

MEMORANDUM



October 1, 2015

To: Chairman, Board of Directors
Chief Executive Officer
Each Farm Credit System Institution

From: Dallas P. Tonsager
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Dallas P. Tonsager', is written over the printed name and title.

Subject: Premium Planning Guidance for 2016

At its meeting today, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation's Board of Directors considered the likely level of premium rates for 2016. Insured debt obligations, as reported by the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, increased by 1.0 percent during the first eight months of 2015. Based on preliminary results, at August 31, 2015, the Farm Credit Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund) was approximately 1.96% of the adjusted insured debt, or \$89 million below the 2% secure base amount (SBA).

Based on our recent survey of Farm Credit System banks, we expect a moderate rate of growth in 2016 of 3.5 to 5.0 percent for adjusted insured debt. As a result, the Board of Directors has decided that, for planning purposes, the insurance premium rate on adjusted insured debt will likely range from 11 to 13 basis points for 2016. In addition, the assessment of an additional 10 basis points for nonaccrual loans and other-than-temporarily impaired investments will likely be continued.

The Board considered the following factors in providing guidance on premiums:

- Current level of the Insurance Fund and projections for growth in insured obligations;
- Likelihood and probable amount of any losses to the Insurance Fund;
- Financial condition of the Farm Credit System banks and associations;
- Health and prospects for the agricultural economy; and,
- Risks in the financial environment that could cause problems, including volatility of interest rates, increased competition, and use of sophisticated investment securities and derivatives.

At August 31, 2015, insured debt was approximately \$227.3 billion, up \$2.197 billion from yearend 2014. The change in bank debt levels during the first eight months of 2015 ranged from 0.5 percent to 5.5 percent at the four banks. However, in our recent survey participants estimated a combined growth of about 3.5% for 2015.

In view of our quarterly allowance for insurance loss analysis, we consider the System to be fundamentally safe and sound. The System continues to report strong earnings, the credit quality of the System's loan portfolio remains strong, the quality and quantity of bank liquidity is sufficient, and capital levels at most System institutions continue to increase. Credit problems continue to exist at a few associations, but we do not believe they pose material risk to the Insurance Fund.

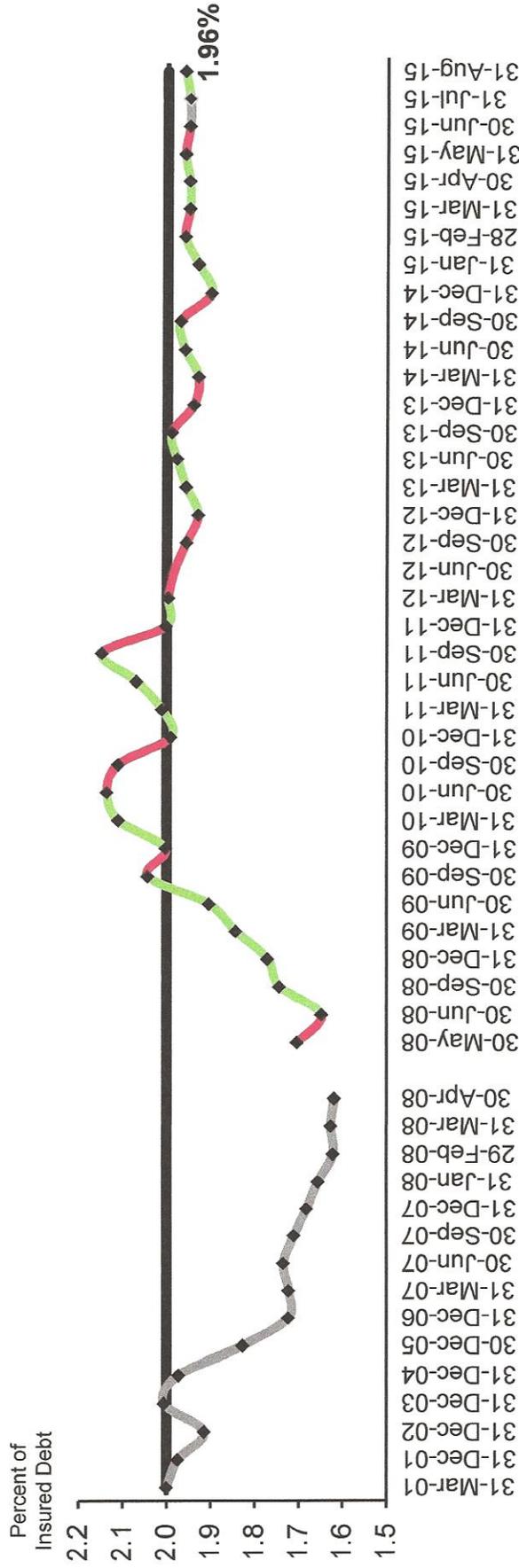
The outlook for the System remains generally favorable. Some System institutions have reported increased competition, which has put pressure on margins.

The Board of Directors will make the premium decision for 2016 at its January meeting. If relevant factors change, premium levels may be adjusted outside the guidance range to maintain the SBA.

If you have questions concerning these matters please contact Emily Dean, FCSIC's Chief Financial Officer, at 703-883-4387 or deanew@fcsic.gov.

Attachment: Trend of Secured Base Percentage

Trend of the Secured Base Percentage August 31, 2015



- (1) A change in the secure base amount (SBA) calculation methodology requested by the Insurance Corporation was included in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. The methodology allows the deduction of Federal and state-guaranteed investments from the SBA in a manner similar to that used for Federal and state-guaranteed loans.
- (2) Insurance premiums are assessed with the objective of maintaining the SBA which is defined in the Farm Credit Act as 2% of adjusted insured obligations. At year-end 2009, additional excess funds above the SBA of \$165.4 million were transferred to the Allocated Insurance Reserves Accounts (AIRAs). In February 2010, the \$39.9 million that was transferred to the AIRAs in 2003 was paid to the accountholders. In April 2010, the \$165.4 million that was transferred to the AIRAs in 2009 also was paid to the accountholders. The AIRAs balance is recorded as part of the Insurance Fund and is available to satisfy insurance obligations until the Corporation disburses payment to the Farm Credit Banks and FAC stockholders. At year-end 2011, excess funds above the SBA of \$222 million were transferred to the AIRAs and paid to the accountholders in May 2012.