tolled during the pendency of any information request. If the claim is denied in whole or in part, the Trust Committee shall issue its decision in writing, and include specific reasons for the decision and specific references to the Plan provisions on which the decision is based.

7. **Litigation of Claim.** Prior to initiating legal action concerning a claim in any court – state or federal – against the Plan, any trust used in conjunction with the Plan, the Employer, and/or the Plan Administrator, a claimant must first exhaust the administrative remedies set forth in this Procedure. Failure to exhaust the administrative remedies set forth in this Procedure shall serve as a bar to any civil action concerning a claim under the Plan. If the Trust Committee, acting pursuant to the claims Procedure set forth herein, makes a final written determination denying a claim, the claimant, to preserve the claim, must file an action with respect to the denied claim no more than 180 days following the date of the Trust Committee’s final determination.