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Kansas Rural Center Announces New Executive Director Julie Mettenburg

Whiting, Ks. - The Kansas Rural Center Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Julie Mettenburg, Lawrence, KS, will be joining KRC as the new Executive Director, starting December 1, 2011.

"We are very happy to announce Julie Mettenburg as our new Executive Director," stated Laura Fortmeyer, Fairview, KRC co-president. "KRC's board and staff spent many hours in careful deliberation to select the next director. Julie's credentials and experience, her love for Kansas, and above all her passion for the KRC mission, stood out. We look forward to her new energy and leadership as KRC continues its mission of promoting the long-term health of the land and its people."

"In getting to know KRC—its work, its activities, and its constituency-- both as an employee and as a farmer who has benefitted from their help, I have been continually impressed with their work and their caliber as thoughtful, principled and friendly people," stated Mettenburg. "Transformation of our food and farming system will be the social movement of our time, and to be able to work on the many facets of these issues with this fine, dedicated group will truly be an honor."

Mettenburg has a BS in Journalism from the University of Kansas, and an MA in Political Science from City University of New York. She has business and project management experience through owning her own business, and twenty years experience with media and communications working for various national publications and as a free -lance writer for several years. Her parents operate a family farm near Princeton, and she and her siblings are actively involved in the management and planning. Julie and her family live in Lawrence, Kansas.

Since April, Julie has been the Kaw River Valley Our Local Food Coordinator for KRC, and also took on the role of Event Coordinator for KRC's November 19 conference -- before deciding to apply for the director position. She will begin her new position December 1, but will join KRC at its November 19 Sustainable Agriculture Conference in Emporia, Ks.

The Kansas Rural Center is a private non-profit research, education and advocacy organization that has been operating since 1979. KRC works to promote an ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible farm and food system. -30-