

CENTER *for* RURAL AFFAIRS

2018 CALENDAR & ANNUAL REPORT





YEAR IN REVIEW



Executive Director Brian Depew visits Brink Memorial Park, in Lyons, Nebraska. The Center's home office is in this small town of 850 people. Brian and the rest of Center staff are rooted in rural America, living the challenges and values of small towns and this rural way of life.

Dear Friends,

This calendar illustrates some of your most uplifting successes from the last year.

Your support and your actions in each of your own communities make up the Center for Rural Affairs. Together, our reach stretches from small towns and farm fields all the way to the halls of Congress.

In small towns, we're working with aspiring business owners to provide training, coaching, and access to capital. Each small business owner we work with, like Rachel (September) and Ana (May), reflect a dream and an opportunity.

In farm fields, we're working alongside women (March), new immigrants (April), veterans (June), and tribal members (July). Together, we are answering the call to create healthy food systems while being good stewards of the land. Our shared values are strengthened by their determination and innovation.

In Washington, we're working to amplify your voice as Congress drafts a new farm bill (August). Victories you helped win in the past are up for renewal, and a new farm bill represents our best opportunity to defend past gains and make progress on new policy ideas.

Your actions and your values are the common thread binding our work together. This is true in both good times and challenging times. With you, the Center for Rural Affairs will continue to stand like a rock to represent the best of rural America. I am proud of the work we accomplish together.

With gratitude and admiration,

Brian Depew
Executive Director

P.S. I invite you to get in touch with your ideas and your insights. A vibrant future requires that we are all engaged. Thank you for sharing your dreams and your ideas.

YOUR 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Helped more than 220 families grow and maintain gardens, advised 43 local gardeners on market vending practices, and connected more than 1,000 customers to local marketers in an effort to rebuild food systems on two reservations.
- Lent our \$16 millionth dollar in our small business lending program. Each loan written represents an entrepreneur working hard to create opportunity for their family and community.
- Discussed Nebraska state tax policy with members of five communities. We hear your need for property tax relief and desire to ensure adequate funding for public schools and local services. We advocate for a solution that does both.
- Enhanced the vibrancy of 12 rural communities through the Good Living Tour, a 10-stop concert series featuring local talent, and through the development of community-driven art installations in three communities forming the Byway of Art.
- Developed a campaign to influence the farm bill debate and strengthen conservation, beginning farmer, and rural development programs.
- Reported on strategies to increase Whole Farm Revenue Program participation. This relatively new insurance program provides revenue protection for previously underserved diversified farming operations.
- Joined task forces on rural broadband infrastructure and rural aging to ensure your voice is heard and rural America's needs are met.
- Released a study on Conservation Reserve Program – Transitional Incentives Program usage in Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska. The program provides a pathway to access land for beginning, socially-disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers.
- Organized groups in two towns to create more welcoming and inclusive communities, and delivered community workshops and learning opportunities, including two non-conscious bias trainings.
- Encouraged dialogue about immigration in rural communities by hosting “Vang,” a play based on true stories of three immigrant farm families.
- Studied and reported on the actions of federal lawmakers as they addressed health care, agriculture policy, and other issues affecting rural America. We keep you updated and informed on when to take action.
- Provided business counseling and training to 1,632 individuals, of which, 69 percent were women, 49 percent were Latino, and more than 55 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. Information shared guides our legislative and advocacy efforts on conservation initiatives.
- Approved 48 loans, totaling \$683,910 through the New American Loan Fund. We provide Latino entrepreneurs access to the credit they need to succeed.
- Amplified your voice in policy debates locally, regionally, and in Washington D.C. Some of you joined us as we met with more than 30 policymakers to win public policy that addresses the important issues facing rural America. Thank you!
- 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.
- Started a Rural Food Business Growth helpline, coordinated two commercial kitchen and processing tours, and developed a nationally-distributed food business guide.
- Hosted educational sessions for 30 Latino beginning farmers. Assisted in the development of three USDA loan applications, and sparked growing interest in our services among the Latino farming community.
- Assisted 186 beginning farmers, ranchers, and landowners with farm startup, transition, financing, land access, and local resources.



