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CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS



A newsletter surveying national events affecting rural America.

VALUES. WORTH. ACTION.

Special Annual Report Issue

Message from the Executive Director

**The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.
Ecclesiastes 1:5**

The Center for Rural Affairs is helping give rise to a new day in the communities of rural America.

We don't work alone. The Center is part of rural America, and rural people are essential partners in our work. Our role is to provide vision for the future, to lead with persistence in the face of challenges that dim the hope of the fainthearted.

Our vision looks to the future as it draws on our past. Farms, businesses, and communities must change to thrive. But our values must remain constant. They are the unchanging markers that guide us in shaping a future that serves the common good.

Our values are rural values: fairness and opportunity for all, widespread ownership of farms and businesses by those who work, conscience that balances pursuit of self interest with responsibility to our neighbors and society, and stewardship that leaves the land as well as we received it to the next generation.

We work in service to these values, but are practical in searching for approaches that work to advance them. We roll up our sleeves to undertake the difficult task of changing policy in Washington and state capitals and fostering new approaches to revitalize the farms, ranches, small businesses, and communities of rural America.

We're getting results. Accomplishments for 2007 include:

Winning New Farm Bill Investments

We're partway to winning new investments in rural small business and microenterprise development, new funding for beginning farmer initiatives, new emphasis on small and mid-size farms in the Department of Agriculture's Value Added Producer Grants Program, and new incentives in federal conservation programs for communities to work with landowners in using public access to natural space as a community development asset. But nothing is final. We are still waiting for the final version of the farm bill.

We still have a chance to win tighter limitations on subsidies for mega farms that drive smaller operations out of business. We won Senate farm bill language directing the Dept. of Agriculture to establish regulations to enforce the 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act prohibition on price discrimination by meatpackers against small and midsize producers.

Building the Movement

We gained 10,000 new people writing letters, sending emails, and making calls to Congress on critical rural issues. We engaged rural leaders from North Carolina to North Dakota and Iowa to Idaho with their representatives in Congress.

Bringing the Voice of Rural People to America

Our work was quoted in stories by daily newspapers in Omaha, Des Moines, San Francisco, Tampa Bay, Sioux Falls, Garden City, and St Louis and in national media including DTN, *Congressional Quarterly*, and *Time Magazine*. Our guest opinions were published in more than 30 daily newspapers, and our work was the basis for over 1,600 radio reports across America.

Informing Policy Makers and the Public

Our report *Oversubsidizing and Underinvesting* documented to Congress that the federal government gives more to the 20 biggest farms in each of 13 states than it invests in com-

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Message from the Executive Director ...

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munity development in the 20 counties in each of those states suffering the worst population decline – counties composed of 3 million rural people. The report drew coverage in *Time Magazine*.

Our report on *Economic Outcomes of Rural Microenterprise Development in the 2007 Farm Bill* documented that investing in small business and microenterprise development creates genuine opportunity in rural communities.

Strengthening Rural Small Business

Our REAP program provided loans, training, and technical assistance to over 1,800 Nebraska small businesses. We are nearing \$4 million in small loans to rural businesses with five or fewer employees.

We're helping get microenterprise development services to new people and places. Here in Nebraska, we've added new staff to help Hispanic immigrants achieve their entrepreneurial ambitions and contribute to their communities.

Supporting Sustainable Agriculture

We provided technical assistance to six new cooperatives to enable them to help nearly 70 farmers reach new more profitable markets. We also worked with four Natural Resource Districts and 36 farmers across Nebraska to demonstrate how

we can help solve climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to build soil organic matter.

With Nebraska Farmers Union, we've helped foster locally owned wind power development in Nebraska, promising an environmentally friendly energy source and income opportunities for rural people.

Developing Rural Communities

We assisted 11 rural communities in efforts to train new leaders and engage young people in their communities. And our Winds of Life project has involved 40 community projects, 10 outdoor art sculptures, and numerous artists with windmill-based art. The project is building community and raising funds for community development initiatives across Nebraska.

These results don't always come easy. You'll find our staff going the extra mile. Our work day is not confined to 8-5. We're aiming to change the course of history in rural America, so we work hard and set high standards for ourselves.

We also practice what we preach here at the Center. In an era of obscenely high CEO salaries in corporate America and even some nonprofits, we've maintained a top to bottom salary ratio of about 2:1. We place service to others over self. We are honored to do it with you who join us in this work.

— *Chuck Hassebrook*

Rural Policy in 2007 — Building New Alliances on Rural Issues

In 2007 the Center led the fight for farm program payment limits reform, arguing that farm program money is better spent supporting beginning farmers, protecting our natural resources, and encouraging rural small business development. Support for rural small business development became one linchpin of our argument. It was not the only thing we fought for, but it was an issue that many new allies coalesced around.

Many agriculturally-based rural communities have suffered a precipitous loss of small businesses that serve their communities. Small businesses are vital to their future success. They are our grocery stores, hardware stores, local retail, and local service businesses. When we work to strengthen these businesses, all of rural America benefits.

Building on our own success promoting rural microenterprise through the Center's Rural Enterprise Assistance Program, we championed a rural microenterprise assistance program as a part of the 2007 farm bill (see letter next page). We were successful in getting the program authorized in both the House and the Senate, and the Senate bill provides mandatory money for the program. While the fight to fully fund the program is likely to go on beyond the end of the farm bill debate,

we have gained more support this year for rural microenterprise in the farm bill than under any previous farm bill.

New and old allies alike joined us in support of the rural microenterprise program. Some of these groups were new to the farm bill debate, and the breadth of support for the program demonstrates that this legislation can help make the farm bill about all of rural America.

One group, the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, made support for the program a major priority. Working with the Center, their efforts brought farm bill support for rural microenterprise to the attention of rural development organizations and contributed to the legislative campaign. Nearly 100 organizations, including some of the largest and most influential local and regional economic development organizations in the nation, joined with the Center in signing a letter supporting inclusion of the program in the farm bill.

Throughout the farm bill debate we stood on principled ground and voiced support for policy that will truly support family farming, rural communities, and our natural environment. Even without winning every fight, we advanced policy in the interest of rural communities across all of rural America.

Grassroots Letters Supporting Microenterprise

Through the efforts of various farm bill coalitions described in the policy article on the bottom of page two, hundreds of letters poured into Congressional offices this past year. We are proud to share one written on behalf of rural microenterprise assistance.

Senator Robert Casey,

I urge you to support the Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program in the Rural Development Title of the 2007 Farm Bill. Please fight for mandatory funding of \$20 million dollars for this program.

