



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Mark Scholl to lead Farm Foundation Board

OAK BROOK, IL July 21, 2015: Mark S. Scholl of J and M Scholl Inc., Owensboro, KY, has been elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of Farm Foundation. Joe Swedberg, who recently retired as Vice President of Legislative Affairs for Hormel Foods Corporation, was elected vice chairman. The election took place June 12 at the Board's annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

Created in 1933, the Foundation works as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster a deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems and rural communities. The Foundation does not advocate or lobby.

Scholl is President of J and M Scholl, Inc. a family agriculture holding company that includes a farming operation, an export grain business, a wind farm, and real estate holdings. Scholl worked in the finance industry before an interest in commercialization of value-added grains lead to starting ExSeed Genetics. ExSeed was later sold to BASF, where he served as Director of BASF Plant Science.



Mark Scholl

An agriculture economics major at the University of Illinois, his postgraduate work included agriculture policy. Scholl has been honored by the University of Illinois as an Award of Merit Alumni. In addition to his work with Farm Foundation, Scholl chairs the Board of the Kentucky Life Sciences Council and is a member of the Jackie Joyner Kersee Foundation Board of Trustees. He previously served on the USDA GIPSA Advisory Board, the Iowa Governor's Biotech Advisory Board, and the Business Council of BASF Plant Science in Germany.

At the June meeting, four new members were also elected to the Board of Trustees. Elected were Klaas Martens of Martens Farm and Lakeview Organic Grain, Penn Yan, NY; Elizabeth Hund of U.S. Bank, Denver, CO; Chuck Ahlem of Charles Ahlem Ranch, Turlock, CA; and Brad Lubben of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. They succeed Barry Flinchbaugh of Kansas State University; Cornelius Gallagher of Bank of America Merrill Lynch; Richard Morrison of Gilbert, AZ; and Joe Outlaw of Texas A&M University.

Scholl and Swedberg were also named chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the Board of Directors of Farm Foundation, NFP, the operating entity of Farm Foundation. Charlene Finck of Farm Journal Media, a member of the Farm Foundation Board of Trustees, was elected to the Farm Foundation, NFP Board of Directors, to succeed Barry Flinchbaugh.

Farm Foundation was created in 1933 as a trust governed by a 29-member Board of Trustees. The Trustees have responsibility for maintaining the mission of the Foundation, overseeing the endowment, and naming the six-member Board of Directors of Farm Foundation, NFP. Farm Foundation, NFP was created in 2009 to carry out the Farm Foundation programming mission.

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