CENTER DONORS, LIKE YOU, LIVE IN **ALL 50 STATES.**

LAST YEAR, YOU MADE CASH GIFTS OR ESTATE GIFT PLEDGES TOTALING

→ **\$1.14 MILLION**



A Lifetime of Support

Chuck and Barb Francis received our 2017 Seventh Generation Award, a lifetime service award to those who make major contributions to improving rural life and protecting our land and water. Chuck and Barb are excellent examples of grassroots supporters, like you, who make our work possible. Thank you!

JANUARY 2018

Center donors and supporters fuel our work with donations, take action in your communities, and reach out to policymakers. #ThankYou #YouRock



DECEMBER 2017
S M T W T F S
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3 4 5 6 7 8 9
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17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

FEBRUARY
S M T W T F S
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

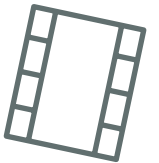
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	● 1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Nat'l Trivia Day - Try tweeting a rural fact to @cfra	5	6
7	● 8	9	10 Nat'l Cut Your Energy Costs Day	11	12	13
14	15 ●	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	23	24 ●	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 ●			Nat'l Seed Swap Day - Exchange with your friends
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Community Arts and Culture

Citizens from three rural communities brought forth local history and ideas to inspire the creation of three permanent art installations, one in each of their towns, for our Byway of Art project. Pictured is local author, Mary Connealy, at Decatur's Rural Legends Trolley.



OTHER PROJECTS ALONG THE BYWAY OF ART
ARE **LYCKA TILL** IN OAKLAND AND **STOREFRONT THEATER** IN LYONS.



FEBRUARY 2018

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>This month, show your love for the arts in rural America by posting on social media using #LoveRuralAm. We can't wait to hear from you!</p>			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	Groundhog Day	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day			Nat'l FFA Week (Feb. 17 - 24) & Nat'l Random Acts of Kindness Day - What will you do?
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Presidents' Day			Washington's Birthday		
25	26	27	28			
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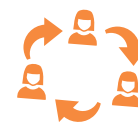
Women's Learning Circles

Since the late 1970s, we have led learning circles where participants share goals and experiences on their production, conservation needs, or business plans. We help participants actively learn from each other, rather than passively listening in a lecture format. Here, participants in a learning circle discuss farm conservation.



IN THE LAST YEAR, **80 WOMEN LANDOWNERS** JOINED US
FOR **12 LEARNING CIRCLES** TO TALK ABOUT:

- SOIL AND LAND CONSERVATION PRACTICES
- ESTABLISHING POLLINATOR HABITAT
- SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



MARCH 2018

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 4	In 2015, 9.4 million women-owned businesses in the U.S. employed 7.9 million people and generated \$1.5 trillion in sales. #WomenBiz 5	6	7	● 1 Nat'l Pig Day 8	2 ● 9	3 10
11	12	13	14	Int'l Women's Day 15	16	● 17
Daylight Saving Begins 18	19	20	21	22	23	● 24 Center for Rural Affairs' Veteran Farmer Conference - visit cfra.org/events for info
25	Nat'l Poultry Day 26 Nat'l Spinach Day	First Day of Spring & Nat'l Ag Day 27	28	Nat'l Mom and Pop Business Owners Day 29	30	● 31

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LAST YEAR, OUR LATINO BUSINESS CENTER AWARDED
59 LOANS TO LATINO SMALL BUSINESSES, **TOTALING \$1,032,295.**



Inclusion For All

Amidst these uncertain times for our nation's immigrants, we are committed to equity and inclusion for all residents of rural America. We work through challenges and embrace change because we know that diversity makes us stronger. With your help, we were able to guide Vicente and Magdalena, pictured, as they started farming.

APRIL 2018



We work with community leaders on inclusion and community development. Check out resources at: cfra.org/small-towns

MARCH							MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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 Easter Sunday & April Fools' Day	2	3	4	5	6	7 World Health Day
8 Nat'l Library Week (April 8 - 14) - Visit your rural library	9	10 Nat'l Farm Animals Day	11	12	13	14
15 Tax Day & Nat'l Haiku Poetry Day - Can you write one about rural living?	16	17	18	19 Nat'l Garlic Day	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24	25 Administrative Professionals Day	26	27 Arbor Day	28
29 Nat'l Small Business Week (April 29 - May 5) #DreamSmallBiz	30					

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Small Business

Owning a business is a key way for individuals to build assets over time. Latino small business owners, like Ana Gonzalez, pictured in her bakery, are breathing new life into communities. As demographics in rural America shift, we are dedicated to ensuring new immigrants can become full participants in their communities.

