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## **AgBiz Masters Receives National Recognition**

**Mechanicsburg** – AgChoice Farm Credit recently received the Phelps-Martin Award for Service to the Agricultural Community from the Farm Credit Council for the AgBiz Masters program. AgChoice, in collaboration with approximately 20 agricultural organizations and businesses, has led and delivered the learning series to more than 250 young or beginning and small farmers in Pennsylvania and neighboring states in the last three years.

This national award was presented by Mike Garnett, chairman of the Farm Credit Council Board of Directors, at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Garnett praised AgBiz Masters for its innovative approach, using technology and industry alliances to make the training easily accessible and promoted broadly across the entire industry.

Raechel Sattazahn, marketing officer at AgChoice Farm Credit and administrator of the program, received the award. In accepting the award, she cited partnerships, convenience, content quality and practical applications as key components of the success of the program.

The primary objective of AgBiz Masters is to deliver hands-on business and financial management training to young and beginning farmers. Stronger business skills at this level ensure a strong future for the agricultural industry. AgBiz Masters takes a blended learning approach where participants complete five online modules and attend several in-person, regional sessions during each year of the two-year program.

AgBiz Masters is supported by a network of agricultural organizations. Program partners include AgChoice Farm Credit, Land O'Lakes, MidAtlantic Farm Credit and Pennfield Dairy Profitability Team. The Center for Dairy Excellence is a key funding partner for the program. Numerous other agricultural organizations are involved as marketing and resource supporters.

To learn more about AgBiz Masters, visit [www.AgBizMasters.com](http://www.AgBizMasters.com). Registration for the next class of AgBiz Masters will begin in the summer of 2012.

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Photo caption:

From the left: Gary Heckman, AgChoice director of sales and marketing, Bill Jackson, chairman of AgChoice Board of Directors, Raechel Sattazahn, AgChoice marketing officer, and Mike Garnett, chairman of Farm Credit Council Board of Directors