

CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

2020 CALENDAR & ANNUAL REPORT



YEAR IN REVIEW



Dear Friends,

We accomplished so much together this year. Your actions, advice, and donations made a difference.

You connected people to the farmers who grow their food. You helped aspiring business owners find success. You moved the needle on policy that puts people ahead of corporate interests.

As I reflect on the year, I appreciate the fierce urgency to challenge false narratives about rural America that too often dominate the economic and political landscape.

I believe there is a place in rural America for women who dream of starting a small business, for enterprising community-based agriculture, for Native sovereignty, and for all hard-working people who call our communities home.

The proof is the successes you made possible.

Your support reached Somali refugees seeking entrepreneurial opportunity. Your advocacy saved a federal program that funds loans and education for small businesses. Your voices rang out in Washington and in statehouses.

Your actions and your values lay the foundation for a better rural future. With you by our side, we'll continue fighting for the future we know is possible.

With gratitude,

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

Brian Depew
Executive Director

P.S. What ideas are inspiring you? I invite you to be in touch as we shape our work for the year ahead.

YOUR 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- » Nurtured food systems on two Native American Reservations by mentoring people who grew 385 gardens. Offered activities to foster cultural traditions, improve diets, better health, and support families growing fruits and vegetables.
- » Grew small business lending by \$2.5 million for a total of \$21.6 million lent in the history of the Center. Entrepreneurs put those dollars to work supporting families and opportunity in their rural communities.
- » Connected farmers and communities with emergency resources to deal with flooding and other natural disasters.
- » Worked with lawmakers and coalition partners to strengthen important farm bill measures and retain the Conservation Stewardship Program, which helps farmers and ranchers with conservation practices on working land.
- » Examined rural nursing homes and advocated for rural broadband at state and federal levels to ensure your voice is heard and rural America's needs are met.
- » Piloted an inclusive foods program and community garden in Nebraska City to assist gardeners with production, harvest, processing, cooking, and preservation. Projects like this bring fresh food to disadvantaged residents.
- » Counseled 852 people on best business practices. These hard-working entrepreneurs were 53 percent women and 39 percent Latino.
- » Put a megaphone to important rural issues. Standing beside supporters like you, we met with more than 75 policymakers at nearly all levels of government, from rural electric boards to the halls of Congress.
- » Supported creation of the Nebraska Food Council and engaged state legislators on local food production issues by encouraging rural Nebraskans to testify on bills, write letters to newspapers, and hand-deliver locally produced foods to senators.
- » Gave a hand up to Latino entrepreneurs who needed loan capital to start or expand their businesses. We approved 63 loans to Latinos worth more than \$1 million.
- » Led development of clean energy policy, including assisting with county-level siting ordinances in Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska that will benefit rural people, their communities, and local economies.
- » Supported families and the community of O'Neill, Nebraska, following an immigration raid, including coordinating more than 50 organizations and 100 volunteers. Based on that experience, we created a tool kit for communities.
- » Held learning circles to encourage peer discussion on topics like landowners negotiating with tenants, beekeepers writing agreements with landowners, new farmers finding affordable land, immigrant farmers accessing federal programs, and family farmers practicing land conservation.
- » Kept you abreast of the legislative issues that impact rural America and mobilized a network of rural advocates on important issues ranging from health care to water quality to agriculture policy.



Supporting Small Business

Thanks to your generosity, the Center for Rural Affairs helped thousands of rural entrepreneurs like Valorie and Terry Zach, pictured here, by championing economic development strategies that work for small businesses.



WITH YOUR HELP, THE CENTER CONCEIVED, WON AND PROTECTED THE RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, WHICH HAS INVESTED **\$100 MILLION** IN RURAL SMALL BUSINESSES IN **45 STATES**.

Check out more studies on small businesses at cfra.org/publications.

DECEMBER 2019							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Check out more studies on small businesses at cfra.org/publications.			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Nat'l Trivia Day—Try tweeting a rural fact to @cfra!
5	6	7	8	9	10 Nat'l Cut Your Energy Costs Day	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23	24 Nat'l Compliment Day—Say something nice about rural America!	25 Nat'l Seed Swap Day—Exchange with your friends!
26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Land and Legacy

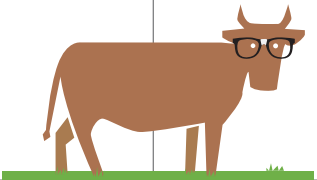
We connect women landowners and beginning farmers to resources through conversations and learning circles. With your support, Marilee Polacek, pictured, gained confidence and knowledge to make conservation changes, ensuring her land will be sustainable for her children and future generations.



LAST YEAR, WE
LED **8** FARM TOURS,
PRESENTED **10** PERFORMANCES
OF A LAND TRANSITION PLAY,
AND HOSTED **23**
LEARNING CIRCLES.