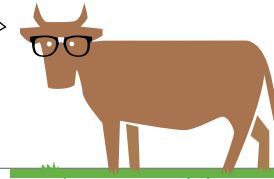


OVERVIEW: THIS YEAR, WE PLACED
124 LOANS
TOTALING **\$2,541,952.**

EACH LOAN REPRESENTS A SMALL
BUSINESS DREAM COME TRUE.

MAY 2018

Need business training? Wondering about financing options? Look into our training opportunities at: cfra.org/reap



APRIL							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
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
		1	2	3	4	5
Nat'l Small Business Week (April 29 - May 5) #DreamSmallBiz		May Day				Cinco de Mayo
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
						Armed Forces Day
27	28	29	30	31		
Memorial Day						

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OUR INAUGURAL 2017
VETERAN FARMER CONFERENCE
HAD **72 ATTENDEES** FROM
NEBRASKA, IOWA, NORTH DAKOTA,
PENNSYLVANIA, AND TENNESSEE.

Successful Veterans

Farming is not a job, it's a way of life, with a culture centered around family and community. These qualities make farming especially meaningful for many veterans. With your help, we provide resources and education to help veteran farmers succeed. Pictured, attendees at our Veteran Farmer Conference learn about pasture care and maintenance.



JUNE 2018

MAY							JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	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
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Father's Day	24	25	26	27	28	29
						30
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ON THE OMAHA RESERVATION ALONE,
WE ASSISTED FAMILIES WITH **220 GARDENS**, UP FROM 100 LAST YEAR.



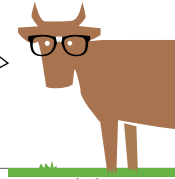
Food Systems

Members of the Omaha and Santee Sioux Tribes are excited about gardening and growing their own food. The Center has partnered with them to improve access to fresh food, starting with growing produce in their own communities. The Osborne family, pictured, has faithfully participated in the Omaha Reservation farmers market.



JULY 2018

Thank you for your ongoing support! Watch your mailbox this month for a special opportunity to help fund our work, or visit: cfra.org/give



JUNE							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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
8	9	10	11 Independence Day	12	13	14
15 Nat'l Independent Retailers Week (July 15 - 21) #ShopLocal	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Parents' Day	30	31				Nat'l Day of the Cowboy
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Farm Bill

The farm bill expires in September 2018. If Congress fails to act, farm bill initiatives that support beginning farmers, market development, rural businesses, and conservation will come to a screeching halt. Iowa farmer, Kevin Glanz, pictured, uses cover crops to maintain soil health. We're connecting farmers like Kevin with policymakers in D.C. to make farm policy more supportive of conservation practices.



FARM BILL PRIORITIES:

- PROTECT AND IMPROVE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS
- REFORM COMMODITY PROGRAMS
- PROTECT INVESTMENT IN BEGINNING FARMERS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

AUGUST 2018

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	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
							30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 5	Learn more about our farm bill work and read the latest updates at: cfra.org/farm-bill 6	7	1	2	3	4
Nat'l Farmers Market Week (Aug. 5 - 11) 12	13	14	Nat'l Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day 15	Nat'l Book Lovers Day 16	Nat'l Watermelon Day 17	11
19	20	21	22	23	24	18
26	27	28	29	30	31	25
Women's Equality Day <div> <div>CENTER</div> <div>for</div> <div>RURAL AFFAIRS</div> </div>	<div> <div>CENTER</div> <div>for</div> <div>RURAL AFFAIRS</div> </div>					CFRA.ORG

Small Business

Our Women's Business Center and Latino Business Center each focus on underserved small businesses. Thanks to your support, we offer group trainings and one-on-one assistance to small business owners. Clients, like Rachel at Red Road Herbs, pictured, are vital to local rural economies.