As you know many rural communities in Pennsylvania are experiencing shifts in their traditional economic base. Many rural families can no longer rely on farming but must develop small enterprises to supplement their farming income. These small businesses provide important goods and services to their communities and create local jobs.

Microenterprise programs reduce poverty, build communities, and give entrepreneurs vital skills they will use for the rest of their lives. These programs play an important part in helping rural communities re-focus their economic base.

Please support this important initiative.

Rachel, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Research and Analysis — Growing in Recognition and Importance

Since its start in 2002, the Center's Rural Research and Analysis Program has become a nationally recognized source of data, materials, and exploration on issues of importance to rural people and rural places. In the program's five years, we have highlighted promising practices in rural communities, illuminated strengths and weaknesses in current and proposed policy, and stressed the impacts of current and proposed policy on rural people.

Two recent activities demonstrate our growth and reach.

⇒ In 2006 we created the ***Rural Development and Rural Asset-Building Virtual Library*** on the Center's website (www.cfra.org). This is intended to be a one-stop collection of all the Center's publications, reports, and studies on rural development, rural asset and wealth-building, and rural poverty issues. The library holds nearly 40 publications, a one-of-a-kind collection of practical and applied policy research devoted to rural development issues.

⇒ In three years, our ***Rural Brief series*** – that provides information and analysis of rural development and asset-building funding in the federal budget – has gone from non-existent to over 5,000 subscribers in every state and the District of Columbia and two Canadian provinces. Again, the *Rural Brief* series is unique in providing usable information to rural people and organizations about a breadth of rural issues across the federal budget.

⇒ In 2007, the Rural Research and Analysis Program produced four major publications that received national and regional attention. These are described below.

Two farm bill-related reports exposed the lack of investment in the type of economic and community development

in rural areas that attracts and retains residents and builds wealth and assets. These reports are highlighted in the article on pages 1 and 2. Through them, the Center played a unique role – providing one-of-a-kind analysis during the farm bill debate that both exposed the failings of a harmful public policy while also pointing the way to a brighter, hopeful future.

A third farm bill report addressed the challenges in developing a new generation of farmers and ranchers. ***Giving A Beginner A Chance in the 2007 Farm Bill*** served two purposes. It was an analytical primer on beginning farmer and rancher policy recommendations for the farm bill, and it provided information and assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers entering high value markets. Using case studies and summaries of research, it highlighted numerous beginning farmer and rancher initiatives from across the nation.

In the same vein, 2007 also saw the release of ***Promising Opportunities***, the third report in our Rural Economic Development Initiative series. Following 2004's *Fresh Promises* that highlighted economic and community development strategies that were working in rural communities, *Promising Opportunities* considers initiatives and proposals that could easily be modified for use at the state and local level. From value-added agriculture to local food to small business development to community infrastructure, *Promising Opportunities* examines public policy initiatives that would create opportunity for rural residents and a bright future for rural communities.

All publications of the program may be found at http://www.cfra.org/publications/virtual_library. For more information on the Center's research and analysis program, contact **Jon Bailey**, jonb@cfra.org or 402.687.2103 x 1013.

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Lizabeth Halsted	William & Judith Heffeman	Larry Holmes Jr.	Frank & Barbara James	Jean Karlen
Michelle Halsted	Jim Hegemann	Everett Holstein	Frank James Jr.	Charles T. Karpf Jr
Marian Hamling	Heifer Project International	Linus & Elaine Holthaus	Dean Jansen	Max Kathol
Maggie Hamm	Shona Heim	Gene M. Holthaus	Royce & Carol Janzen	Dan Kathol
Paul Hammel	Karen Heimes	Catherine Holtkamp	Tenise Jarescke	Ann Kauffman Smith
Mark Hammer	Mike & Cecilia Heimes	Marx Holtorf	Ben Jarosz	Merle L. Kaufman
Dawn Hampton	Gary Heineman	Ralph Holzfafter	Sherry Jarvis	Robert & Marge Kaup
Craig & Kori Hamre	Harris Heinemann	Cheryl Homberger	Jerry & Rose Jaspersen	Gwen Kautz
Connie Hancock	Lisa Heinert	Cherry Hills Homestead	Eugenia Jeary	Frances Kaye
Don E. Hanna III	Conrad & Alison Heins	John D. Hoover	Lumir Jedlicka	Fr. Leonard Kayser
Wallace & Phyllis Hannappel	Steffen & Janet Helgaas	Jackie Hopken	Jim Jeffers	Mark Keating & Barbara Lynch
Sharon Hannen	Randy Helgerson	Don & Jeanette Hoppes	John Jelken	Jill Keating
Layne Hanquist	Janice Hellerich	Mary Jo Homing	David Jenkins	Shari Keeling
Earle Hanselman	John Henderson	Melvorn Horst	Max & Wilma Jenny	Merlin Keen
George Hanselman	Bob Hendrickson	Carol Hotmann	Kenneth F. Jensen	Kermit & Luann Keifer
Ray Hansen	Tom Hendrickx	Brian Houlihan	F. Merle Jensen	Georgia Keim
Lester & Donna Hansen	Ceres Henkel	Duane Hovorka	Clark & Dana Jensen	Dennis Keim
David & Connie Hansen	Charles & Beverly Henkel	Jay Howe	Stan Jensen	Bob Keim
Jerry & Jennifer Hansen	Rollie Henkes	Rollin & Joyce Howell	Harold & Ellamay Jerman	Elias Keim

