

CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

2019 CALENDAR & ANNUAL REPORT



YEAR IN REVIEW



Executive Director Brian Depew speaks at Aspen Ideas Festival about the Center's strategies to create vibrant small towns.

Dear Friends,

I invite you to reflect on the stories represented here. I hope you feel proud when you do. It's your commitment to the Center for Rural Affairs that made this work possible.

You'll find that our work is creating opportunities for everyone in rural America, from beginning farmers, to new business owners, to first time advocates. Citizens are taking charge of their future.

We know that small business ownership is vital to our small towns. We lent our 19 millionth dollar to entrepreneurs like Yomara (August) and Britney and Cindy (November). Trainings you help support (May) provide small business owners the boost they need to be successful.

Farming is at its best when we put community, stewardship, and the next generation at the forefront. From sound conservation practices (March, September), to ensuring the next generation has the support they need (April, June), to backyard gardens (July), your support allows us to work with farmers of all walks of life.

Our work depends on fair policy written in state houses and Washington. We want to make sure your voice is heard, so we send people like Mariel (February) to talk with her representatives about issues affecting her and her family. Many of you engaged with your representatives for the first time this year.

To be sure, the challenges that face rural communities are real. We also know that if we are persistent, we can create a better future for our communities, ourselves, and future generations. That is the vision and the ethic that we commit ourselves to each and every day.

I am proud to stand with you as we continue this work.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian R. Depew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Brian Depew
Executive Director

P.S. Do you have ideas to spark change in our communities? I invite you to be in touch. Your ideas and your engagement will shape our work in the year ahead.

YOUR 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

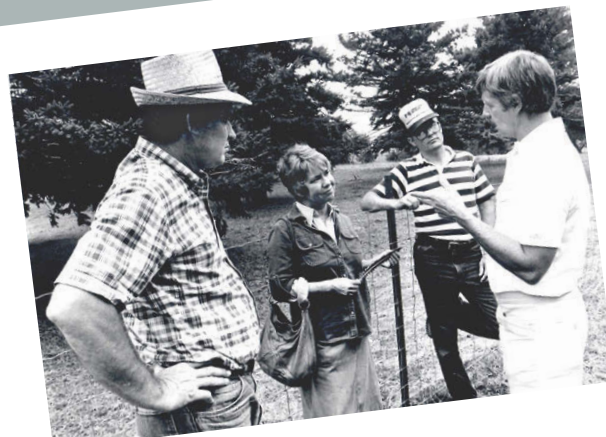
- » Helped more than 462 producers grow and maintain gardens, and connected 1,353 customers to 36 farmers market producers in an effort to rebuild food systems on two reservations.
- » Reached 19 million dollars in our small business lending program's history. Each loan written represents an entrepreneur working hard to create opportunity for their family and community.
- » Developed a platform, a campaign, and worked hard to influence the farm bill debate to strengthen conservation, beginning farmer, and rural development programs.
- » Looked at the needs of small businesses in Kansas and South Dakota. Small business owners and providers in South Dakota indicated finding quality employees as the top need, and marketing is a top concern in Kansas.
- » Held a conference for veteran farmers with 75 attendees from several states focusing on land access and financial resources. Three farm tours showcased sustainable farming practices.
- » Provided business counseling and training to 1,349 individuals, of which, 64 percent were female, 30 percent were Latino, and 90 percent were low to moderate income. We work where the need is greatest.
- » Surveyed more than 800 participants of the Conservation Stewardship Program in five different states, and published the findings. Information shared guides our advocacy efforts on conservation initiatives.
- » Approved 22 loans, totaling \$429,845 through the New American Loan Fund. We provide Latino entrepreneurs access to the credit they need to succeed.
- » Led regional efforts across the Midwest to develop clean energy infrastructure in ways that address concerns and provide benefits to rural people, their communities, and local economies.
- » Established a community garden in Grand Island and provided instruction on harvesting and cooking. This project brings fresh food to some of the community's most disadvantaged.
- » Amplified your voice in policy debates locally, regionally, and in Washington, D.C. Some of you joined us as we met with more than 75 policymakers to win public policy that addresses the important issues facing rural America. Thank you!
- » Organized groups in four towns to create more welcoming and inclusive communities, and delivered community workshops and learning opportunities, including 10 nonconscious bias trainings, and 30 other community trainings.
- » Joined a months-long signature collection campaign to get Medicaid Expansion on Nebraska's fall election ballot. Helped collect nearly 105,000 valid signatures with at least 5 percent of registered voters in 47 of Nebraska's 93 counties signing the petition.
- » Studied and reported on the actions of federal lawmakers as they addressed health care, agriculture policy, and other issues affecting rural America. Kept you updated and informed on when to take action.



