



News From Foods Resource Bank

WINTER 2011

Dates to Remember

Regional Meetings

February 12th
Higginsville, MO

February 14-16th

- San Antonio, TX
- Northwest, OH
- Kansas City, KS
- St. Louis, MO
- Lancaster County, PA
- Elgin, IL

GP Leader Meeting

March 23rd
Minneapolis, MN

FRB Annual Meeting

August 9-11th
Des Moines, IA

Overseas Trips

Central America
March 27– April 15th

Africa and the Balkans
August 15-31st

Asia
November 27– December 15th

IA Sec. of Ag Joins FRB for Waterloo Meeting

On January 15th the Waterloo, IA growing project hosted a regional meeting at the South Waterloo Church of the Brethren. The theme for the meeting was *Humus and Humility: Catalyst for Transformation* and it was attended by volunteers from several growing projects in the area. Keynote speaker was Bill Northey, Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Northey, a farmer himself, spoke about the importance of IA agriculture and the impact of its international role.

Also at the meeting was Jay Wittmeyer, Executive Director of Church of The Brethren's Global Mission Partnerships, who presented FRB's newest DVD *Sowing Seeds...Harvesting Hope*. This video was a collaborative project between FRB and several of its members and tells the story of several farmers in Guatemala and Nicaragua.

FRB offers many thanks to the Waterloo IA Growing Project for organizing and hosting the meeting.

Please contact us at admin@foodsresourcebank.org if your growing project would like to have a regional event.



Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture with farmers at the regional meeting in Waterloo, IA.

Tune into FRB on iTunes and Podbean

There is another way to keep updated on what is going on at FRB. Subscribe to receive our podcasts through iTunes or Podbean. Links for both sites can be found on our website. January's podcasts are already available. Look for February's releases coming soon. We also welcome ideas for future podcasts. If you have a great growing project, travel or overseas story you would like us to tell please send ideas to admin@foodsresourcebank.org.



Heart of the Hill in 2011

The start of a new year offers new opportunities for initiating change. Change comes to Washington DC with last year's election of over 80 new local and state representatives. We invite you to travel to Capitol Hill and bring your story to the ears of congress. FRB needs its volunteers to reach out to their representatives and invite them to travel overseas with us, to come to a harvest celebration, the annual meeting, or to meet with them in Washington.

At FRB we have seen our volunteers hold the most power when it comes to engaging members of congress. FRB will support your efforts to influence our government to do development in a more sustainable, grassroots, agriculturally focused way. Please see the dates to the side and consider when you could travel to Washington D.C. As this is not a commitment for everyone we encourage you to consider other ways to engage your representatives and bring your voice to the discussion.

2011 Heart of the Hill Dates

- March 1-3rd
 - March 25-28th
 - April 11- 14th
 - May 9-12th
 - June 13-16th
- More dates to follow for the 2nd half of 2011.

John Deere Foundation Grants Available

If you would like to help a new growing project get started or your growing project would like to expand, there are grants available through FRB from the John Deere Foundation. These grants are for the expansion or creation of new FRB growing project as well as dealer matches through your local John Deere dealer.

Please call or email admin@foodsresourcebank.org to inquire about receiving a grant for the 2011 growing season. FRB would be happy to discuss how a grant might be used to support your GP this year. The John Deere Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of FRB since 2005. We offer sincere thanks to the relationship and support FRB has with the John Deere Foundation.



JOHN DEERE

"JDF was with us from very early on, and their grants helped, and continue to help, break the initial inertia common to many prospective growing projects: 'Can we do this?' With a JDF grant, they know they can."

-Norm Braksick, Volunteer Growing Project Coordinator

CFC 'Stache' for Cash

FRB is the beneficiary of another creative fundraising idea. This year USDA office employees participated in the Manly Mustache Drive or 'Stache' for Cash. Participants in this drive grew mustaches to raise awareness and donations for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). About two dozen USDA employees participated in this year's drive. Pledges were collected by each of the participants for their preferred charities. Thanks to longtime FRB friend Max Finberg, FRB is one of the charities benefitting from this drive. Max Finberg personally raised about \$3,400 with his participation on CFC. A portion of that will go to FRB.

CFC offers government employees the ability to donate directly from their paycheck to any of the 4,000 approved CFC charities such as FRB. Donations can be made to FRB using our CFC # 12536.



Friend of FRB, Max Finberg, models his 'stache.'