Steven & Bette Keiser	Kolousek Farms	Rick & Becky Lange	John Looney	Ed & Nancy Mason
Rick Keith	David Konz	Marvin Lange	Katie Lorah	Ken Mass
Jim Kelly	John & Sheryl Kooiker	Edward & Bernadette Lange	John F. Lorenz	Martin Massengale
Arliss & Kurt Kelsey	Ted Kooser	Charles C. Langford	Lennie Losh	Victor Mathern
Bobbie Keltner	Fritz Koppatschek	Dr. Cb Lara	David Lovewell	Alphonse Mathiowetz
Arlen & Cindy Kempcke	Donald Kops	Christina Larby & Karen	Loyd & Glenna Lowe	Gary Matteson
George Kennedy	Anson Korte	Genereux	Don Lowenstein	Joe & Sylvia Matthews
Tony Kerkviet	Mike Korth	Eugene Larsen	Beverly Loy	Robin & William Matthews
Jane Kerr	Tim Korth	Gary A. Larsen	Matthew Lubanko	Gerald Matzke
Kerr Center For Sustainable Ag	Pete Kotsiopoulos	Ken Larsen	George M. Luber	Gordon E. Mau
Edward Kershner	Cleo Kottwitz	Dan & Barb Larson	William D. Luebbe	Stacy Maurer
Kenneth Kerwood	David Kozlowski	Olaf & Clair Larson	Daniel Luebbe	Verle & Betty Maxwell
Edwin Kessler	Robert & Eleanor Kraenow	Anne D. Larson	Chris/Doug/Myron Luebbering	Art & Barb May
Amy Ketteler	Larry Kramer	Sue Larson	Allen & Ann Luebbert	Terry Mayberry
Senator Jack Kibbie	Kent & Patty Krause	David & Elsa Larson	William & Eleanor Lueck	Nicole Mayer
Rosalie Kielian	Elmer & Gertrude Krause	Gerald & Marian Larson	Mark & Nancy Luetchens	Richard Mazour
Musyoki Kilonzo	Corinne Krebs	Christina Laska	Steve Luhr	Gina McAndrews
Charles & Connie Kimpston	Brian Kreikemeier	Daniel D. Laska	Randy Lukasiewicz	Randall McCain
Leif Kindberg	Gary & Deb Kreimeyer	Pat Latz	Bruce Lundt	Mary McCall
John King	Wallace & Irene Kreimeyer	Christian M. Lauby	Dan & Vera Mae Lutz	Patrick McCarron
John Kingsbury	Steven Kreitman	John A. Lautzenheiser	Don Lydic	Msgr. John McCarthy
Mitchell & Ann Kingsley	Philip C. Kreitner	Rodell Lea	Tim Lynch	Rev. John McCaslin
Scott & MeLea Kinkaid	Charles & Lucille Kresha	Kim Lecher	Gary & Judy Lynne	Alexandra McClanahan
John Kinney	Ashley Krest	Stephen Lecuyer &	G. Joe & Norma Lyon	Marie McClintic
Kenneth Kirchner	Boots Kretzmeier	Joan O'Connell	LaWayne Mach	Glennis McClure
Cindy Kirkeby	Rex & Fran Kreutz	Ruth Ann & Jerome Lee	Marilyn MacKey	Ed & Glennis McClure
Stephanie Kirkpatrick	Margaret Kring	Paul Lehmann	David L. Madsen	Ellen McComb
Fred & Carolyn Kirschenmann	David Kroeger	Mary Ann Lehmer	Keith Madsen	Donald McCombs
Mary Klauke	Willis & Janet Kroger	Flora Leisenring	Craig Madsen & Sue Lani	Michael & Marilyn McConnell
Melanie & Lance Klein	Alison Krohn	Dick Leitschuck	Madsen	Mark & Susan McConnell
Mark Klein	Bruce & Kaylene Krueger	Dennis Leners	Sally Maggard	Steve McConnell
Richard & Rosalie Kleinschmidt	William & Gladys Krula	Kevin Lent	Keith & Peggy Mahaney	Lynn McCormack
Edwin & Carolyn Kleinschmit	Dennis Kruse	Jane Leonard	Bob Mailander	Pam McCormick
Kevin & Deb Kleinschmit	Thomas & Cynthia Kruse	Linda Leshanna	Steven & Mary Mairose	Cliff McCray
Julia Kleinschmit-Rembert &	Cory Kruse	Joe Lesiak & Charisse Hutton	Alan & Gail Mais	Barb McCully
Stephen Rembert	Gary Kruse	Norman Leuenberger	John & Laurine Malcheski	Ada & Joseph McDermott
Fr. John Kleinwachter	Senator Lowen Kruse	Kim Leval	Ryan Malcom	William McDonald
John & Anita Klement	John & Syd Kruse	Don & Cynthia Levis	Ricky Mallams	Art & Arliss McDowell
Garry & Patricia Klicker	Jonathan Krutz	Duane Lewandowski	Arvid & Willadene Malmberg	Alec McErich
James B. Kliebenstein	Steve Krysl	Dwight & Janice Lewis	Carla Manary	Theresa McGahan
Jason Klinge	Randy & Pam Krzmarzick	Larry & Peggy Lewis	John Mangels	John McIntosh
Howard Klopping	Harold Kubicek Jr	Amy Lewis	Patricia Mangis	Kert McKeone
Senator Frank Kloucek	Scott & Wendy Kubik	Bill Lewis	Marj & George Manglitz	Martin & Patricia McLaughlin
Thomas L. Kluck	Mark A. Kubik	Riley Lewis	Charles Manlove	Frances McManus
Jennifer Klute	Gary & Pat Kubly	David Ley	Tim & Ann Mann	Richard P. McManus
John Kluthe	Jerome Kudlacek	Barry Lia	Karen Manning	Margot McMillen
Steven Knake	John & Janette Kuehn	Jan Libbey & Tim Landgraf	Paul G. Manternach	Michael McMullen
Tom & Lou Ann Kneifl	Cheryl Kuehner	Northeast Library System	Melvin & Betty Manternach	Robert McNeill
Mike Knepper	Stacy Kuhl	Larry Lieb	Bernard & Anna Manternach	Scott McPheeters
Jack Knight	Arthur & Jean Kuhl	Bill & Kathleen Liebhardt	Betty Mapes	Carol & Jim McShane
Susan Knisely	Del Rey Kuhn	Dr. Matt Liebman & Laura Merrick	Ted Marek	Dan & Carol McWhirter
Clem Knobbe	Russ Kujawski	Larry & Joanna Lindberg	Paula Mares	Matt Meacham
Tom Knoblock	Marvin & Cynthia Kumm	Earl Lindenfelser	Richard & Martha Markland	Calvin Mechels
Lindsey Knopf	Cliff Kumm	Norman Lindgren	C. F. Marley	Angela Medbery
Elaine Knudson	Keith & Marian Kuper	Fr. Roger Linnan	Steve Maronde	Richard & Alice Meduna
Jaci Knuth	Kevin Kurpgeweit	Joan Linney	Leonard Marron	Jeanne McCormack &
Claus & Maylo Knuth	Marcel LaFlamme	Gerald M. Lintemuth	Steve Marsh	Albert Medvitz
Larry & Karen Knuth	Carol Lake	Doug Little	Joy Marshall	Becky Meidinger
Jeremy Koch	Lloyd & Rosalyn Lamb	Heiser's Livestock Inc.	Donald & Gail Marti	David Meints
Maurice & Vicky Koch	Don & Pat Lamb	Gail & Katy Lockard	Kyla Martin	Ruth Meisner
Shelley Koch	Arvin Lamberson	Willie Lockeretz	Charles Martin	Melvin & Delores Meister
Donna Mae Kock	David & Ronda Lambert	Liz Lockhorn	Paul B. Martin	James Meister
Carolee Koehn	Timothy Lambert	Ann R. Loeffler	Larry Martley	Jeanne Meister-Westermann
Raymond Koenigs	Larry Lamborn	Virgil Loewe	Fred Martz	R. Dale Melia
Jerome Koenigs	Don & Lois Lambrecht	The Honorable Timothy	Dorris Marxhausen	Dr. Margaret Mellon
Karen & Dan Koester	Roger Lammers	Loewenstein	Mary Anderson CPA	Aubie Melot
Mike Kohlhaas	Tom & Peggy Lammers	Clarence Lohff	Nikki Masek	Nathan & Ellen Melson
Larry & Patricia Kokes	Kit Landkamer	Oliver Loken	David J. Maser	Sister Mary Lou Mendel
Karen Kollars	Nancy Lang	Daryl Long	John Masiunas	Phil Menke
Kristina Kollars	Linus & June Lange	City of Long Pine	James Mason	Brian Mentink
		Cherie Longmuir		

