



Core Governance Principles

The Southern AgCredit Board of Directors is honored to serve as a member of the governing Board in representation of the Association stockholders. The Board adopts the following core governance principles as we fulfill our role as the Association's overall governing body:

Develop, adopt and establish a culture and tone of the highest standards of conduct and code of ethics through policies and procedures for all directors, officers, employees and professional service providers to follow and adhere to, in order to promote public confidence, preserve the integrity and independence of the supervisory process, prevent improper use of official property, position, or information, and to serve as the guiding force behind all of Association's policies and procedures.

Establish policies guided by cooperative principles, Association by-laws and that ensure the institution remains in compliance with laws and regulations, as well as to ensure that it operates in a safe and sound manner consistent with accepted best practices.

Complete comprehensive strategic planning to assess existing financial, operational and market conditions in comparison to the desired position and provide a reasonable plan to achieve established performance objectives.

Appoint a qualified and competent CEO to manage day-to-day operations and ensure the fulfillment of the Association's mission and goals, as well as, the Board's policies and strategic objectives.

Provide an independent and objective evaluation of the CEO and management's adherence to Board policies, laws and regulations, and the fulfillment of the Board's strategic financial and operational objectives.

Maintain an adequate understanding of the Association's major financial and operational functions by continuously seeking opportunities for education, training and learning.

Establish policies and ensure adequate procedures and best practices are in place to foster the election or appointment of qualified directors, including incorporation by the Board of a continual process of self-evaluation and training.

Continuously appraise and provide oversight of the Association's financial performance, compliance with laws and regulations and fulfillment of its strategic business plan and overall mission to its stockholders.