45 Years – Thanks to You

The Center for Rural Affairs was founded in 1973 by rural Nebraskans concerned about economic opportunity and rural communities. With your support, we've completed 45 years of innovative, insightful, and effective work for rural America, and will continue to do so.

OUR WORK IS
SUPPORTED BY A
BUDGET OF MORE THAN
\$5 MILLION, STANDING UP
FOR YOUR RURAL WAY
OF LIFE. **THANK YOU.**



JANUARY 2019

DECEMBER 2018								FEBRUARY							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1								1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		24	25	26	27	28			
30	31														

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 We celebrated our 45th birthday on Sept. 5, 2018. Learn more about our history at cfra.org/history.		1	2	3	4	5
		New Year's Day			Nat'l Trivia Day – Try tweeting a rural fact to @cfra!	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				Nat'l Cut Your Energy Costs Day		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day			Nat'l Compliment Day – Say something nice about rural America!		Nat'l Seed Swap Day – Exchange with your friends!
27	28	29	30	31		
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Your Voice

We work to make sure your voice is heard on the issues that matter. Farmer Mariel Barreras, pictured, knows that speaking up on state and national policy has a direct impact on how we live our daily lives.



JOIN OUR SUPPORTERS WHO SIGN ON TO LETTERS, SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, AND VISIT LAWMAKERS. CONTACT US WHEN YOU SEE AN ISSUE YOU CARE ABOUT.

FEBRUARY 2019

JANUARY							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

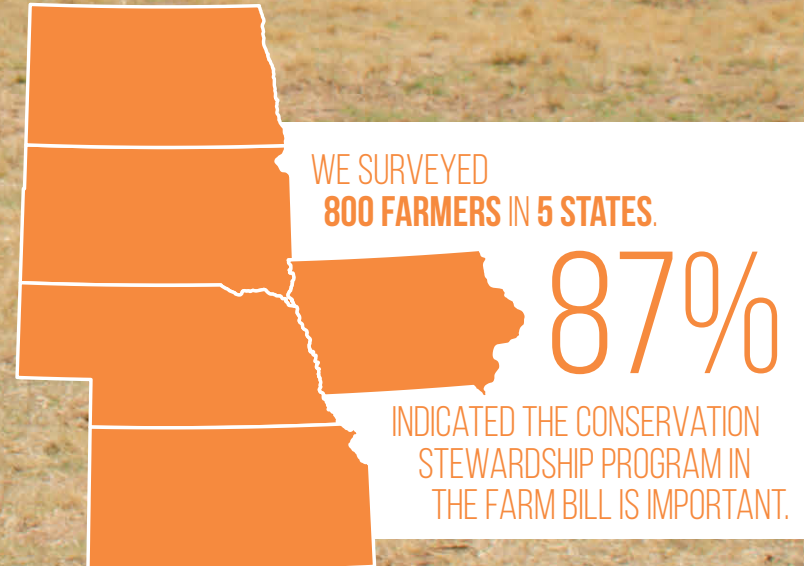
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Find your elected officials using your zip code at cfra.org/findyourlawmakers.			1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Nat'l Send a Card to a Friend Day - Send rural greetings!		Groundhog Day
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day		Nat'l FFA Week (Feb. 16-23)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Nat'l Random Acts of Kindness Day - What will you do?	Presidents' Day and Washington's Birthday					
24	25	26	27	28		

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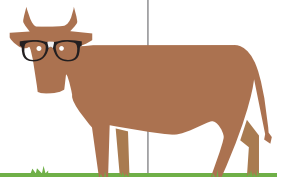
Taking Care of Resources

We are called on to be good stewards of the land. We work with farmers, like Gene Albers, pictured, to protect the places we call home, the resources we depend on, and the way of life we cherish.



MARCH 2019

FEBRUARY							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28			28	29	30				

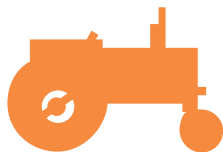
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	We worked alongside you on a 2018 farm bill that supports good farming and vibrant rural communities. For farm bill info, visit cfra.org/farm-bill.				1	2
3	4	5	●	6	7	8
					Nat'l Pig Day	9
10	11	12	13	●	14	15
Daylight Saving Time Begins					Int'l Women's Day	16
17	18	19	●	20	21	22
St. Patrick's Day		Nat'l Poultry Day & Nat'l Ag Day	First Day of Spring	23	24	25
24	25	26	●	27	28	29
		Nat'l Spinach Day			Nat'l Mom and Pop Business Owners Day	30
31						
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Learning Circles

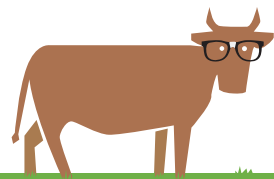
You are the expert. Our learning circles empower Latino, veteran, and women beginning farmers to speak about their own experiences and goals. This builds knowledge, confidence, and community.



