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# Farm Foundation

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## *Farm Foundation names new president*

**OAK BROOK, Ill. Nov. 16, 2007:** The Farm Foundation Board of Trustees has named Neilson C. Conklin to be the sixth president of Farm Foundation, according to Board Chairman Sara Wyant. Conklin will succeed Walter J. Armbruster, who has served as president of the Foundation since 1991. Armbruster is retiring at the end of the year, after 30 years with the Foundation.

“Neil’s extensive background in economic analysis on a wide range of issues will serve the Foundation well in the years ahead,” Wyant said. “Agriculture, the food system and rural communities face complex and diverse challenges and opportunities. Farm Foundation plays a unique role in providing objective economic and policy analyses to help private and public decision makers address timely, evolving issues. We look forward to Neil’s leadership in this important work.”

Conklin is currently director of the market and trade economics division of USDA’s Economic Research Service. In that role, he has initiated the ERS research program on the economics of bioenergy, and directed development of new modeling frameworks on global trade policy analysis.

“I am honored to lead an organization that has such a distinguished history of service to the food system and rural communities,” Conklin says. “The Foundation’s reputation for objectivity is highly regarded, and provides unique opportunities to serve all elements of the food system and rural communities. I look forward to continuing the Foundation’s history of service.”

Before joining ERS in 1999, Conklin spent six years at the Farm Credit Council as vice president and chief economist. He previously worked at the Office of Management and Budget, and has had teaching assignments at Arizona State University, the University of Arizona and at Colorado State University.

Farm Foundation works as a catalyst, bringing stakeholders of all ideologies together to examine economic and public policy issues impacting agriculture, the food system and rural communities. Farm Foundation does not lobby or advocate. Its primary product is comprehensive, objective information on economic and policy issues.

Current Foundation initiatives include the ongoing series of Farm Foundation Forums, discussion sessions at which stakeholders with an interest in farm, food and energy policy can discuss and exchange new ideas on specific issues. Other initiatives include a January 2008 conference, “The Second Decade of Crop Biotechnology,” and a February 2008 conference, “Transition to a Bioeconomy: Integration of Agricultural and Energy Systems,” which is the fifth in a series of bioenergy workshops lead by Farm Foundation.

***For more information, contact:***

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