



We wanted to update our lending partners, economic developers, and stakeholders throughout Georgia on the progress of our new "**Georgia Meat and Poultry Revolving Loan Fund**" that was launched on November 2nd. We are pleased to announce that last week we closed the nation's first USDA Meat and Poultry Intermediary Loan to renovate and add 12,000 square feet to 920 Cattle in Millen, Georgia. We hope this is the first of many from this new program in Georgia.

CSRA Business Lending working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Business and Cooperative Service, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, and the Georgia Bankers Association Ag Committee, was one of fifteen (15) entities in the nation selected to operate this new program targeted at launching more beef, pork, and poultry processing facilities domestically. Our new "**Georgia Meat and Poultry Revolving Loan Fund**" was funded from an initial \$15 million dollar grant from USDA's new Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program, and is targeted at creating a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.



920 Cattle is owned by Becca and Jarrod Creasy (pictured with daughter Finley) who have owned and operated their facility since 2018. Our \$3.4 million dollar loan will support the renovation and expansion of their existing facility and will add 12,000 square feet to their existing space. This expansion will support farmers and livestock producers in the eastern portion of the state who often have to truck their livestock to other states for processing.

The importance of the project was evidenced by the groundbreaking for this first loan being attended by Xochiti Torres Small, Undersecretary of USDA Rural Development, USDA Rural Development State Director Reggie Taylor, as well as Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper (pictured at the groundbreaking).



***At the groundbreaking Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper reiterated the importance of growing Georgia's meat and poultry processing capacity in his comments. "Protecting and investing in the state's #1 industry in rural Georgia help's all Georgians. This is a great example of that right here in Millen. We look forward to working with CSRA Business Lending as we bring more of these processing facilities to Georgia."***

We urge all our lending partners to help us spread the word on this new initiative and loan program. Please contact us on any expanding meat and poultry processing facilities as we grow this program in Georgia. The program is extremely advantageous to expanding processing facilities offering 5% fixed rate loans up to 30 years that can be subordinate to (and work in conjunction with) a bank loan.

**History of CSRA:** CSRA Business Lending is a 501c-3 non-profit established to make business loans and to foster economic development throughout the entire State of Georgia and parts of South Carolina. It is governed by a non-profit board of thirteen (13) business leaders and bankers. Since its inception, CSRA's collective programs have funded over 950 loans totaling \$325,268,603 with most in Georgia and a portion in South Carolina. These loans supported total project costs of \$787,150,019 and have created or retained just over 9,000 jobs using SBA, EDA, and USDA programs.

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