WE HOSTED **22 WOMEN'S LEARNING CIRCLES** WITH 90+ ATTENDEES,
24 LATINO LEARNING CIRCLES WITH 161 PARTICIPANTS,
AND **2 BEEKEEPING LEARNING CIRCLES** WITH 36 ATTENDEES.



APRIL 2019



Resources for new and beginning farmers can be found at cfra.org/beginning-farmer-rancher.

MARCH							MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	
31													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 April Fools' Day	2	3	4 ●	5	6
7 World Health Day and Nat'l Library Week (April 7 - 13) - Visit your rural library!	8	9	10 Nat'l Farm Animals Day	11 ●	12	13
14	15	16	17 Nat'l Haiku Poetry Day - Can you write one about rural living?	18 ●	19 Nat'l Garlic Day	20
21 Easter Sunday	22 Earth Day	23	24 Administrative Professionals Day	25 ●	26 Arbor Day	27
28	29	30				

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Women Entrepreneurs

Thanks to your support, we offer group trainings and one-on-one assistance to small business owners, in both English and Spanish. We focus on underserved entrepreneurs. Events, such as the Marketing Strategies Workshop, pictured, are designed to give small business owners the opportunity to sharpen skills or learn new ones.



THROUGH OUR WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER,
WE PROVIDED **115 TRAINING SESSIONS**
WITH **1,349 PARTICIPANTS**.

**33 OF THESE TRAININGS
WERE OFFERED IN SPANISH.**

MAY 2019

APRIL							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6								1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Holy cow! Our lending program exceeded \$19 million in small business loans in 28 years. Your donations make work supporting rural businesses and communities possible. Donate at cfra.org/give.			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	May Day	9	10	11
Cinco de Mayo and Nat'l Small Business Week (May 5 - 11) #DreamSmallBiz			8			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day						Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Memorial Day						
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Veteran Farmers

In the last 10 years, almost one million of our military's servicemen and servicewomen have come from rural communities. These veterans carry on the proud tradition of family farms. Pictured, attendees at our second annual Answering the Call: Veteran Farm Conference learn about local food and farming from fellow veterans.



OUR SECOND ANNUAL
VETERAN FARMER CONFERENCE HAD
75 ATTENDEES,
WITH A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE
AND THREE FARM TOURS.

JUNE 2019

MAY							JULY							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4			1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
26	27	28	29	30	31		28	29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	●	3	4	5	6	7
9	●	10	11	12	13	14
				Nat'l Weed Your Garden Day	Flag Day	Global Wind Day
16	●	17	18	19	20	21
Father's Day					First Day of Summer	
23	24	●	25	26	27	28
30						
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EDUCATION, SUPPORT,
AND FUNDING SPROUTED

462 GARDENS

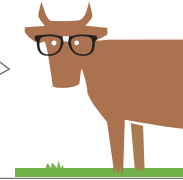
ON TWO RESERVATIONS.

Homegrown Foods

Members of the Omaha and Santee Sioux Tribes are working to grow their own food, and, alongside the Center, are bringing fresh foods and healthy eating back to their communities. We provide training and assistance on growing, harvesting, preserving, and cooking fresh food from gardens.

JULY 2019

We conducted an in-depth look at the food system in Santee Sioux Nation. Check out our report at cfra.org/DiggingInSantee.



JUNE							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ●	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8 ●	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 ●	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 ●	24	25	26	27
Nat'l Independent Retailers Week (July 21 – 27)						Nat'l Day of the Cowboy
28	29	30 ●	31			
Parents' Day						

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FROM 2007 TO 2012,
**THE NUMBER OF LATINO FIRMS
IN NEBRASKA NEARLY DOUBLED**
(97.5 PERCENT),
FROM 3,063 TO 6,048.

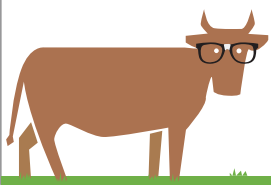


Rise in Latino Businesses

As demographics in rural America shift, we are dedicated to ensuring new immigrants can become full participants in their communities. Latino small business owners, like Yomara Hernandez, pictured, have economic opportunity, higher incomes, asset growth, and improved skills.

AUGUST 2019

JULY							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 4 Nat'l Farmers Market Week (Aug. 4 – 10)	5 We offer bilingual services to entrepreneurs in Nebraska through our Latino Business Center. Visit cfra.org/reap/lbc for more.	6 ●	7 ●	1 8 Nat'l Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day	2 9 Nat'l Book Lovers Day	3 Nat'l Watermelon Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Women's Equality Day	CENTER <i>for</i> RURAL AFFAIRS					CFRA.ORG

Water Quality and Conservation

Water is a necessity for life and all living things. We work with farmers, like brothers Bill and Don Swanson, pictured, to promote sustainable practices. Conservation increases nutrition retention and decreases runoff.