THROUGH THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER, WE PROVIDED
179 TRAINING SESSIONS WITH **1,285 PARTICIPANTS.**



69% WOMEN

SEPTEMBER 2018

AUGUST
S M T W T F S
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18
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26 27 28 29 30 31

OCTOBER
S M T W T F S
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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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div data-bbox="325 332 1213 462"> <p>Holy cow! Our lending program exceeded \$16 million in small business loans in just 27 years. Your donations make work supporting rural businesses and communities possible. Donate here: cfra.org/give</p> </div>						1
 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
 9	Labor Day 10	11	The Center founded this day in 1973 12	13	Nat'l Acorn Squash Day 14	15
Grandparents' Day  16	17	Patriot Day 18	19	20	Stand Up to Cancer Day 21	22
Nat'l Farm Safety & Health Week (Sept. 16 - 22) 23	 24	25	Talk like a Pirate Day - Celebrate in RRRural Arrrmerica! 26	27	28	First Day of Autumn 29
30						
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Farm to School

Food served to children at school can be diverse, healthy, and delicious. Farm to school programs provide an opportunity to engage students in hands-on learning and teach healthy habits. At East Butler Public Schools, pictured, students learn to grow food in a greenhouse which is then served in the cafeteria.



WE PROVIDE TRAINING AND MINI-GRANTS TO FIVE SCHOOLS WITH GREENHOUSES
TO CONNECT STUDENTS, GREENHOUSES, AND CAFETERIAS.



OCTOBER 2018



October is National Farm to School Month. Check out cfra.org/f2s to see how we're celebrating. #F2SMonth

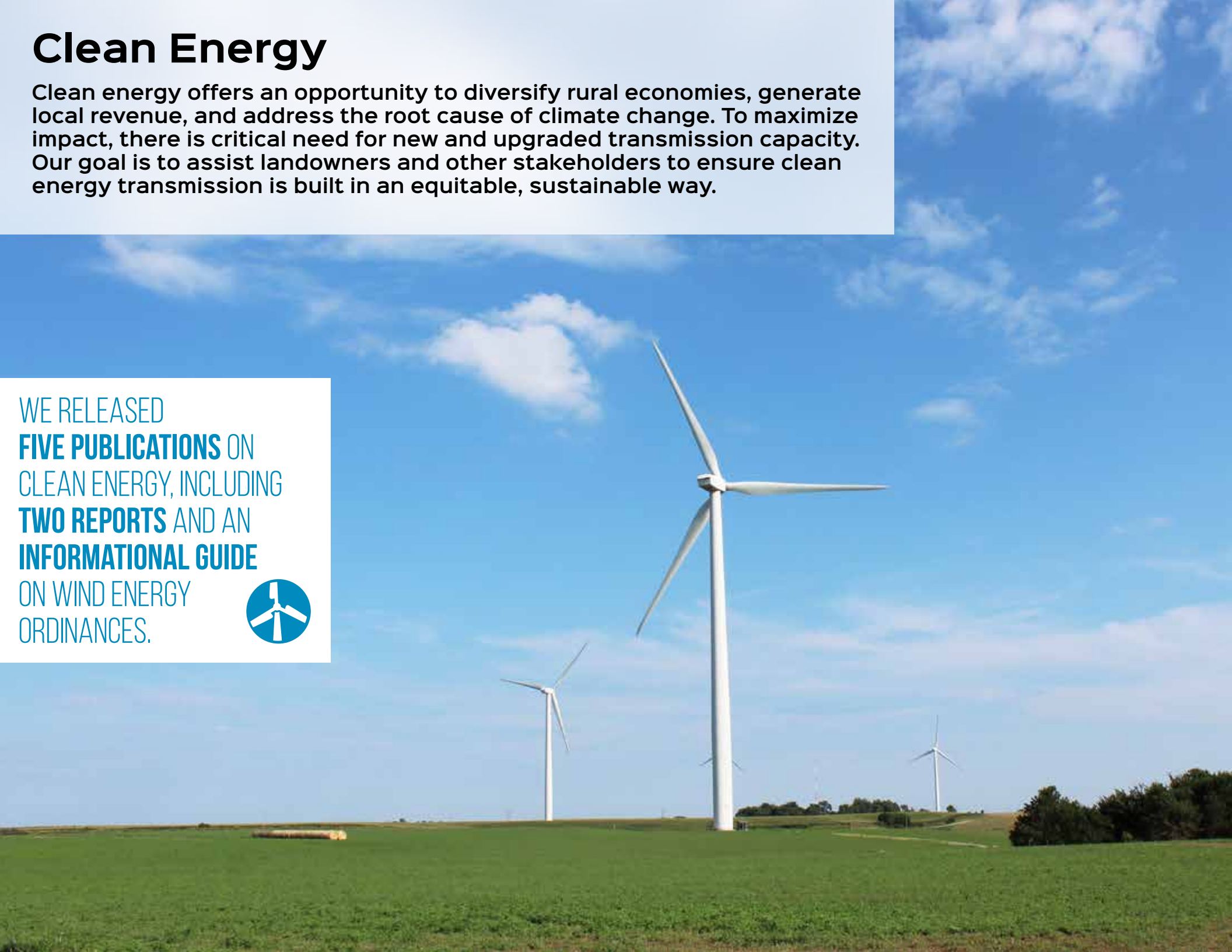
SEPTEMBER							NOVEMBER						
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						1					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	
30													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Indigenous Peoples' Day				Nat'l Farmer's Day #ThankAFarmer	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Boss's Day		46th Anniversary of Clean Water Act		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					Nat'l Pumpkin Day	
28	29	30	31			
		Halloween				
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Clean Energy

