

February 11, 2009

CoBank Cooperative Scholarships
Ag Scholarships Awarded

MANHATTAN, Kan. – CoBank is contributing to the education of future agricultural leaders with an interest in a career in finance or banking. Trenton Hargrave of Randolph, Andrea Stroberg of Hutchinson, and Aaron Sylvester of Wamego, were selected to be the recipients of the 2008-2009 CoBank Cooperative Scholarships.

Trenton Hargrave of Randolph, KS, is a junior at Kansas State University majoring in agribusiness. He works at Call Hall and on the family farm. He is involved in 4-H and has participated in Ag Econ/Business Club. Trenton hopes to work in the banking system and raise cattle after graduation. The Hargrave family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Bluestem Electrical Cooperative and Farmway Co-op, Inc.

Andrea Stroberg of Hutchinson, KS, is a senior at Kansas State University majoring in agribusiness. She is involved in Block and Bridle Club and Ag Econ/Business Club. She works as a farm laborer on her family farm. After graduation, Andrea would like to work as a banker or a grain merchandiser. The Stroberg family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Farm Credit of Central Kansas, Farmers Cooperative Elevator Co (Nickerson) and MKC.

Aaron Sylvester of Wamego, KS, is a senior at Kansas State University majoring in agribusiness. He is married and has a family. In addition to his school and family responsibilities, Aaron works on the family farm and until recently, delivered mail for the US Postal Service. He has participated on the KSU Frontier Farm Credit Student Board of Directors and served on a pastoral search committee. Upon completion of his undergraduate work, he would like to pursue a career in banking, cooperative management or as a commodities broker. Aaron and his family are affiliated with the following cooperatives: Frontier Farm Credit, Bluestem Electrical Cooperative, Farmers Union Cooperative Business Association (St. Marys), and Farmers Cooperative Association (Manhattan).

To be eligible for a scholarship, students must be either a junior or senior in high academic standing in K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics at the time the scholarship is received and must have completed accounting or finance classes. The student must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in banking or finance. In addition, the student or their parents must belong to a farmer-owned cooperative.

The awarding of the CoBank Cooperative Scholarships is coordinated through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC), directed by Professor David Barton. The ACCC provides research-based information, education and assistance to people with and interested in cooperative businesses, including cooperative members, directors, managers and employees. The Center also works with students and

faculty at educational institutions, the general public and public officials as well as owners, directors, managers and employees of agribusinesses.

COBANK, part of the U.S. Farm Credit System, provides financial solutions and leasing services to agricultural cooperatives, rural energy and communications systems, Farm Credit associations and other businesses serving rural America. The bank also finances agricultural exports and provides international banking services. The bank provides leasing services through its subsidiary, Farm Credit Leasing Services Corp. With approximately \$27 billion in assets, the bank is owned by approximately 2,500 customer-owners. COBANK is governed by a board of directors elected by the bank's customer-owners. The bank operates on a cooperative basis and, historically, a substantial portion of earnings is returned to the bank's owners in the form of patronage refunds. COBANK has offices throughout the U.S. and representative offices around the world. The national office is located in Denver, CO.

“Additional contributions by those who want to support the purposes of cooperative scholarships are welcome,” Barton said. They should be made payable to “KSU Foundation/ACCC” and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Department of Agricultural Economics, 305 Waters Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan. 66506.

Further information can be obtained about this scholarship or about establishing additional scholarships by contacting David Barton at the same address or e-mailing, dbarton@ksu.edu.

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K-State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well-being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county Extension offices, experiment fields, area Extension offices and regional research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus in Manhattan.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

Arthur Capper Cooperative Center
Agricultural Economics
K-State Research and Extension

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Photo: left to right: Andrea Stroberg, Trenton Hargrave, Dennis Blick – CoBank, and Aaron Sylvester at the K-State Agricultural Economics Awards Banquet, November 21, 2008