Dave Merchen	Robert Moser	Phillip Nielsen	Jean Parker	Michael Poe
Kent & Peggy Merryweather	Stephen Charles Mott	Larry & Donna Niemeyer	Robert & Janet Parkhurst	Louis Pofal
Kerilyn Mesch	Henry Wayne Moyer	Paul & Elaine Nighswonger	Shirley Parks	Harry Pokorny
Gene & Eileen Mescher	Arland & Deloris Mozer	Dale Nimrod	Rosie Partridge	Debra Polacek
Neil Mesner	Senator Paul Muegge	Charles L. Nissen	Julie Paschold	Cj Poltack
Doug Metzger	Delmar Mueller	Kenneth Noll	Diocese Pastoral Center	Stanley Pomborg
Robin Metzner	Jim Mueller	Father Neal P. Nollette	Patti Patrie	Lowell & Betty Poppe
Ron Meyer	Mark Mueller	Toni Nolze	Dean Patterson	Karen Poppe
Joan Meyer	Kenneth Muff	Doug Nopar	Sandy Patton	Frank & Deb Popper
Kaycee Meyer	Robert V. Mulch	Carl Nuessmeier	Richard & Sharon Paul	Thomas Posey
Ronald & Susan Meyer	Richard Mulder	Northern Plains Sust Ag Soc	Roric Paulman	Randy Post
Leigh Meyer	Janie Mullanix	Reverend James Novotny	Eileen Paulsen	Barbara Post
Roger Meyer	Tommy Mullen	Lillian Nowak	Jerry Paulson	Timothy & Marie Powell
Steve Meyer	John Muller	Mike & Sue Nowels	Matt Pawloski	NE Municipal Power Pool
Abby Meyer	Mark Muller	Lower Loup NRD	Sarah Paxton	Crystal Powers
Pam Meyer	Greg Mullins	Timothy Nuessmeier	South Dakota Peace & Justice	Rachel Pozehl
Bob Meyerson	John & Pat Muntz	Carl Nuessmeier	David Peck	Prairieland RC&D
Carl & Elsie Michl	Dave Murman	McHenry County Nursery	John S. Peckham	Dan Preister
Rory Mikkonen	Francis Murphy	Daryl & Jackie Obermeyer	Donald B. Pedersen	Dennis Presser
Valerie Miksch	Deborah Murray	Fred Obmann	Clay Pederson	David & Gail Prestemon
Frank Miles Jr	Glen Murray	George & Kathleen Oborny	Donald L. Pederson	Linda Price
Laurie Milford	Gary Musil	Renee O'Brien	Charles A. Peek	Glenn Price Jr
Dennis Miller	Ken Musselman	Roselyn O'Connell	James & Madylin Perley	Weston A Price Foundation
Glenn Miller	George & Virginia Myers	Norman Odell	Mike Permoda	Neil & Jean Priefert
Jim Miller	William & Frances Nafziger	Tom Odgaard	Don Perry	James & Jane Prokop
Dale Miller	Robert & Phyllis Narveson	John E. Oeltjen	Delayne Persson	Max Propst
Kent Miller	Joan Iverson Nassauer	Elmer Offerman	Tom & Gretchen Pesek	Heidi Proskocil
John & Mary Miller	Richard C. Naugle	Leonard & Cynthia Ohri	John Pesek	Delmer & Ollie Provancha
Bob Miller	Gary & Joyce Navrkal	Clinton Olcott	Alvin Peters	Eldon Psota
Bob & Coreen Miller	NCAT Resource Center	Robert Oldenkamp	Glen & Christine Peters	Roy & Sharon Purlee
Matt Miller	Dennis Nebendahl	Colleen Olhausen	Vera Petersen	Gregory Putnam
John Miller	Lonnie Neddenriep	Norma Oliver	John Petersen	Paul Quam
Elaine Miller	Sr. Theresa Nederhiser	Jerome & Lorraine Olmsted	Elmer & Evelyn Petersen	Bob & Ann Quinn
Jim Millsap	Dan Nederhoff	Donna & Gary Olson	Colin & LeAnn Petersen	Laura & Jerry Raedeke
Melvin Millsap	Brian Nedrow	Craig Olson	Arlo L. Peterson	Don Ralston
Bill & Dana Milton	Erwin Neier	Erwin Neier	John W. Peterson	Mark Ramaeaker
Jim & Ann Minarick	Sue Neisen	Sue Neisen	James & Ruth Peterson	Lois Ramsey
John Miner	Joe & Corrine Nekoliczak	Harold Olson	Carroll Peterson	Canyon Rim Ranch
Kenneth Minnig	Sonya Nelsen	Ralph Olson	Paula & Bill Peterson	Zero Hereford Ranch Inc
Kermit & Wilma Miskell	Laverne & Arlene Nelson	John & Anne O'Mara	Leonard Peterson	Mayer Ranches
Aaron Mitchell	Harland Nelson	Irvin & Wanda Omtvedt	Kim Peterson	Wayne Rasmussen
Carol Ann Mitchell	Charles Nelson	Wendy O'Neill	Marion & Opal Peterson	Charles & Doris Rasmussen
Peter Mitchell	Darren Nelson	Duane Oquist	Jerry & Carolyn Petik	Larry & Melinda Rasmussen
Bonnie Mitsui	John Nelson	Oregon Tilth, Inc	Martin Petroski Jr	Marlene & Robert Rasmussen
Mona Mitzel	Jennifer Nelson	Rita Ormsby	Fr. Daniel Petsche OSB	Russell & Charlene Rasmussen
Eldon Mitzner	Blaine Nelson	Sam Orr	David Pfizenmaier	Bruce & Denise Rathman
Nancy Mobley	Lee & Dorothy Nelson	Gerry Osborn	William F. Pflug	Earle Raun
Greg Moe	Greg E. Nelson	Jan Osten	Leroy Philippi	Robert Raun
Bob & Sandy Moellenbeck	Milford & Arlene Nelson	Jack & Mary Ostergard	Pastor Evey Phillips	Philip M. Raup
Dan Moellenbeck	Rex Nelson	Rodney Otley	Eldred & Mary Phillips	Robert & Agnes Raymond
Wayne Moerer	Robert & Frances Nelson	Ted Otte	Michael Phillips	Southwest NE RC&D
James & Cynthia Mohl	Mark Nelson	Teresa Otte	Cynthia Phinney	Five Rivers RC&D
Robert T. Mohler	Thomas Nelson &	Doris Ourecky	Bill & Pat Pickerel	Sherri Recker
Joland Mohr	Judith Redmond	Bob Overleese	Renee Picotte Lambrecht	J.D. Rector
Melvin H Mohrman	Donald P. Nelson	Daniel Owens	Ralph & Virginia Pieke	Veme L. Reding
Pastor Dan Monson	Richard Nerem	Walt Owens	Burdette Piening	Meredith Redlin
James Monson	Tom & Ruth Neuburger	Kathleen Owens	Richard & Jana Pierce	Brad Redlin
Scott D Montgomery	Paul Neukirch	Jim Owens	Robert Pike	Maureene Reed
Wendall Moody	New Mexico Farmers Market	Glenn Owens	Keevin Pinkelman	Joe & Emily Reestman
Frank Moore	Association	Nancy Packard	Carol & Frederick Pinkelman	Don T. & Barbara Reeves
Dorothy Moore	West Point News	Jerome Paczosa	Stanley & Violet Pinkelman	Raymond & Gladys Regier
Michael & Becky Mordhorst	Jean G. Nicholas	Joseph & Marianne Paffel	Edward & Jeanette Pinkelman	Richard & Gretchen Regnery
Lance Morgan	Helen M Nichols	David Palm	Cyril Pinkelman	Dick Reichmuth
Heidi Morlock & Hans Peterson	Gladys Nickel	Ronald Palmer	Bette Pintar	Gerald & Wanda Reicks
Rosalind Morris	Marvin Nickell	Philip Pandorf	R.K. Piper	Connie Reimers-Hild
Curt Morrow	Gregory Nielsen	David & Lori Pankonin	Dellis & Janice Pittack	Greg Reineke
Suzanne Morse	Russell Nielsen	Bob Panzer	William Plank	Greg Reiners
Mark & Carol Moseman	Lanny Nielsen	Randy Papenhausen	Paul & Carol Plate	Ruth Reinke
Mary Moser	David & Beth Nielsen	Darrel Parish	Tom Platt	Hartvig Reiten
Jeff Moser	Herbert Nielsen	Mary Alice & Loyal Park	David Podoll	Eldon D. Reiter