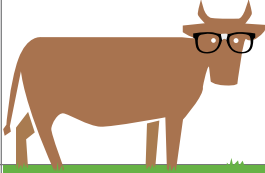
Clean energy offers an opportunity to diversify rural economies, generate local revenue, and address the root cause of climate change. To maximize impact, there is critical need for new and upgraded transmission capacity. Our goal is to assist landowners and other stakeholders to ensure clean energy transmission is built in an equitable, sustainable way.

WE RELEASED
FIVE PUBLICATIONS ON
CLEAN ENERGY, INCLUDING
TWO REPORTS AND AN
INFORMATIONAL GUIDE
ON WIND ENERGY
ORDINANCES.



NOVEMBER 2018

OCTOBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		We're the leading voice on responsible siting of clean energy development. Take a look at reports, fact sheets, and more at: cfra.org/publications		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight Saving Time Ends		Election Day				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Veterans Day	Veterans Day Observed			Philanthropy Day		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						Small Business Saturday - What's your favorite rural business? #ShopSmall
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		#GivingTuesday - Will you donate to our rural work today? cfra.org/give				
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Citizen Action

Politicians see votes. We see people working to create vibrant communities. We work with you to make sure your voice is heard on the issues that matter most to you. Advocates in South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska, pictured, host community meetings and lobby days.



WE SAT DOWN WITH MORE THAN **30 POLICYMAKERS**
TO WIN PUBLIC POLICY ADDRESSING RURAL ISSUES.

DECEMBER 2018

NOVEMBER							JANUARY 2019						
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		27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Support the advocacy work you care about by including the Center for Rural Affairs in your year-end giving plans. Donate today at: cfra.org/give					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Human Rights Day					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					First Day of Winter	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Christmas Eve	Christmas				
30	31					
	New Year's Eve					

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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. This year, we bid farewell to two long-serving board members who retired from the board. David Hansen served 39 years and Maryann Rouse served 31 years. Connie Hansen, pictured with David, also served on our Granary Foundation Board.

Members include:

Becky Gould, President

Joe Blankenau, Vice President

Melissa Florell, Secretary

Chuck Karpf, Treasurer

Leverne Barrett

Dennis Demmel

Greg Fripp

Connie Harvey

Jim Knopik

Keith Mahaney

Paul Olson

Paul Swanson

Karen Tikalsky

Santiago Vasquez

Clark Nichols, Director Emeritus

Don Reeves, Director Emeritus

Bob Warrick, Director Emeritus



This calendar illustrates the impact you helped achieve in 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 | EOE
FOR OUR LATEST FINANCIAL AND DONOR INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT CFRA.ORG