

# OUR TWO CENTS



THE FIRST STATE BANK SOUTHWEST NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021

[firststatebanksw.com](http://firststatebanksw.com)



## Celebrating Agriculture

There really isn't a month that isn't busy on a farm. There's hard work to be done year-round, whether it's planting in the spring or harvesting in the fall. We know this from working with our agriculture customers. They're the backbone of our Minnesota community and the country at large.

This month, we take a moment to acknowledge this hard work. Whether it's food on the table or any number of products in our homes, we have agriculture to thank.

### Here are 5 reasons farmers are so important:

#### **1. They support local families.**

More than 90% of farms in the U.S. are considered small, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And a whopping 96% are family-owned. Investing in and buying from these farms directly supports those of us living in rural cities and towns.

## **2. They make rural communities possible.**

Small farms support the sustainability and competitiveness of rural communities, according to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. That's not to mention the fact that many rural communities were built around farming and ranching.

## **3. They feed us.**

The average farm feeds at least 155 people, a number that's consistently grown over time. While not all farms feed people, each operation plays an important role in their industry.

## **4. They're stewards of the environment.**

Small farmers and ranchers care for half of the country's agricultural land, according to the University of Wisconsin. They put that earth to good use with attention and care, which benefits all Americans.

## **5. They care about the future of our community.**

Farmers aren't just focused on making it to harvest time. They have to know they'll be able to grow crops, feed animals, and keep up their operations this year and the next. That means they operate in a way that will sustain their operations and our communities.



**SOME BANKS  
ARE BASED IN  
FARAWAY CITIES.  
AT FIRST STATE BANK  
SOUTHWEST, OUR  
ROOTS ARE RIGHT HERE.**



*Change in agriculture is constant. With that change comes the need for a lender with agriculture knowledge and experience, to help you grow, evolve, and keep up with the ever-changing ag industry.*

**SO, WHERE DO YOU BANK?**

GET TO KNOW US



# LAURIE MARAS

## CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

### **Background**

**Years with the bank:** 14 years in September

**Education:** HL-O-L HS, WCC & SCSU

**Hometown:** Heron Lake

**Current residence:** Worthington

**Family:** Married for 21 years to my husband, David. Dave is the City Clerk in Brewster. We have two sons, Dillon & Lincoln. Dillon will be a Junior at WHS in the Fall. Lincoln will be a 6th Grader at WMS in the Fall.



### **What is your favorite thing about working in community banking?**

My favorite thing about our Community Bank is that we, as employees, own the largest percentage (28%) of the bank and that we give back to our community by volunteering and through charitable giving. If our community thrives, so do we!

### **What do you love about the local area?**

I love being close to the lake, local parks, and the walk/bike path!

### **Why should people choose First State Bank Southwest?**

Our friendly staff, hometown commitment and our great customer service!

### **Share one of your interests and hobbies:**

I enjoy listening to music, watching movies, walks and bike rides (when it's nice out!) and hanging out with family and friends.

### **What's your favorite musical artist?**

I like a lot of different music, but if I had to choose one, I'd pick Lady A (Lady Antebellum).

### **What's your favorite movie?**

My most favorite movie of all time is Dirty Dancing!

### **What's your favorite meal?**

Any meal that I don't have to prepare and clean up after! But, I really enjoy my husbands talent with his

new smoker!

**What's your favorite local restaurant?**

Phileo's

**What's your dream car?**

Mazda Miata



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