



P.O. Box 133  
Whiting, Kansas 66552  
(785) 873-3431  
FAX (785)- 873-3432  
E-mail: [ksrc@rainbowtel.net](mailto:ksrc@rainbowtel.net)  
Website: [www.kansasruralcenter.org](http://www.kansasruralcenter.org)

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For more information, contact: Mary Fund,  
785-873-3431 or [ksrc@rainbowtel.net](mailto:ksrc@rainbowtel.net)**

**May 12, 2011**

**Nagengast to Step Down as KRC Executive Director**

Whiting, Ks.- Kansas Rural Center (KRC) Executive Director Dan Nagengast has announced his plans to leave KRC by mid-summer this year. Nagengast has been Executive Director since 1992.

KRC, a non-profit education and advocacy organization for sustainable agriculture and a local and regional food system, was formed in 1979. He is one of only three individuals who have served as Executive Director over the organization's history.

"After nearly 20 years as Executive Director, I've decided it is time to step back and turn over the reins to new leadership and for a new chapter in my life," stated Nagengast. "I have been thoroughly engaged in the KRC's work of preserving opportunities in farming for Kansans for almost 20 years. I think the key to healthy ecosystems and thriving rural communities is creating the structures that allow many more people to farm. Our reliance on fossil fuel, or chemically based technologies coupled with genetic manipulation, clearly assist agricultural concentration, while ignoring the needs of future generations."

"This was not a decision I made hastily; I let the board and staff know late last year, and the board immediately began to plan for a transition," he continued. "We have a talented and capable staff who will continue to do good work. We have a committed board of directors who will be deeply involved in promoting sustainable agriculture in Kansas and making decisions for the organization's future."

2011 KRC board co-presidents, Marjorie Van Buren, Topeka, and Laura Fortmeyer, Fairview, praised Nagengast for his years of developing KRC as a vital voice in sustainable agriculture in Kansas and for expanding KRC's vision to include a local and regional food system. Fortmeyer and Van Buren agreed, "We are very sorry to see Dan leave, but we understand that he needs to pursue new challenges and opportunities. KRC and all who farm and eat in Kansas owe him a great deal. We wish him and Lynn nothing but the best."

Nagengast's last day will be June 30, 2011. He and his wife, Lynn Byczynski, are buying an Italian Vegetable Seed business, to be run out of Lawrence, Kansas. Dan will continue to be involved in local food politics and activities in Kansas.

The KRC board has appointed long-time staff person Mary Fund as Interim Director, effective July 1, 2011, and until a replacement is hired. Fund is currently director of KRC's Clean Water Farms-WRAPS Focus Project, editor of KRC's newsletter, Rural Papers, and works on a number of other KRC projects. The KRC board will be launching a search for a new executive director by early summer. -30-