FEBRUARY 2020

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 Find resources for women landowners, including examples of lease agreements and case studies, at cfra.org/WomenNonOperatorLandowners.					 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Groundhog Day 	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day	 15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Presidents' Day and Nat'l Random Acts of Kindness Day—What will you do?					Washington's Birthday and Nat'l FFA Week (22 - 29)
 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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Small Business Trainings

Your support helps provide group business training and one-on-one assistance in English and Spanish. Events, such as Coffee Tables, pictured, allow small business owners to network, sharpen skills, or learn new ones. This year, we offered our first session in Somali.



OUR WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROVIDED
86 TRAININGS LAST YEAR
WITH **1,385 PARTICIPANTS**.
WE PRESENTED 38 OF THOSE IN SPANISH.

MARCH 2020



Can't make it to an event? We have small business resources on our website at cfra.org/small-business.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Nat'l Pig Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Int'l Women's Day and Daylight Saving Time Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 St. Patrick's Day	25	26 Nat'l Poultry Day and First Day of Spring	27	28
29	30	31 Nat'l Ag Day		Nat'l Spinach Day		
Nat'l Mom and Pop Business Owners Day						

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Your Voice

Our voices are stronger when we speak together. With you at our side, our staff, including Jordan Rasmussen pictured, advocates on state and national policies that directly impact our daily lives.



JOIN OUR SUPPORTERS WHO SIGN LETTERS,
WRITE TO NEWSPAPERS, AND VISIT LAWMAKERS.
CONTACT US WHEN YOU SEE AN ISSUE YOU CARE ABOUT.

APRIL 2020

MARCH							MAY							
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	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
							31							

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

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Exploring Beekeeping

Eighty-five percent of the world's flowering plants, including two-thirds of crop species, rely on pollinators. To create new advocates for bees, the Center launched a beekeeper training program that provides resources for both new and experienced beekeepers.

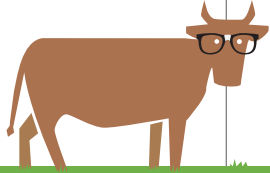


THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT,
WE HOSTED **5** EXPLORE
BEEKEEPING WORKSHOPS
IN 2018 WITH **69 PARTICIPANTS**;
3 WERE IN BOTH SPANISH
AND ENGLISH.



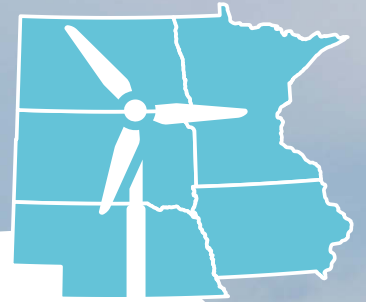
MAY 2020

APRIL							JUNE						
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	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			28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 3	Your donations make new work, such as exploratory beekeeping classes, possible. Donate at cfra.org/give . 4	5	6	7	1 May Day	2
Nat'l Small Business Week (3-9) #DreamSmallBiz 10	11	Cinco de Mayo 12	13	14	8	9
Mother's Day 17	18	19	20	21	15	16
24	25	26	27	28	22	23
Memorial Day 31					29	30
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Clean Energy

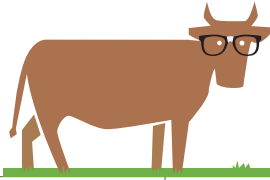
Renewable energy production spread across the U.S. in the past decade and transmission infrastructure followed. We took an in-depth look at the impact on rural areas and published papers on transmission needs and debt from coal power plants carried by electric cooperatives.



WE RELEASED
**14 CLEAN ENERGY
FACT SHEETS LAST YEAR,**
5 WERE FOCUSED ON WIND
TAX REVENUE IN IA, SD,
MN, NE, AND ND.



JUNE 2020



With your support, the Center leads the discussion on clean energy and transmission development in the Midwest. Learn more at cfra.org/clean-energy.

MAY							JULY						
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	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day	Global Wind Day					Nat'l Weed Your Garden Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day						First Day of Summer
28	29	30				
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Stewarding the Land

We work with family farmers and supporters like you who care about the structure of agriculture. Together, we advocate for local and national farm policy that keeps families on the land, protects our soil, and ensures clean water for future generations.



"HAVING A LAND ETHIC IS VERY IMPORTANT. MORE AND MORE FARMERS ARE LEARNING THAT WHAT THEY DO TO GROW CROPS AND LIVESTOCK AFFECTS SOIL LIFE, GROUND AND SURFACE WATER, AIR QUALITY AND TOTAL LAND HEALTH."

