



NEWS RELEASE

COBANK ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT IN REGIONAL AGRIBUSINESS LENDING UNIT

Mike Hechtner Named Central Region President

DENVER (March 15, 2011) — CoBank, a leading cooperative bank serving agribusinesses and rural infrastructure providers throughout the United States, today announced that Mike Hechtner has been named central region president for the bank's Regional Agribusiness Banking Group. In this new role, Hechtner will oversee relationship management, marketing and credit administration for cooperative customers in the Dakotas, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

"I'm extremely pleased to announce Mike's promotion," Chief Banking Officer Mary McBride said. "Given the central region's heavy concentration of grain and farm supply customers and Mike's extensive background financing those industries, Mike will provide significant benefit to CoBank and our customers in this new role."

Hechtner joined CoBank in 2005 as the regional vice president for agribusiness banking in its Omaha banking center. Hechtner has nearly three decades of experience in agribusiness lending. Before joining CoBank, he was senior vice president for Farm Credit Services of America and manager of that organization's agribusiness portfolio. Hechtner has also held leadership positions with Farm Credit Services of Central Arkansas, AgriBank and Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis.

"The grain handling and merchandising industry is extremely dynamic and volatile today, and it's vital that our customers have a lender that understands their financial needs and is committed to standing by them in all types of market conditions," said Amy Gales, executive vice president of CoBank's Regional Agribusiness Banking Group. "Mike's extensive knowledge and experience with agriculture in the upper Midwest and commitment to the CoBank mission are tremendous assets for us and the customers we serve throughout the central region of the country."

Hechtner began his new role March 1, 2011 and will continue to be based in Omaha. A search for candidates will commence to succeed him as regional vice president. "I'm excited to take on this new role with CoBank and to continue working with our customers to ensure they have the access to high-quality financial services they need to succeed and grow in increasingly complex and volatile market conditions," Hechtner said.

Hechtner has a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Idaho and a MBA from St. Louis University. He is also a board member of the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and the Nebraska Cooperative Council.

About CoBank

CoBank is a \$66 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to farmer-owned agricultural cooperatives, other agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states.

CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture and the nation's rural economy. In addition to serving its direct borrowers, the bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations and other partners across the country.

Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and maintains an international representative office in Singapore. For more information about CoBank, visit the bank's web site at www.cobank.com.

Contact

Arthur Hodges
Vice President, Corporate Communications
303-740-4061
ahodges@cobank.com

Kyle Henley
Corporate Communications Manager
303-694-5862
khenley@cobank.com

###