



News From Foods Resource Bank

SPRING 2011

Dates to Remember

Events

Tractor Dave Crosses America, Coming to a Growing Project near you! June 1st through August 15th

Heart of the Hill- Washington D.C: June 11-15th, July 25-29, Sept. 19-23, Oct. 17-21, Nov. 14-18, Dec. 5-8

FRB's Annual Gathering in Des Moines, IA: August 9-11th

Regional Meeting in Strawberry Point, IA: Winter 2011

Overseas Trips

Kenya- June 6-15th

Tanzania & Uganda- August 14-28th

Serbia & Ukraine - Aug 29-Sept 4th

Asia- November / December 2011

Please Join Us in Des Moines for FRB's Annual Gathering! August 9-11, 2011



Please join us for the Foods Resource Bank's 2011 Annual Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa from August 9th-11th. This year's Annual Gathering is being hosted by the Plymouth Church UCC, part of the Alleman IA growing project. The meeting will kick off with an evening reception at the Living History Farms. The all day meeting will be on the 10th followed by an Iowa Ag Tour on the 11th.

Please note that the Iowa State Fair will be starting on August 11th, so you will want to be sure and book your rooms EARLY. For more information, please visit FRB's website or contact Kelsey Day at kelsey@foodsresourcebank.org or call (888) 276-4FRB (4372). See you in Des Moines!

Tractor Dave Rides Across America

Tractor Dave is driving a restored 1937 Co-Op tractor across all 48 states starting June 1, 2011, to work towards ending hunger and help disaster survivors through CRWRC and FRB. Find out if Dave is driving into your neighborhood this summer!

Want to participate?

- You can host Dave for a night.
- Organize an event when Dave visits your area.
- Visit www.crwrc.org/tractordave to help Dave work towards ending hunger and assist disaster survivors.

Follow Dave's progress across America at www.tractorrideracrossus.org.

Ask Dave to visit your town today! Call 231-924-0731 or email Dave at tractordave@rocketmail.com.



Dave "Tractor Dave" Wolfson and his rig.

3 New Team Members at FRB

With great joy we invite you to welcome three new team members to FRB! Angela Boss joins FRB as Associate Director of Programming and Growing Project Development. As a fruit tree specialist and past missionary in the Central African Republic, Angela brings to FRB a passion for our mission and a vision of a future where people are able to grow their own food and have enough to eat.



Angela Boss, one of FRB's newest faces.



Eric Mattson, another of FRB's new members.

Eric Mattson joins FRB as Associate Director of Growing Project Development and New Ventures. Eric's experience in Senegal as a Peace Corps Volunteer and as an extension agent in Cass County, IL compliment Eric's passion for grassroots initiatives and his love for new ideas and innovations!

Joe Christophel joins FRB as a consultant on Mennonite Central Committee's Midwestern Team to work on developing FRB connections and help people initiate new growing projects. Joe will work part-time covering parts of IN, OH, MI and IL. Although Joe's focus will be on mostly Mennonite communities and churches, he is available to help others engage to support FRB's multi-denominational approach.

We want to hear from you! Enter the Foods Resource Bank "Growing Gratitude" Video Contest.

Foods Resource Bank is thankful for our many volunteers. What does Growing Gratitude mean to you? Grab a video camera and tell us in 3 to 5 minutes.

YouTube - Videos



How to Enter:

Beginning July 1, 2011, you'll be able to upload your entry once you've completed the consent and registration forms. To find out more about the contest and the prizes you could win, visit the video contest page of the website. Let's show our thankfulness for what we, together, have been able to accomplish in an effort to bring an end to hunger. Good luck! We can't wait to see your story.

Refugees Grow Successful Gardens

For a small group of refugees in the FRB's Central African Republic-Gamboula project, vegetable gardening is becoming a vital piece to their livelihood. Recently, two women in the Gamboula project bought vegetable seeds in order to start up vegetable gardens. First, they bought a packet of lettuce seed worth \$0.25. After eating some of the lettuce themselves, they sold the rest in the market for about \$30.00. They also bought two packets of amaranth seed and, after eating some themselves, they sold the remainder for \$30.00. They also saved several lettuce plants and several amaranth plants for seeds so that they will not have to buy seeds again next year.



Fulani women in their garden.

These women are Fulani Muslims, a minority ethnic group in the Central African Republic. Though cattle herders at heart, persecution has caused the loss of their herds and led the Fulani to adopt vegetable gardening and field crops to sustain their families. Thanks to the work of the FRB supported Central African Republic- Gamboula program, the Fulani are successfully incorporating gardening into their herding culture.