-Ben Schole, pictured



JULY 2020

JUNE							AUGUST						
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	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 5	We worked alongside you to advocate for a 2018 farm bill that supports sustainable farming and vibrant rural communities. For farm bill info, visit cfra.org/farm-bill. 6	7	1	2	3	4 Independence Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	 Nat'l Day of the Cowboy
CENTER <i>for</i> RURAL AFFAIRS						CFRA.ORG
Parents' Day						



THIS YEAR, WE HOSTED
OUR FIRST-EVER LATINA WOMEN
IN BUSINESS CONFERENCE,
A DAY-LONG EVENT ENTIRELY
IN SPANISH, WITH
60 PARTICIPANTS.

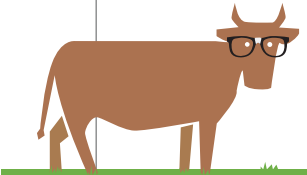


Latino Business is Booming

Rural America hosts a growing number of small businesses, many owned by Latino entrepreneurs. Thanks to your support, we offer these small business owners financial assistance, training, and coaching.

AUGUST 2020

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 We offer bilingual services to entrepreneurs in Nebraska. Visit cfra.org/small-business.					1
2		3	4	5	6	8
Nat'l Farmers Market Week (2-8)	Nat'l Watermelon Day					Nat'l Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day
9	10		11	12	13	15
Nat'l Book Lovers Day						
16	17		18	19	20	22
23	24		25	26	27	29
			Women's Equality Day			
30	31					

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Back to Traditions

The Center partners with Omaha and Santee Sioux members to sustain tribal traditions, grow fresh foods, and encourage healthy eating. Your support provides assistance on growing, harvesting, preserving, and cooking fresh food from gardens.



10 LOCAL MARKET GARDENERS SERVED MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE AT THE OMAHA NATION ANNUAL HARVEST CELEBRATION. IN THE SANTEE SIOUX NATION, WE PRESENTED 15 FRESH FOOD DEMONSTRATIONS.

SEPTEMBER 2020

AUGUST							OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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	31												

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Read our in-depth report on the food system in Omaha Nation at cfra.org/publications/DiggingInOmaha.		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Labor Day and Nat'l Acorn Squash Day				Patriot Day and Stand Up to Cancer Day	Center for Rural Affairs founded on this day in 1973
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Grandparents' Day						Talk like a Pirate Day—Celebrate RRRural Amerrrica!
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Nat'l Farm Safety & Health Week (20 - 26)		First Day of Autumn				
27	28	29	30			
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Resiliency in Agriculture

Climate change will significantly impact rural America. We support common-sense actions and work with farmers, like Mark Tjelmeland, pictured, to mitigate climate change.



WE ASKED, AND YOU ANSWERED.

120 OF YOU FILLED OUT OUR SURVEY ON THE UNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN LEVEL OF RURAL IOWANS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE. **THANK YOU!**

OCTOBER 2020

SEPTEMBER							NOVEMBER						
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				29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Join us as we build a base of climate and clean energy voters for the 2020 election. Visit cfra.org/climate.				● 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	● 9	10
11	12	13	14	15	● 16	17
18	19	20	21	22	● 23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	● 31
CENTER <i>for</i> RURAL AFFAIRS CFRA.ORG Nat'l Pumpkin Day Halloween						

48th Anniversary of
Clean Water Act

Indigenous Peoples' Day
and Nat'l Farmer's Day
#ThankAFarmer

Boss's Day

Access to Credit

Small businesses need access to capital to keep America's rural economy running. Thanks to your support, the Center offers loans to entrepreneurs, like Himelda Lomeli and Fernando Perez, pictured here, so they can take control of their future, create jobs, and support their communities.



LAST YEAR,
WE PROVIDED
113 LOANS TOTALING
\$2.5 MILLION.

OCTOBER							DECEMBER							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5
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			

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Thriving Rural Communities

With you as our partner, we support diverse communities, local food, and business development. The inaugural Food + Art Conference, pictured, focused on the tools that community leaders and small food and arts-based businesses need to succeed.



THIS YEAR, WE HOSTED OUR FIRST-EVER
FOOD + ART CONFERENCE WITH
57 PARTICIPANTS FROM
16 RURAL COMMUNITIES.

DECEMBER 2020

NOVEMBER							JANUARY 2021						
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
							31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
 Learn more about community development and food systems at cfra.org/small-towns.		Giving Tuesday				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day			Human Rights Day		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	First Day of Winter			Christmas Eve	Christmas	
27	28	29	30	31		
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			New Year's Eve			

Our Dedicated Board of Directors

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 to drive the Center for Rural Affairs mission and values forward.



MEMBERS
INCLUDE:

Krista Dittman, President
Dennis Demmel, Vice President
Jay Hall, Secretary
Chuck Karpf, Treasurer
Leverne Barrett, Executive Committee
Melissa Florell, Executive Committee
Amanda McKinney
Greg Fripp

Karen Tikalsky
Keith Mahaney
Ross Larson
Jim Knopik
Paul Swanson
Bob Warrick, Director Emeritus
Clark Nichols, Director Emeritus
Don Reeves, 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

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