



News Release

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Rabobank Hosts National FFA Officers on the ‘Partnership Tour’

Southern and Eastern Region V.P.’s Visit with Rabobank Ag Lenders

Atlanta, Georgia – February 7, 2006 – Rabobank International, the leading food and agribusiness bank, hosted two national officers from the National FFA Organization last week as part of “The Partnership Tour”, in which FFA students visit with executives of leading companies in the United States. National FFA Officers Erica Der, Southern Region Vice President, and Ryan Peterson, Eastern Region Vice President, visited Rabobank’s Atlanta office to gain an overview of Rabobank and learn about the key role played by financial service providers in today’s food and agribusiness industry.

“We were pleased to share our insights into the opportunities and challenges currently facing the food and agribusiness sector, and to describe how Rabobank is helping our clients to meet those challenges,” said Adriaan Weststrate, Managing Director, Southeast Region, for Rabobank International. “It is very rewarding to leverage Rabobank’s tremendous expertise, gained over a century of financing agriculture, to offer advice and mentor young people who are in the process of planning their careers. Equally rewarding was the chance to meet and get to know these impressive young people, who represent the future of American agriculture.”

One of the premier financial service providers to the global food and agribusiness industry, Rabobank is a major lender to U.S. food and agribusiness companies, with total loan commitments of nearly \$20 billion to North American agriculture. Rabobank is a co-sponsor, along with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., a DuPont subsidiary, of the New Century Farmer program, a special project of the National FFA Foundation, which helps prepare young U.S. men and women for the opportunities and challenges involved in 21st century farming.

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In their visit with Rabobank, National FFA Officers Erica Der and Ryan Peterson also explained the growth and challenges in the National FFA Organization and answered questions from Rabobank representatives about FFA, agriculture education and FFA chapter activities.

The Partnership Tour is designed as part of the overall training and outreach for the National FFA Officer team. Visits are conducted with a diversity of companies for the officers to gain a better understanding of today's business enterprises. Through these visits the national officers are able to broaden their understanding of not only agriculture and agribusiness, but also of the entire business sector.

Each year six individuals from the ages of 19-21 are elected from the national membership at the annual national FFA convention. The officers take a year of absence from their college study and dedicate a year of service to the National FFA Organization. Each travels approximately 300 days during their year as an officer, meeting with FFA members, parents and business leaders. They also meet with leaders such as: the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, congressional and USDA officials in Washington D.C., international leaders, as well as other members of the agriculture and agribusiness industry.

The National FFA Officer Team for 2005-2006 are Travis Jett (Okla.), President; Jessie Geib (S.D.), Secretary; Anita Estes (Neb.), Central Region Vice President; Stuart Joy (N.M.), Western Region Vice President; Ryan Peterson (Mich.), Eastern Region Vice President; and Erica Der (Fla.), Southern Region Vice President.

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FFA is a national youth organization of 490,017 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,210 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. www.ffa.org

Rabobank is a global financial services leader providing agricultural financing solutions in the U.S. and key markets around the world. Founded by Dutch farmers in the 1890's as a finance cooperative, Rabobank today is a premier lender to global agriculture with over \$600 billion in assets, operations in 38 countries, and among the 25 largest banks worldwide. Rabobank is the only private financial institution with triple A credit ratings from both Standard & Poor's and Moody's, and is ranked the world's 3rd safest bank. In the Americas, Rabobank is a leading financier to all segments of the agriculture industry, providing wholesale banking services to food and agribusiness clients, agricultural lending to farmers, ranchers, input suppliers, and manufacturers; and full retail and commercial banking services to individuals, businesses and communities in key ag regions throughout Southern and Central California. www.RabobankAmerica.com