Stephen Reno	Phil Salomon	Terry & Mary Schrick	Richard & Diana Sloan	James Steffen
Charles Reppert	Darrell & Rhonda Saltzman	Ronald & Kathy Schroeder	Alan Sloup	Victor & Hilaria Steffen
Leander & Mary Jane Rerucha	Sid Salzman	Loren Schroeder	John & Bev Sluss	Lemoyne Steffens
Kentucky Resources Council	Galen Sampson	Michael & Diane Schroeder	Milton Smaus	Merlyn Steffensmeier
George T. Rethmeier	Duane Sand	Michael & Yolanda Schudel	Dan Smeal	David Steffensmeier
Phyllis Reynolds	Dave Sanders	Lyle Schuetz	Dotty Smedra	L. Joe Stehlik
Gene Rezac	Sandhill Farm	Bryan Schulte	Thomas Smith	Michael & Cindy Stehlik
Paul & Susan Rice	Nik Sandman	Lorretta Schulte	Steven Smith	Bob & Lyda Steiert
David Rich	Juan Sandoval	Dr. Mark & Susan Schulz	Norman L. Smith	Bill Stein
Howard C. Richards	Elizabeth Sarabia	Donral Schulz	Charles Smith	Frederick Steinbron
Victor Richardson	Sandi Sattler-Weber	Gus & Susan Schumacher	Tony Smith	George Steinsberger
Donald W. Richardson	Betty Sayers	Johanna Schumacher	Kevin Smith	Diana Stephen
David Richardson	Elaine Schabot	Allen Schutte	Eddie Smith	Gerry U. Stephens Jr
Floyd Richmond	Lowell Schachtsiek	Anthony Schutz	Robert & Margaret Smith	Betty Sterling
Roger M. Richter	Lloyd Schademann	John & Julie Schutz	Milford Smith	G.W. Steve Stevenson
Erin Riddle	Sam & Rosemary Schaecher	James Schwantes	Lola & John Smith	Sara Stevens-Stehl
Harlyn Riekema	John Schafersman	Roger & Crystal Schwartz	Morris & Phyllis Smith	Janet Stewart
Walter Ries	Bob Scharlau	Leon & Judy Schwartz	Greg & Jodi Smith	Louise Stewart
Andrew & Coletta Riniker	Jim & Kathy Scharplaz	Anne Schwartz	Gerald & Mary Smith	Roy Stewart
Randy Rink	Russell & Sandra Scharz	Sandra Scofield	James & Anne Smolik	Richard P. Stewart
Dale Ritchey	Neal Schatz	Michael J. Scully	Betty Snider	Lonnie Stieben
Jim Roberg	Philip H. Schatz	Robert Seagren	Elizabeth Snider	Emily Stiegelmeier
Don Roberts	Merlyn Schau	Joyce Sears	Eldon Snoke	Phil & Ann Stillman
Janet Roberts	Judy Schauer	Laroy Seaver	Ron Snyder	Jerald Stinson
Reverend Kyoki Roberts	Don Schaanaman	Brent & Brenda Sebade	Judy Snyder	Rosie Stockton
Patricia Robertson	Marvin Scheideler	David & Marilyn Sehi	Donald & Shirley Sock	Scott Stockwell
Rodney Robison	Mary Schelhopf	Jane Seidel	Linus & Irvin Solberg	Paul & Deanna Stoll
Bill Roe	Robert E. Schemmel	Mara & Sherri Seifer	Doug Sombke	Paul Stone
Beth Roelfs	Dr. Donald Schenk	Linda & Phil Seipel	Tim Sommers	Tanya & Eric Storer
Gil Rogers	John Schere	Alvin & Jeanette Semin	Kenneth Sonder	Lavern & Helen Stout
Patrick & Linda Rogers	Loren & Jeannie Schieffer	Community Services Fund	Ronald L. Sones	Steve Stover
Wanda Rogge	Sharon Schilling	Diane Seveland	Jane Sooby	Irvin & Goldie Stover
Henry & Frances Rohla	Gary & Judy Schindel	Eugene & Kathleen Severens	Jenifer Sorensen	Gary Straatmann
Donald & Doris Rohrer	Mark Schindler	Miner & Valetta Seymour	Wayne Sorenson	Orrin Strand
Jo Anne Rohricht	Richard Schlaeffli	Reverend Melvin Shafer	Mark Sortum	Paul Strandberg
Jerry Rohwer	Marilyn Schlake	Susan Shaner	Southwestern Mn Synod	Agnes T. Strange
Robert A. Rohwer	Stuart & LaVera Schlichtermeier	Ruth Shank	H L Speake	Marty Strange & Annette Higby
Bruce & Carol Rohwer	Susan Schlichting	Dwight Sheets	Robert & Leona Speck	Mark Strasburg
Lawrence Rojem	Don Schlichting	Elton Sheets	James & Carol Spence	Sandy Straus
Vincent Rolf	Dan & Marge Schlitt	James Shelley	Edward Spenner	Charlotte Strecker-Baseler
L.D. Roller	Kristin Schlueter	Mills Shellhammer & Assoc	Bob & Carol Spenner	William & Joan Street
Ervin Rolosson	Don & Sally Schmaderer	Jim Shelton	Paul J. Spenner	Carolann Streett
Bob & Karen Rooney	Doug Schmale	Marvin Shirley	Richard Spiegel	Ron Strohlic
Larry Roos	James Schmall	Charlotte Shivers	Cynthia Spiehs	Leonard & Kathy Strophe
Dorothy Rosemeier	Reverend Murray Schmechel	Mary Helen Shortridge	Rosie Spieker	Larry & Sharon Stroschein
John Rosener	Lester & Mary Schmerr	Stephanie Shrader	Kelly Spiering	Reinhold Struhs
Kyle Rosfeld	Mary Rose Schmid	Eve Ann Schwartz & Harmon Hoff	Tom Spiess	Alan Stubbendick
Penny Ross	Martin Schmidt	Dale & Lisa Siebrecht	Frank & Kimberly Spillers	Brian Stubbs
Diane Ross	Freda Schmidt	Richard & Susan Siefken	Daniel E. Spitsnogle	Wayne & Linda Stuehmer
Maryanne Rouse	J.L. Schmidt	Richard Siemers	Rev. Larry & Linda Spomer	Kenneth & Joan Stuhr
Deb Roush	Joe & Carol Schmieding	Susan Sievers	Dave & Mena Sprague	Merlin Stuhr
Robert Rover	Eugene Schmit	Raymond Sigwalt	Richard A. Sprague	Virginia A. Stuhr
Gerald Royal	Paul Schmit	Shawna Silvius	Don Spriek	Al Sturgeon
Geraldine Rueter	Lawrence Schmitt	Jim Simeon	Jerry Squires	Deon & Judy Stuthman
Karen Runkle	Herman J. Schmitz	Lance & Krista Simminger	Chris & Mary Sramek	Gary Suhr
Brian Rupp	Joe & Esther Schmitz	Wayne & Stephanie Simmons	John Stade	Donald Summers
Bob & Matilda Rupp	Harlan Schnakenberg	Loren Simons	Jordan Stahl	Ralph Surprenant Jr
Todd Russell	Mindi Schneider	Allen Sinclair	Bernadine Stake	Roger Susie
Michael Russelle	Bill Schobert	Norman Sindt	Jerome Stam	John N. Sutcliffe
James Ruster	Gina Schoch	Shari Sirkin	Sam Stancheck	Linda Sutton
Vincent Ryan	Scott Schock	Kenneth & Clara Siroky	Milo Stanislav	Tyler Sutton
Cindy Ryan	Phyllis Schoenholz	Lon & Janice Sitzmann	David Stansfield	Timothy Svatora
Pat & Adell Ryan	Richard Schoenrock	Bruce & Prudence Skinner	Kathie Starkweather	Ivan & Sherrill Svoboda
Arlo Ryckman	Geneva Schoenrock	Don & Ellie Skokan	Joel Starr	Alvin Svoboda
Donna & Merlyn Saathoff	Corinne Schoien	Cynthia Skrukud & Thomas Von Geldern	Karl & Hollis Stauber	Paul Swanson
Paul & Laurie Saathoff	Ben Schole	Anton & Charlene Skutchan	Dale Stauffer	Ron Swanson
Lee Saathoff	Jeff & Barb Scholting	George Slater	Jeanna Stavas	Harold Swanson
Anna Sahs	Dean Schoneweis	Weldon Sleight	Larry Stec	John Swanson
Don & Shirley Sailors	Louis J. Schott Jr	Gerald Slezak	Tyrone & Deidra Steen	Rev. Dr. Reuben & Darlene Swanson
Sonya Salamon	Margery Schott		Michael Steen	

