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PRESS RELEASE



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CDFA & NCOSAFP Launch Partnership **—Relationship to Raise Profile of Agricultural Finance Programs—**

Columbus, OH - The **Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA)** is pleased to announce a new partnership with the **National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs (NCOSAFP)**. CDFA and NCOSAFP have partnered to raise awareness within the development finance and agricultural industries of the agricultural finance programs available around the country.

As part of this partnership, CDFA will focus on increasing development finance education and resources for NCOSAFP. CDFA will manage NCOSAFP's membership efforts and will facilitate the NCOSAFP annual conference. NCOSAFP will be engaged in future CDFA state roundtable discussions that focus on rural/agricultural issues. Additionally, CDFA will develop an Advocacy Committee in coordination with the NCOSAFP Board to guide the organization's legislative agenda.

"We are very excited about our partnership with NCOSAFP," said Toby Rittner, President & CEO of CDFA. "Agricultural finance programs are tremendously important to communities throughout the U.S. Between the challenging costs for first time farmers, and the high operational expenses, access to the affordable capital provided by state and non-profit programs often is the difference between success and failure for a farm or ranch. We believe that together, CDFA and NCOSAFP can build the necessary platform to promote these programs and get the development finance industry more involved in this important part of our economy."

"The NCOSAFP is excited to begin a partnership with Council of Development Financing Agencies (CDFA)," said Terri LaBrie, President of NCOSAFP. "We've worked hard over the last couple years to strategically design a collaboration whereby our members will benefit from additional educational opportunities and a cooperative voice for agricultural finance issues all while maintaining our autonomy between the two organizations. I feel our membership will benefit greatly from CDFA's reputation and presence in the public finance industry and CDFA can benefit as well with our agricultural finance connections."

The **National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs** provides national representation for states that operate finance programs for farmers, ranchers, and the agricultural industry. Organized in 1984, the NCOSAFP is a non-profit organization that provides a forum for sharing ideas and serves as an information clearinghouse for its member state agencies. The Council provides information about state programs on farm finance issues and legislation developing in Washington, D.C. In addition, the Council is involved in the promotion and support of rural economic development programs. For more information about NCOSAFP, visit www.stateagfinance.org.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation's leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private and non-profit entities alike. For more information about CDFA, visit www.cdfa.net.

CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation

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