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First Citizens Hosts 7th Annual Ag Forum

MANSFIELD, PA (March 2019) –At their seventh annual Ag Forum, First Citizens Community Bank hosted several speakers who discussed pertinent farm topics with over 250 attendees. Because First Citizens serves customers in 11 counties across Pennsylvania, the Bank held two forums again this year to accommodate farmers and other individuals of agribusiness geographically. The first was held in East Earl, Lancaster County, and the second in Troy, Bradford County.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, a top advisor to the USDA and a prominent professor of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, discussed the farm bill, immigration, trade policy and stressed a need for government deregulation. Dr. Flinchbaugh reviewed a ten-year summary of imports and exports by country and export type. He also shared facts about the United States trade with China and Mexico since the early 1990's.

Joining Dr. Flinchbaugh was Michael Nepveux, an economist in the Public Affairs Department of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). Mr. Nepveux discussed Policy Regulatory Issues, the progress of lab grown protein, retail labeling of plant-based products, fluid milk sales, and African Swine Flu.

Guest speakers also included Sam Keiffer from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, who discussed the importance of Agricultural Education in classrooms. Each year First Citizens donates to the Farm Bureau's Mobile Ag Lab, which has reached over 1 million students throughout the state. Christopher Pierce, President of Heritage Poultry Management Services, Inc., and a member of First Citizens Agricultural Advisory Board, discussed the rise of The Coryza Poultry Disease. This acute inflammatory contagious disease involves the upper respiratory tract of poultry. Pierce provided tips on how to identify the disease and urged all poultry farmers to make sure their biological security measures were a top priority to avoid potential outbreaks. Both of the forums also had representation from the Future Farmers of America (FFA) as guest speakers and attendees as well.

"We were very encouraged to see such a great turn-out," noted Randall E. Black, First Citizens President and CEO. "As someone who has farming in his blood, I totally understand how important it is to have access to as much information as possible, as the end goal is to be able to keep family farms in the family. It is our responsibility as part of our partnership with our customers and communities to help bring this education to farmers in our markets. "

First Citizens Community Bank is headquartered in Mansfield, Pennsylvania. They currently operate 28 offices throughout Tioga, Bradford, Potter, Clinton, Union, Centre, Lebanon, Lancaster, Schuylkill and Berks counties in Pennsylvania and Allegany County New York. For more information about First Citizens, visit FirstCitizensBank.com, or find them on Facebook.

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