Kathy Swanson	Virgil & Mary Tworek-Hofstetter	Janet Weber	Lynn R. Wightman	Dennis Woodin
Dennis Swanson	Homer & Lowene Uehling	Nick & Pat Weber	Larry Wilbeck	Charline Woodside
Eugene A Swanson	Kenneth & Dolorita Uhing	Msgr. John George Weber	Bill Wilcke	Lamonte Woollen
Sean Sweeney	Dwayne Umberger	James Webster	Gary Wilcox	Ron & Linda Wooten-Green
Edie Sweet	Gilbert Unger	Neil Wedeking	Rena Wilken	George Work
Dale & Wanda Swenson	University of Hawaii/Dept of	Martin Weeks	Everett & Joan Wilkens	Danette & Ron Wortmann
Steve Swerczek	Plant & Enviro	Thomas Wegehaupt	Jason & Julie Wilkinson	Thomas Wright
Scott Swisher	Max & Arlene Unsel	Steven Wehmer	James Wilkinson	Austin Wright
Dave Taladay	Upper Loup NRD	Frank Weidenfeller	Bruce Will	Harold M. Wright
Virginia Talley	Rev. Benjamin J Urmston SJ	Greg Weidner	Elvera Willcock	Jack O. Wright
Leo Tammi	Sam & Lori Utecht	Sarah Weinrich	Gary Willers	Larry & Janelle Wulf
Arthur & Marlene Tangen	Caroline Van Schaik	Henry & Marilyn Wellensiek	Scott Willet	Virginia & John Wunder
Yvonne Tasker-Rothenberg	Jan Van Schilfgaarde	Sally Weller	Roslyn Willett	Larue Wunderlich
Ralph Tate	Stan & Marilyn VanderWeide	Thomas A. Wellington III	Larry & Rebecca Williams	John M. Wylie II
Dan Taylor	Ann Vanhoff	Paul & Jayne Wells	Tad Williams	Richard Wynne
Alan Taylor	John Vasa	Garry Wells	Steve Williams	Barb Yendra
Andela Taylor	Leon Vaske	Earl & Frieda Wells	David L. Williams	Deb Yocum
Nancy Taylor	Demetrio Vazquez	Joyce Wells	Marlene Wilmes	Prof. Michael L Yoder
Vance Teegeerstrom	Rev Roger Verley	Marvin J. Welp	Henry F. Wilmes	Janie York
Dewey Teel	Harold Vestermark Jr	Clifford Welsh	Olive Wilson	Larry Young
Leroy & Judy Tejral	Donald Vetter	Carroll & Stan Welte	Deborah Wilson	Keith Young
Eastern Nebraska Telephone	Dave Vetter	David Welter	Paul Wilson	Gary G. Young
Company	Stephen Vetter	Terry & Spring Wendt	Kenny & Cindy Wilson	Garth Youngberg
Jonathan Teller-Elsberg	Larry Vice	Bonnie & John Wennekamp	Richard Wilson	Loren & Jane Yule
Joe & Kay Theer	Diane Vigna	Richard & Diana Wenz	J Graydon Wilson	Erwin & Margaret Zach
Francis Thicke	Don Villwock	Travis & Kimberly Wenzel	Clare & Janet Wiltse	Robert & Madonna Zach
Ted & Mona Thieman	Steve Virgil	Jack & Carol Werner	Joyce Wink	Robert & Edith Zahniser
Martha Thomas	Eve Vogel	Elden & Constance Wesely	Chad Winkelbauer	Bill Zales
David Thomas	Marilyn Vogele	Warren Weston	Mike Winslow	T.J. Zark
John Thomas	Ingolf Vogeler	Dave & Barbara Wetzel	Don & Danielle Wirth	Reverend Donald W. Zenk
Frank J. Thomeczek DVM	Norman & Gloria Vogle	Orval L. Weyers	Ronald Wobken	Harlan & Esther Zentner
Robert & Melissa Thompson	Oren & Joyce Vogt	Duane Wheeler	Bruce Woita	James & Eileen Zentner
Paul & Diane Thompson	Sheryl Vollertsen	Terry Whipple	Village of Wolbach	Gary Zicafoose
Reavis & Pat Thompson	Grace Vollmer	Barbara White	Steve Wolf	Carl Ziebarth
Brian Thompson	Clinton Von Seggern	Jim Whiting	Ron & Joyce Wolf	Dennis Ziems
Lyndon Thompson	Wilma VonSeggern	Dianne Wierberg	Jess Wolf	Mark Zimmerman
Gale & Cynthia Thomsen	Ron & Nancy Vos	Lyle & Carolyn Wichman	George Wolf	Richard Zimola
John & Kaye Thoren	Megan Voss	Michelle Widhalm	Chris Wolff	Steve Zimola
Russell P. Thress	Tom Votipka	Brian Wienhold	Bob Wollmann	Ben & Helen Zoss
Robert & Helen Thullner	Verlon & Elaine Vrana	Roger Wiese	Ray & Velma Wollschlager	Eugene & Deborah Zuhlke
Dennis & Deanna Tiedeman	Tom & Anne Vrbicky	Don & Darlene Wiese	Zane Wondercheck	Lana Zumbrunn
Laverne & Anna Tigges	Mary & Jack Wade	Michael Wiest	Otto & Rita Wockman	
Don Timm	Sonja Wagner			
Lloyd & Leona Timperley	Tom Wagner			
Dolores Tippet	Virgil Wagner			
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Tom Tomas	Donald & Kay Wall			
Anton Tometich Jr	Milan Wall			
Dennis & Monica Tomka	John P. Wall			
Linda Tomlinson	Scott & Janet Wallace			
Ruth Tonachel	Shirley Wallen			
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Kenneth Twait	Ken Weaver			
Curtis M. Twedt	Leonard & Margaret Weber			

