



**“Thanks to CodeSmith, we don’t have to think about a third of the project!”**

## ABOUT CODESMITH TOOLS

CodeSmith Tools is a software company specializing in the creation of software tools that help developers be more productive. Our goal is to build the best developer tools available to help developers around the world to get their jobs done faster and to help them avoid repetitive work.

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# Farm Credit Services of America



## COMPANY OVERVIEW

Farm Credit Services of America, headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, is part of the \$160 billion nationwide Farm Credit System agricultural lending network. The Farm Credit System was created as a result of the Farm Credit Act of 1916. They are one of the largest associations of the Farm Credit System with assets over 12 billion. They primarily serve customers in Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Farm Credit Services of America has grown from \$4 billion to over \$12 billion with little increase in headcount to the efficiencies' gained through process improvements and technology.

## BUSINESS CHALLENGE

FCSA found that the software tools needed to provide their services to their customers or employees were not available on the open market so they have been forced to build a lot of software themselves.

In an environment where rules change quickly and often, manual software updates were time consuming and expensive. They had tried code generation before and were not happy with a process that required constant editing of code generated to meet their needs.

Education of the team for new projects was also a major concern. “We have brought in many contractors and ramp up is not something for which we have a lot of time.” says Russ Wagner, Director of Application Development.

## BENEFITS FROM USING CODESMITH

The applications development team at FCSA heard about the time saving features of CodeSmith at a developer conference in 2004. Now, FCSA no longer breaks their golden rule. “Don’t edit the generated code!” Rule changes are no longer a time consuming task because code generation gives them immediate results when updates to business objects and stored procedures are required. “It is like a third of the project that you don’t even have to think about!” Thomas Kirk, Programmer/Web Developer.

Initially, FCSA used the CSLA CodeSmith templates. As knowledge of CodeSmith’s time saving capabilities has grown, so has its use and the number of ways it is utilized. They have written their own custom CodeSmith templates built specifically to meet FCSA’s needs. Unit tests are generated which improves code coverage, quality of project deliverables and saves time fixing bugs. CodeSmith’s Extended Properties feature is saving time making it easier to solve business problems that would normally be much more complex. “Codesmith is great! We find a bug, fix it in one place, and it is fixed everywhere.”, Russ Wagner, Director of Application Development, Farm Credit Services of America.

Additionally, the previous problem of educating contractors on the infrastructure is much simpler. Mike Douglas, Lead Developer/Analyst comments, “They are no longer required to learn the intricacies of the architecture and can now be productive much quicker and easier. Team members can move easily from one project to another.”

## KEY FACTS

<http://www.fcsamerica.com/>

### Agricultural Industry

70,000 customers

1000 employees, 95 in IT

### Technologies Used

CodeSmith 4.1

CSLA VB.Net Templates

CodeSmith Custom Templates

***“We felt so strongly about the benefits of CodeSmith that we licensed all 35 developers to enable them all to use it.”***

**Russ Wagner,  
Director of Application  
Development  
Farm Credit Services  
of America**

***“We truly feel that we’ve received almost instant ROI on our CodeSmith investment”***

**Russ Wagner, Director of Application Development, Farm Credit Services of America**