



FiberMax Center for Discovery Receives \$10,000 from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank

LUBBOCK, TX (X) – FiberMax Center for Discovery received a \$10,000 donation from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank to help them develop their new section called “AgWorks.” The check presentation will be on Thursday, August 24, at 2 p.m. at FiberMax Center for Discovery.

The AgWorks gallery will be interactive, fun, and targeted toward children fourth grade and younger. Many children in our area are two to three generations removed from the family farm, and there is a need to educate them about the vital role agriculture plays in our society. FiberMax Center for Discovery wants everyone to understand where their food and fiber comes from, and here, the whole family can learn the story of American agriculture through interactive motor play and storytelling. Some of the areas of activity include: agricultural career mentors, a crop cycle, farm-to-table market, healthy eating, farm vet office, animal barn, and much more. South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank were happy to partner with FiberMax Center for Discovery to develop this educational center. The FiberMax Center broke ground on the new addition June 1. The AgWorks gallery, in addition to a cotton heritage center, rotating exhibit space, and additional meeting rooms, is scheduled to open in Fall of 2024.

South Plains Electric Cooperative’s goal is to provide safe and reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. SPEC abides by the Seven Cooperative Principles, and one principle is commitment to community. The Cooperative gives back to many charities and organizations in the local communities they serve. It’s part of the cooperative difference.

CoBank is a cooperative bank serving vital industries throughout rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. As a cooperative, CoBank is also committed to supporting the communities it serves and regularly partners with its customers to invest in worthwhile charitable causes.

“South Plains Electric Cooperative was happy to partner with CoBank once again, and together, help make a difference locally,” said General Manager Dale Ancell. “Our goal is to improve the quality of life in our communities, and that goes beyond just providing electricity. We invest in our local kids because we know they are the future. We want to support the education of local students, so they know where their food and fiber comes from. We hope this garners an appreciation for our local farmer/neighbor making a global impact.”

"Agriculture is still the backbone of our economy in this area. It's important to share that story with people of all ages, but especially children. They are the future decision makers, voters, inventors, and

problem solvers, and we want them to have a good grasp of what our farmers, ranchers, and associated businesses do to feed and clothe a growing population," said Lacee Hoelting, Executive Director at FiberMax Center for Discovery.

South Plains Electric Cooperative's donation was matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. Sharing Success was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Cooperative.

"CoBank is proud to partner with customers like South Plains Electric Cooperative through our Sharing Success program," said Dean Church, vice president and lead relationship manager of CoBank's RIGB Electric Distribution division. "Through this contribution, South Plains is making an investment in the future growth and vitality of this community and CoBank is delighted to join them in this important effort."

About South Plains Electric Cooperative

South Plains Electric Cooperative, a local Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative, serves more than 70,000 connected meters in all or part of 18 counties. When you see Touchstone Energy, you know you are being served with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. For more information about South Plains Electric Cooperative, visit the Co-op's website at SPEC.coop and follow them on social media.

About CoBank

CoBank is a cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 76,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure and rural communities. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and also maintains an international representative office in Singapore.

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