

Spring 2019 Edition

The Importance of Creating an Emergency Fund

The recent government shutdown changed the way that many think about saving for unforeseen circumstances. Creating an emergency fund is one way you can protect yourself from the debt a financial emergency situation can create. Read on to learn more about what an emergency fund is and how to create one.

What is an emergency fund?

An emergency fund is money that is set aside to be used only in case of a financial emergency.

What is a financial emergency?

What constitutes a financial emergency situation will vary from person to person but includes unexpected situations such as the loss of a job, expensive repairs to your home or car and major unplanned medical expenses. If a financial emergency arises, it is better to use these funds rather pulling the money from your retirement account or taking out a loan which can create a future financial burden.

How much money should I have in my emergency fund?

An emergency fund should have at least six months of savings for the necessary expenses of rent/mortgage payments, food, medical insurance premiums, loan payments that cannot be deferred, transportation costs and basic utilities.

Where should I keep my emergency fund?

Your emergency fund should be liquid, meaning the funds should be easily accessible. The best options are a Savings Account or Money Market Account where the funds can be drawn easily by check. A Money Market may be your best option as it yields a higher interest rate for even larger savings. Because the funds are easily accessible, make sure that you are not tempted to dip in into them! Opening a separate account for your emergency fund may help with the temptation.

How do I begin to build my emergency fund?

Make a monthly budget and determine how much you have left over after expenses. After you have determined this amount, you can decide how much you want to allocate each month. An easy way to make sure you are setting aside this amount instead of spending it is to set up a direct deposit. This way the money is

going straight into your emergency fund account and you will be less tempted to spend it. Extra income such as a bonus or a tax refund are great sources of additional contributions to the fund. Check out AgFed's Savings Goals calculator at <https://www.agfed.org/resources/savings-goals/> for help meeting your savings goals.

Should I create an emergency fund if I have debt?

If you have debt, consider creating a smaller emergency fund so you can work at paying it off while still having a small buffer. Consider AgFed's debt consolidation options such as a Personal Loan or AgFed's VISA® Credit Card Balance transfer at 2.99% APR* for 15 months¹. The faster you pay off your debt the more quickly you can build up your emergency fund.

*APR is Annual Percentage Rate. (1) Promotional rate is effective as of 04/01/2019 and may change at any time without advance notice. Rate quoted is for balance transfers from non-AgFed accounts only. Balance transfer rate applicable for 15 months for the first qualifying transaction. Rate will revert to the VISA® credit card rate after 15 months. This is a limited time offer. AgFed reserves the right to withdraw this offer at any time without notice. Certain restrictions and conditions may apply. Cardholder agreement will be provided when approved. Qualification for the VISA® credit card is based on credit evaluation and other factors.



**MONEY
MARKETS**

*Ideal for emergency funds
or short term savings!*

Learn more at [agfed.org](https://www.agfed.org).





AgFed News



April is for Financial Education and Savings!

This April we are celebrating two month-long holidays promoting the financial health and education of our members.

Financial Literacy Month – AgFed strives to improve the financial well-being of our members. We encourage you visit our online financial education center at <https://www.agfed.org/resources/financial-education/> for fun and free modules on a variety of topics to help you get confident about your personal finances. Financial literacy isn't just for adults. We believe it is as equally important to teach children the basics of money and finances. AgFed offers financial reality programs to local schools throughout the year.

To request one of our programs for your school contact us at marketing@agfed.org.

Youth Savings Month – To start your children to get into the savings habit, encourage them to express themselves through pictures, sharing their visions for their own financial futures. AgFed can help get them there. For every new Youth Savings Account opened in April, AgFed will contribute \$25 to the account and provide a bag of fun items.* We encourage you to visit a branch to open an account to start your children saving for their future. Visit agfed.org to find a branch near you!

*Promotion valid from April 1 – April 30. The All-Stars/ Young Millionaires accounts must be opened and funded with a minimum of \$5.00, between April 1 to April 30 to qualify for the \$25.00 incentive. Existing AllStar/ Young Millionaire account holders are not eligible. Memberships opened prior to promotional period do not qualify for incentive. The bonus incentive is considered as taxable income. It is the responsibility of the account holder/ guardian to report this as income to the IRS. This is a limited time offer. AgFed reserves the right to withdraw this offer at any time without notice. Promotional bag only available while supplies last.

84th AgFed Annual Meeting

AgFed's 84th Annual Meeting is quickly approaching! We will review the previous year and you'll have a chance to meet the Board of Directors.

When: Wednesday, April 24th

Where: The back of the USDA South Building Cafeteria

Time: 12:00 PM

All non-USDA employees please use the Independence Ave., Wing 3 entrance. Proper ID is required.

Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run

Come cheer on the AgFed team as we walk/run to benefit the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals on April 7th, 2019 at the Washington Monument Grounds. The Children's Miracle Network provides local children with state-of-the-art care, cutting edge research and treatment for every disease and injury imaginable. The 2019 race marks the 18th year credit unions have sponsored the run and nearly \$9 million have been raised during this time.

Thank you for your support and we'll see you at the finish line!

USDA Farmer's Market

The USDA Farmer's Market is returning on Friday, May 3rd and will continue every Friday until the end of October. The market is located outside USDA Headquarters on the corner of Independence Avenue and 12th St, S.W., Washington, DC 20250. Come check out the local vendors and visit AgFed's tent for games and giveaways!





IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY
AGFED OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 27TH, 2019



PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING TO ACCESS OUR ONLINE SERVICES:

AGFED.ORG ★ ONLINE BANKING ★ MOBILE APP

FIRST MORTGAGES

AgFed has options to help you save some green!



Learn more at agfed.org.

AUTO LOANS

Hassle-free financing options on new, used or refinanced vehicles!

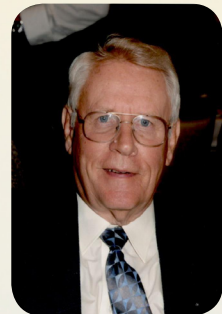


Learn more at agfed.org.

Chairperson's Corner

The 7 Cooperative Principles of AgFed

I'm sitting here wondering what I should share with you in this newsletter about AgFed Credit Union. I hope you know we're founded on the 7 basic cooperative principals and the following is how I think those principles impact both you and me:



Principle #1: Voluntary and Open Membership

We are a voluntary organization, open to all people who meet our membership requirements and are willing to use our services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination. We encourage diversity and inclusion.

Principle #2: Democratic Member Control

We are a democratic organization controlled by you, our members—you elect us, the Board of Directors—who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions about AgFed.

Principle #3: Member's Economic Participation

Members are the owners of credit unions. As such, they contribute to the capital of their credit union and directly impact its financial success. Members realize benefits in proportion to their relationship with their credit union and use of its products and services.

Principle #4: Autonomy and Independence

Credit unions are independent, self-reliant organizations controlled by their member-owners, not outside stockholders. Credit unions entering into agreements with other organizations must ensure continued democratic control by the members

Principle #5: Education, Training, and Information

AgFed provides education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to their own development and to the development and growth of AgFed.

Principle #6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

AgFed serves their members most effectively and strengthens the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Principle #7: Concern for Community

While focusing primarily on AgFed member needs, AgFed does work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.

I have been a long time member of AgFed Credit Union, using all of its services and programs. I encourage interested members to join us as volunteers to keep our great organization growing and prospering for ourselves, our children and grandchildren. If you're interested in volunteering please contact me at directors@agfed.org.

Sincerely,
John Link
Chairperson, AgFed Board of Directors



COMMUNITY CORNER



FEATURED RATES

NEW & USED AUTO

48 Months

3.24% APR¹

PERSONAL LOANS

36 Months

6.49% APR¹

SHARE CERTIFICATES

18 Months

2.65% APY²



Financial Reality Fair

AgFed hosted a Financial Reality Fair at Blake High School in Silver Spring, MD to help students understand the importance of budgeting and spending wisely. We are proud of our future generation of savers.



AgFed Foundation

AgFed raised funds to support the AgFed Foundation which awards scholarships and supports local schools. Visit www.agfedcu.org to learn more about or to join the Foundation.

(1) APR is Annual Percentage Rate. Rates effective as of 4/1/2019. Actual rate may vary as it is determined by an evaluation of credit, amount, term and other factors. Term is determined by loan amount and/ or credit evaluation. All loans are subject to credit approval. (2) APY is Annual Percentage Yield. Rate effective as of 4/1/2019 and may change at any time without notice. Certain restrictions and conditions may apply. Visit www.agfed.org for current rates.

Follow us on social media to view upcoming events!

AgFed

Credit Union

Your Partner for Life

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Washington, DC 20250

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Merrifield, VA 22116-9998

24/7 Online Banking
www.agfed.org

24-hour Member Service
(202) 479-2270
(800) 368-3552

24-hour Loan by Phone
(888) 451-LOAN (5626)

24-hour Telephone Banking
A.R.T. (Audio Response Teller):
(202) 488-3130 or (800) 872-2328



Contact us - if you're up, we're up - 24/7 Banking Convenience
Email us at members@agfed.org

