

## MEMORANDUM



January 30, 2020

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

From: Jeffery S. Hall  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffery S. Hall", is written over the printed name of the sender.

Subject: Board Approves Premiums Rates for 2020

The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (Corporation or FCSIC) board has approved an insurance premium assessment rate on adjusted insured debt of 8 basis points for 2020. The board also approved continuing the assessment of 10 basis points on nonaccrual loans and other-than-temporarily impaired investments.

The Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation reports that outstanding insured debt obligations increased by 4.3 percent (\$12.0 billion) from \$281.5 billion at year-end 2018 to \$293.6 billion at year-end 2019. Based on preliminary results, at December 31, 2019 the unallocated Insurance Fund was at 2.03 percent, or \$69 million above the 2 percent secure base amount (SBA). FCSIC is required, after deducting its operating expenses, to transfer funds in excess of the SBA to Allocated Insurance Reserve Accounts (AIRAs) established for each System bank. After all year-end results are finalized, including reports of System institutions on their condition and performance, the board will consider using its discretionary authority under the Farm Credit Act to make payments from the AIRAs.

The board considered the following factors in setting 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.

On September 19, 2019, I issued a memorandum indicating that the board of directors had decided that, for planning purposes, the insurance premium rate on adjusted insured debt would likely range from 7 to 10 basis points for 2020. On a weighted average basis, the anticipated 2020 growth rate

provided by System banks in early January 2020 is 1.2 percent, which was 2.3 percent lower than the 3.5 percent estimate in August 2019.

Over the past five years, insured debt has grown an average of 5.5 percent annually. An accrual rate of 8 basis points on adjusted insured obligations will allow the Insurance Fund to achieve the SBA at a 5.5 percent growth rate.

The board will meet again in June 2020 to review growth in insured obligations and premium rates. If the Insurance Fund is substantially higher or lower than the SBA, premium levels may need to change.

If you have questions concerning these matters please contact Andrew Grimaldi, FCSIC's Chief Financial Officer, at 703-883-4383 or [grimaldia@fcsic.gov](mailto:grimaldia@fcsic.gov).

Attachment 1: Preliminary Trend Analysis of Outstanding Insured Obligations

Attachment 2: Trend of the Unallocated Insurance Fund Relative to the 2% Secure Base Amount

## Preliminary Trend Analysis of Outstanding Insured Obligations

12 Months Ending December 31, 2019

(\$ in Millions)

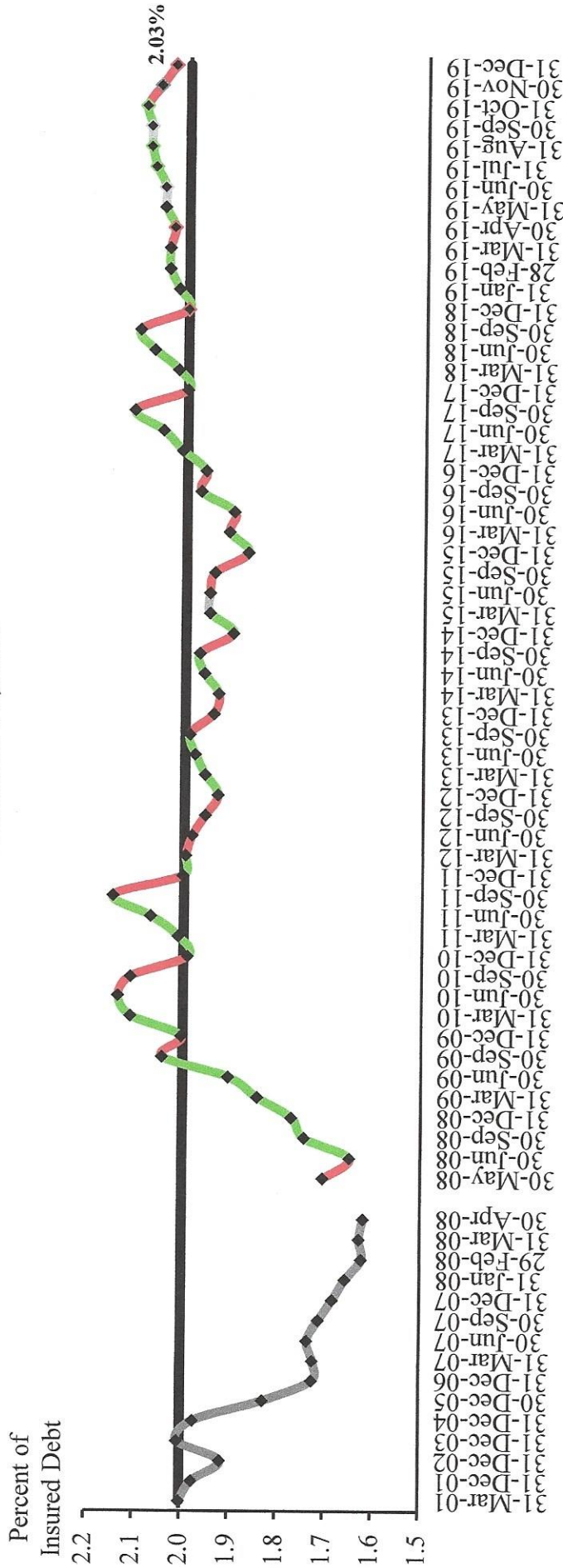
BANK	31-Dec 2019	30-Nov 2019	11/30/19 to 12/31/19		YEAR TO DATE 2019			12/31/18 to 12/31/19		
			\$ Change to 31-Dec	% Change to 31-Dec	31-Dec 2018	\$ Change from 31-Dec	% Change from 31-Dec	31-Dec 2018	31-Dec 2019	12 Month Change
AGFIRST	31,781.2	31,481.2	300.0	1.0%	30,381.7	1,399.5	4.6%	30,381.7	31,781.2	4.6%
AGRIBANK	107,180.2	105,873.6	1,306.6	1.2%	102,198.9	4,981.3	4.9%	102,198.9	107,180.2	4.9%
COBANK	131,116.1	127,216.2	3,899.9	3.1%	126,450.5	4,665.6	3.7%	126,450.5	131,116.1	3.7%
TEXAS FCB	23,499.2	23,317.6	181.6	0.8%	22,497.4	1,001.8	4.5%	22,497.4	23,499.2	4.5%
<b>TOTAL OBLIGATIONS *</b>	<b>\$ 293,576.7</b>	<b>\$ 287,888.6</b>	<b>5,688.1</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>\$ 281,528.5</b>	<b>12,048.2</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>\$ 281,528.5</b>	<b>\$ 293,576.7</b>	<b>4.3%</b>

\* Source

Quarter-end data: FCA call reports which include amortization of premiums and discounts.

Monthly and preliminary quarter-end data: Funding Corporation system debt obligations report at par value.

**Preliminary Trend of the Unallocated Insurance Fund  
Relative to the 2% Secure Base Amount  
December 31, 2019**



- (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) At year-end, based on a statutory formula, excess funds above the SBA may be transferred to Allocated Insurance Reserve Accounts (AIRAs). The AIRAs balance is recorded as part of the Insurance Fund and is available to satisfy insurance obligations until the Insurance Corporation disburses payment to the accountholders (Farm Credit Banks and FAC stockholders). In four distributions between February 2010 and March 2019, \$603 million in excess funds were paid to accountholders. As of March 2018, the FAC stockholders were fully reimbursed and so no further allocation were made to this AIRA account. In March 2019, \$66 million in excess funds were distributed to the remaining accountholders.