



THE SHEAF

Winter 2025

6 Resolutions For A Richer New Year

The New Year is a time of renewal; use it to make bold financial changes. If you're looking for resolutions to improve your personal finances, check out these six ways to make this the year of the dollar!

1. Track your spending

Determine where your money goes. Carefully record every dollar you spend for a month; apps like Credit Karma can make this process automatic. Keeping track of where your money ends up may ultimately encourage you to spend more judiciously.

2. Make a budget

About 70% of Americans live financially spontaneous lives, without planned spending. This is a circular problem: If your budget doesn't include setting aside money for long-term expenses and savings, you'll end up spending everything on unplanned things and events. Stop the cycle by creating a budget that modifies your spending to be more in line with your priorities.

3. Get out of debt

The biggest stumbling block to financial security and saving toward long-term goals is debt. Make the move toward debt reduction this year by adding an extra \$50 or \$100 to your credit card

payments. Alternatively, focus all your payment resources on the highest-interest debt until it's paid off, then move on to the next highest.

4. Start an emergency fund

The best way to avoid going into debt is to have some money available to handle the occasional, yet inevitable, emergency. Set a specific goal, like adding \$10 per month to a savings account. At the end of the year, you'll have more than \$100 available in case something goes wrong.

5. Automate your savings

Fighting that impulse to spend what you've earmarked for savings is a constant struggle; it's easiest to take the decision out of your hands. Change your direct deposit to put some of your paycheck directly into a savings account, where you won't even think about spending it impulsively.

6. Get educated

Knowledge is power, and that's especially true in the world of personal finance. There's loads of information out there; resolve to read one personal-finance article a week. This will give you great ideas for improving your financial situation.

All of us at AgFed hope you have a safe, happy and prosperous new year!

CONTACT US

24/7 Member Services:
(202) 479-2270

24/7 Online Banking
www.agfed.org
Email us: members@agfed.org

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

Mailing Address:
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USDA South Building Branch
1400 Independence Ave., SW, RM SM-2
Washington, DC 20250

George Washington Carver Center Branch
5601 Sunnyside Ave., RM 1-1180
Beltsville, MD 20705

Riverdale Branch
4700 River Road, RM 1C09
Riverdale, MD 20737

*Credit Union Service Centers
are available nationwide.*

Volunteers Needed - AgFed Board of Directors

We invite any member who wants to get more involved in the credit union to consider running for a volunteer position. If interested, contact us. Applications may be submitted by emailing marketing@agfed.org or faxing the documents to (202) 479-3877. If mailing, please send to: AgFed - Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 2225, Merrifield, VA 22116. Applications must be received by January 20, 2025. Visit agfed.org for more details.



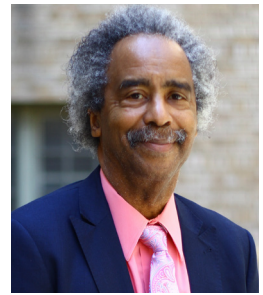
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CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

Get Ready for a Smarter Banking Experience in 2025



I am thrilled to announce that we will be launching a brand-new and enhanced Online and Mobile Banking system in 2025. This upgrade reflects our commitment to providing you with the best tools to manage your finances with ease and convenience.

To ensure you're informed every step of the way, we encourage you to review and update your contact information. This includes your email address, phone number and mailing address. Staying connected will allow us to share important updates, tutorials and tips for transitioning smoothly to the new system. You can verify your contact details by logging into your current online banking account or by contacting us. We are ready to assist you.

Our priority has always been to put our members first, and this upgrade is a reflection of that promise. We understand that change can sometimes feel overwhelming, but we are here to support you every step of the way. In the coming months, you can expect more communication from us, including sneak peaks and guidance to ensure you're comfortable with the new platforms.

Thank you for your continued trust and membership. Our goal is to ensure that your digital banking experience with us remains secure, convenient and innovative. We're excited about these improvements and look forward to offering you the best in Online and Mobile Banking.

Sincerely,

Elard J. Phillips, Chairperson