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Meet the Staff

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Meet The Staff

Keith Heffernan joined CARD in November 1994 as assistant director. He brings to CARD an extensive background in agricultural policy development and implementation. Heffernan has previously been executive director of the Iowa Corn Growers Association and director of public affairs for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. In these positions, Heffernan worked with farmers to develop favorable agricultural policies and programs at the local, state, and federal levels. In addition, he spent six years in state government in management positions related to economic development and was an agricultural advisor to Governor Branstad. Thanks to this experience, he has a unique appreciation and understanding of the workings of government.

Keith's responsibilities at CARD include budget, personnel, and systems management. However, one of the key challenges for Heffernan will be to identify opportunities for application of CARD's research to Iowa. Although CARD's findings are prepared for specific clients, frequently the results are applicable and have significance for the state. An example is a recent EPA project to study water quality in the Dallas, Texas, area where there was a significant presence of large dairy cow operations. The findings in this research project, with some modifications, had direct applications to confinement livestock facilities in Iowa and were very useful to the Iowa Pork Producers and other groups. The results of these studies relating to agricultural programs, environmental issues, rural development, and international commodity programs have a great impact on Iowa, and Heffernan will coordinate efforts with the various agriculture and commodity groups, agribusinesses, and state leaders to identify research needs and provide information.