

FCA Board Meeting February 2022









Higher Production Costs Facing Agriculture

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Agenda



- Inflation environment for 2022
- Cost inflation in agriculture
- Impact on FCS borrowers and portfolios
- Examination & oversight



Price "inflation" dominates economic concerns

- Disrupted supply chains hinder ability to meet strong demand:
- Government stimulus continues
- Pandemic still impacting worldwide production
- Distribution bottlenecks slow to resolve
- Global energy supply not meeting demand
- > Tight labor markets



Broad Price Rise

* CPI-U.S. Medical Care Services, BLS-Average Hourly Private Wages, CPI-At Home Food Prices, JD Powers-Average New Car Price, FHFA House Price Index, USIA-Regular All Formulations Gas.



Rising production costs in agriculture



- Prices paid for farm inputs increased 10% from mid-2020 to December 2021
- Prices received by farmers jumped 24% during the same period
- Prices paid by farmers are sticky, prices received by farmers are volatile

Indexes of Ag Prices and Production Prices Paid



Data source: USDA/NASS.



Broad rise in farm input costs



- Historically high fertilizer costs are a big challenge for crop producers
- Certain chemicals and seeds are higher this year
- Higher labor, feed, and capital costs are challenges for livestock

Broad Rise in Farm Input Costs





Data source: USDA/AMS.



Higher capital costs: farmland

- Strong farm profits, particularly in cash grains, have translated into higher farm real estate values
 - Higher rental rates in 2022
- Land rents are stickier than land prices





Iowa Farmland Values



Source: Farmers National Company Agent Survey, January 2020 and 2022.



Higher capital costs: machinery and improvements

- New and used farm machinery values are higher on strong demand, lean inventories, and supply chain issues
- Higher material and labor costs are increasing building costs across the food system



Tractor and Combine Prices Rise

Source: Iron Solutions, Inc.

Annual New Equipment Sales	2020	2021	Yearly Change
	Units sold		
Self-Propelled Combines	5,030	6,272	24.7%
Four Wheel Drive Tractors	2,988	3,536	18.3%
100+ Horsepower Tractors	19,144	23,762	24.1%
Source: Association of Equipment Manufactures.			



Higher capital costs: interest rates

Rising borrowing costs are ahead for the \$450 billion in total farm debt

More System loan rates are now locked in for longer time periods but still about half of System loans carry floating rates



Sources: Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank (accessed 2/1/22) and FCS Funding Corporation Information Statements.



Farm finances are strong going into 2022

- Farmers, and the food industry in general, have the financial health to weather higher costs - at least initially
- Near-term outlook is encouraging
- Longer-term concern: Risk of a "Cost-Price Squeeze" for some parts of the ag industry



Source: USDA/ERS, December 1, 2021.



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Lender outreach



- Surveyed System lenders to gain additional insight on how the current environment is impacting customers/portfolios
- Questions focused on:
 - Most significant cost pressures faced by customers
 - Estimated impact on borrowers and portfolio in 2022 and beyond
 - Growth and volume implications
 - Underwriting considerations





Lender responses: most significant cost pressures

- Inputs particularly fertilizer, substantially higher
- Labor cost and availability will encourage automation
- Land prices and cash rents at/near record levels
- Infrastructure/Equipment increasing construction costs for facilities and machinery in short supply
- Transportation trucking availability and shipping rates
- Water cost and availability



Lender responses: key takeaways

- Margins projected favorable in 2022, yet lower than 2021
- Input prices will likely cycle down based on supply/demand
- Higher fixed cost structure may be more permanent
- Borrowers can absorb expected increases in interest rates from the current low levels
- Pricing, risk management, and contract discipline necessary



FCS portfolio impact: credit quality

- Most institutions have included high-cost scenarios as part of existing stress-testing efforts
- Lenders do not expect significant adversity in 2022 as projected margins remain generally favorable, but lower than 2021
- Possible decline in credit quality is "down the road" as both borrowers and portfolios are starting from a position of strength
- Deterioration could occur sooner in Agribusiness portfolio versus producers as more sensitivity to interest rates, labor and supply chain issues
- FCS portfolios are diversified which provides some risk mitigation



FCS portfolio impact: growth/volume

- Operating loan usage is generally down from historical levels as profitability is more than offsetting higher costs
- Mortgage loan volume has increased as rising land values and higher sales activity have largely offset lower demand from capital improvement projects
- Moderate overall growth is expected for 2022



FCS underwriting considerations



- Front-end guidance and projections have been updated to account for the current environment
- No material underwriting adjustments were reported given:
 - Underwriting standards and practices are designed to be "through the cycle"
 - Near-term and long-term repayment analysis is typically completed
 - Higher costs but also higher revenues thus far margins are projected to be narrower, yet remain favorable
- Lenders believe underwriting and risk rating systems are designed to account for various cyclical factors, including higher costs



FCA examination & oversight



- Fiscal 2022 National Oversight Plan includes risk topic of "Loan Underwriting in a Period of Significant Volatility"
- Examination work to evaluate:
 - Analyzing, underwriting and servicing of accounts in 2022, with a focus on the cash grains sector
 - Sources and quality of new loans/growth
 - Cost increases and related volatility
- Will continue to focus management discussions and monitoring activities on impacts of the current high-cost environment



Questions









