



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

## ***Farm Foundation President to retire***

**OAK BROOK, IL July 27, 2015:** Neil Conklin, Ph.D., the sixth person to lead Farm Foundation in its 82-year history, has announced his intention to retire effective December 2016. Conklin has served as President of the Foundation since January 2008.

“Neil has been key in fulfilling the Trustees’ goal to position the Foundation as the leader in helping public and private-sector leaders address the critical issues that are shaping the future today,” said Mark S. Scholl, Chairman of the Farm Foundation Board of Trustees. “He has staunchly protected the Foundation’s position of non-advocacy.

“But as Neil so often says, non-advocacy does not mean no action,” Scholl continued. “Under Neil’s leadership, the Foundation’s work has addressed such varied topics as food prices, global trade, conservation, renewable energy, agricultural productivity, and now, the Soil Renaissance. Neil has kept the focus on the Foundation’s unique ability to help stakeholders better understand the complexity of and options to address the multitude of issues shaping the future.”

Scholl has appointed a search committee to begin the process of finding a successor, and named two Trustees as co-chairs. They are Joe Swedberg, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, who recently retired as Vice President of Legislative Affairs for Hormel Foods Corp., and Jim Borel, Executive Vice President of DuPont.

“With the challenges in agriculture and the food system today, it is both an honor and a great responsibility to lead Farm Foundation. The Foundation is a unique resource to this nation’s agriculture, food and rural sectors,” Conklin said. “I still have much I want to accomplish at the Foundation, but I felt it important to give the Trustees adequate time to find the right person to be the Foundation’s seventh President.”

Prior to joining Farm Foundation, Conklin served as Director of the Market and Trade Economics Division of ERS. In that role, he initiated the ERS research program on the economics of bioenergy, and directed development of new modeling frameworks on global trade policy analysis.

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[www.farmfoundation.org](http://www.farmfoundation.org) [www.facebook.com/thefarmfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/thefarmfoundation) [www.agchallenge2050.org](http://www.agchallenge2050.org)

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 served on the faculty at Arizona State University, the University of Arizona and Colorado State University.

***FOR MORE INFORMATION***

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*Farm Foundation, NFP 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 regions. The Foundation does not advocate or lobby. Since its founding in 1933, Farm Foundation has been committed to objectivity, fostering the constructive debate that is essential to sound public policy development in a democracy.*

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