Thank you for your support!

People at the Center for Rural Affairs often refer to donations from our supporters as “our most precious resources.” Not only do they provide us with encouragement and inspiration, they are a crucial part of what has made the Center an independent voice in rural America for the last 35 years.

Since the Center’s founding in 1973, we have used this newsletter as our most basic means of communicating with people who care about rural communities. The newsletter is free to everyone, but at least once a year we confirm that you still want to receive it and invite your continued support.

Next month kicks off this newsletter renewal campaign. If you have not yet renewed, please consider returning the envelope enclosed with this issue. Early renewals save precious resources. Next month we’ll also begin a periodic series exploring where we’ve been and what the future may hold. Thirty-five years at the forefront of rural issues gives us a rich perspective from which to draw.

This month, on behalf of the Center for Rural Affairs board and staff, we’d like to express our deepest appreciation to our supporters one and all. You are our most precious resource, without a doubt.

REAP Assisted Record Number of Rural Small Businesses in 2007

The Center's Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) works with startup and existing small businesses with five or fewer employees in Nebraska. REAP is the largest full-service microenterprise development program in the state and strives to serve all of the Nebraska's rural areas. REAP offers small business management training, networking, one-on-one technical assistance, and small loans to businesses.

The past year was an exceptional one for REAP in reaching rural entrepreneurs and placing micro loans. The services offered also continued to grow and expand through the Women's Business Center and the Hispanic Business Center.

