

STATE

100 DAYS AND COUNTING: Ethics commission eyes bold goal

BY KAY SHIPMAN

FarmWeek

An ethics commission has an ambitious 100-day goal to propose ideas for cleaning up state government, said a farmer commission member.



Duane Noland

"We have a huge slate; the timing is ideal," said Duane Noland, who also is president and chief executive officer of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

"Public service is an honorable profession, but we've had repeated lapses. I hope we can

restore people's faith and trust in government," the former state legislator told *FarmWeek*.

Noland was one of 12 individuals appointed to the commission by then-Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn before he was sworn in as governor. Former assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Collins chairs the Illinois Reform Commission, which was created by an executive order.

In addition to Noland, two other downstate residents were appointed: Brad McMillan, Peoria, an official at Bradley University and former district chief of staff for former Congressman Ray LaHood, and Sheila Simon, Carbondale, Southern Illinois University School of Law professor

and daughter of the late Paul Simon.

The group met for the second time last week and plans to focus on a different issue at each meeting. Government transparency was last week's topic.

Each commissioner also has been assigned an issue; Noland's is campaign reform. Upon conclusion, the commission will make broad-based recommendations to clean up Illinois government on the state and local levels.

"Obviously, a lot of focus will be on state government and the executive branch," Noland added.

State legislators fully understand the problems because "they work with it day to day. They will play a

role in ethic reform," said Noland, who served four terms in the Illinois House of Representatives and two terms in the Senate.

Noland advised individuals to send their comments and ideas directly to the commission so the information will be part of the public record. Public comments were summarized and read into the record at the first meeting, Noland said.

Comments may be submitted online to {www.reformillinoisnow.org} or by contacting the Illinois Reform Commission, P.O. Box A3935, Chicago, Ill., 60690. The telephone number is 312-324-8486.

Comments also may be e-mailed to Noland at dnoland@aiec.coop.