WE SURVEYED FARMERS
IN IOWA, AND **68%** SAID THEY
**HAVE IMPLEMENTED A NEW
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRACTICE**
WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS,
AND **15%** SAID THEY PLAN TO.

SEPTEMBER 2019

AUGUST							OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5 The Center founded this day in 1973	6	7 Nat'l Acorn Squash Day
8 Grandparents' Day	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13 Stand Up to Cancer Day	14
15 Nat'l Farm Safety & Health Week (Sept. 15 – 21)	16	17	18	19 Talk like a Pirate Day – Celebrate RRRural Amerrrica!	20	21
22	23 First Day of Autumn	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Water quality is a contentious issue across the country. Follow our efforts at cfra.org/water.



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Food in Schools

Locally-sourced food is landing on school lunch trays across the country. Pictured, Wayne Community Schools participates in a statewide initiative to serve a locally-sourced menu once a month. We help develop resources and provide assistance to schools, communities, and farm and food businesses.



DURING THE LAST SCHOOL YEAR,
WE WORKED WITH 5 PILOT SCHOOLS
TO BRING LOCAL FOODS TO THEIR CAFETERIAS,
IMPACTING 42,000 STUDENTS.



OCTOBER 2019

SEPTEMBER							NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Help us celebrate National Farm to School Month throughout October. Visit cfra.org/farm-school to find out how.		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Indigenous Peoples' Day		Boss's Day		47th Anniversary of Clean Water Act	Nat'l Farmer's Day #ThankAFarmer
20		21	22	23	24	25
						Nat'l Pumpkin Day
	27	28	29	30	31	
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				Halloween		

Small Business Success

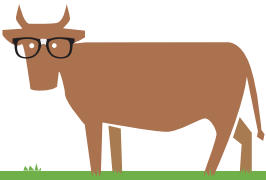
Access to credit is fundamental for rural communities. We offer loans to small business owners, like Cindy Chatt and Britney Hansen, so you can take control of your future, and the future of your towns. We are committed to strengthening rural communities through small business development.



LAST YEAR,
WE PROVIDED
126 LOANS
TOTALING
\$2.4 MILLION.

NOVEMBER 2019

OCTOBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
		Need business training? Wondering about financing options? Visit cfra.org/reap .				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Daylight Saving Time Ends		Election Day				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Veterans Day				Philanthropy Day	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
CENTER <i>for</i> RURAL AFFAIRS				CFRA.ORG		
				Thanksgiving Day		Small Business Saturday - What's your favorite rural business? #ShopSmall



WE DELIVERED
40 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAININGS,
INCLUDING 10 FOCUSING ON CREATING
WELCOMING COMMUNITIES FOR ALL.

Inclusion for All

As demographics shift, we are working with both the receiving community and the new immigrant community to create more welcoming and inclusive towns. In Norfolk, pictured, we embrace the change because we know that diversity makes us stronger and more resilient.



DECEMBER 2019

NOVEMBER							JANUARY 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2			1	2	3	4	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
		#GivingTuesday – Will you donate to our rural work today? Visit cfra.org/give				Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8	9	10 	11	12	13	14
		Human Rights Day				
15	16	17 	18	19	20	21
						First Day of Winter
22	23	24 	25	26	27	28
		Christmas Eve	Christmas			
29	30	31				
		New Year's Eve				

We work with community leaders on inclusion and community development. Check out cfra.org/inclusion for more.



CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

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OUR DEDICATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Every March, we honor our annual awardees with a dinner. Gathered together with board members, staff, friends, and family, plaques are presented, and we reflect on the previous year's accomplishments.

Our board of directors is made up of farmers, ranchers, small town business owners, local leaders, and a small number of urban members with a strong interest in rural improvement. We meet quarterly, with an annual awards dinner each March, pictured. Members include:

Melissa Florell, President
Leverne Barrett, Vice President
Jay Hall, Secretary
Chuck Karpf, Treasurer
Becky Gould, Executive Committee
Karen Tikalsky, Executive Committee
Joe Blankenau
Dennis Demmel
Krista Dittman
Greg Fripp
Jim Knopik
Keith Mahaney
Paul Olson
Paul Swanson
Santiago Vasquez
Clark Nichols, Director Emeritus
Don Reeves, Director Emeritus
Bob Warrick, Director Emeritus

This calendar illustrates the impact you helped achieve during the last year. We appreciate your commitment to creating vibrant family farms and ranches, small businesses, and communities. Thank you from the staff and board of the Center for Rural Affairs.



CENTER *for*
RURAL AFFAIRS

145 MAIN STREET, PO BOX 236 | LYONS, NE 68038 | 402.687.2100

For our latest financial and donor information, please visit cfra.org.
The Center for Rural Affairs is an equal opportunity employer and provider.