Jose Lopez received assistance through the REAP Hispanic Business Center last year. He is a good example of the people we strive to help. Jose came to Nebraska from California 11 years ago looking for better working opportunities. In 2003 he opened Lopez Auto Sales, a used car dealer located on Highway 30 in North Bend, Nebraska.

Jose saw the opportunity to buy a building and relocate his business to the Schuyler area, so he contacted Hispanic Business Center Director *Adriana Dungan* for help with his business plan and packaging the loan. After several months, Jose was able to purchase the building including the business that was currently in operation, a liquor store. With a great

plan in mind and using his business skills acquired over 20 years of experience working in a family run small business in his native Guatemala, he went into his new business venture.

With an investment of over \$200,000 he's kept the liquor store up and running and has shown increased sales every month. The Auto Sales business will stay in North Bend with the plans to open up a new Auto Business in Schuyler. The assistance Jose received through the REAP Hispanic Business Center has been a difference maker!

From Oct. 1, 2006 to Sep. 30, 2007, REAP trained or counseled over 1,800 entrepreneurs. The program placed 56 loans totaling \$713,175 and leveraged an additional \$1,957,500 from other sources. REAP's lending and assistance helped to create or retain 366.0 jobs in this time period.

Since its beginning in 1990, the REAP program has provided business development services to over 10,000 micro businesses. Historically, REAP has placed 555 loans totaling \$3,964,255 while also leveraging an additional \$9,283,655 from other sources due to REAP assistance.

Questions or comments about REAP can be addressed to *Jeff Reynolds*, REAP Program Director at 402.656.3091 or jeffr@alltel.net. More information about REAP can be found at <http://www.cfra.org/reap>.

What It Takes for Successful Rural Community Development

The Center for Rural Affairs helped 11 small rural communities with their community development efforts last year and 39 since we began offering these services. Over the years, we have learned what it takes to help communities build their own capacity to survive the forces arrayed against them.

Cookie cutter approaches to community development are ineffective. All communities, rural or otherwise, are uniquely different and have uniquely different needs. Geography isn't an issue – some of the most diverse communities are less than 5 miles apart with much the same background.

All communities have unique gifts and talents. Traditional community development processes dwell on the needs of the community. Others have risen above to look to the future and develop the assets they possess. Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) takes what is rich and attractive in a community or region and develops a plan to make it even better.

Communities were created for a purpose, but it is often forgotten. The origins of the community define who they are and the identity they have been given. Important as it is to understand your community's purpose or origin, the reason for existence can change and so must the development of the community. For example, many railroad communities created dur-

ing the late 1880's no longer have a railroad running through the town. Does this mean that communities should cease to exist? No, it means these communities must rethink their existence and build upon the gifts that have been given.

You cannot force community development upon a community that does not want it. Development must occur from the inside out, and the desires of outside developers are not always welcome. Noted author E.F. Schumacher often compared outside intervention to someone coming to your house, barging through the doors, and cleaning the bedroom without permission. This act would be viewed as an unwelcome invasion of privacy. Why would communities allow outsiders to do the same thing in the towns we have settled in and call our homes?

Building the capacity of rural communities is the key to helping people help themselves. The Center for Rural Affairs works as a community development resource and will offer education and technical assistance in many facets of community development. However, it has always been the desire of the Center to make sure that all communities carry on that development through their own leadership and direction.

Contact *Michael Holton* for information on the Center's work in rural community development at michaellh@cfra.org.



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Beginning Farmer Information Gateway

The Center for Rural Affairs developed the first-ever national linking program for beginning and retiring farmers and ranchers. Land Link began in 1990 and since has been replicated in at least 20 states and in Japan, Australia, and Canada.

Although we no longer have a fulltime staff devoted to beginning farmers, their issues are woven throughout our policy, research, and agricultural efforts. Increasingly, people are turning to the Center for Rural Affairs as an information gateway.

In 2007, we had over 500 inquiries by phone or email and more than 6,000 visitors to our beginning farmer and rancher web pages. You can find more information at www.cfra.org/resources/beginning_farmer.

This newsletter is available both electronically and in print. To receive it online, sign up at the Center's website, www.cfra.org, or email us at info@cfra.org.

You may also correct your mailing address and fax this page to 402.687.2200, or call *Kim Kaup* at the Center for Rural Affairs, 402.687.2100.

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Beginning Farmers and Ranchers DC Fly-in

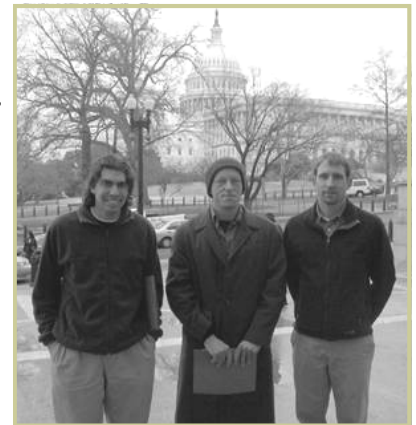
On Jan. 28 and 29, beginning farmers and ranchers from California, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Iowa, and Montana were in Washington DC to take part in a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Fly-in. The event was designed to influence members of the 2008 farm bill conference committee to support two important beginning farmer programs in the final farm bill.

These programs are the **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program** and the **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Account Program**. Not only should they be included, but they also must receive funding to be viable. "We are in the last stretch of the farm bill debate, and we think it is imperative that the final bill include these programs to assist a new generation of farmers and ranchers onto the land," said *Traci Bruckner* with the Center for Rural Affairs.

Jacob Cowgill, a beginning farmer from Big Sandy, Montana, dreams of making farming a full-time venture. "Our visits keyed in on securing funding for beginning farmer training, education, and mentoring efforts, as well as establishing the matched savings account program called the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Account," said Jacob. "Such a program would enable me to save money to invest in my farming operation."

The fly-in was sponsored by the Center for Rural Affairs, California Farmlink, the Land Stewardship Project, and the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. Farmers and ranchers participating in the fly-in included *Daniel Rosmann* from Harlan, Iowa; *John Leonard* from El Reno, Oklahoma; *Jacob Cowgill* from Big Sandy, Montana; *Brittany Whitmire* from North Carolina; and *David Silveira*, *Jesus Escobar*, and *Steve Schwartz* from California.

Contact *Traci Bruckner* for more information about beginning farmer issues in the farm bill at 402.687.2103 x1016 or tracib@cfra.org.



Pictured above, from left to right, are Daniel Rosmann from Harlan, Iowa; John Leonard from El Reno, Oklahoma; and Jacob Cowgill from Big Sandy, Montana.