In this issue...

2017 Legislative Session Recap
World Farming Organization General Assembly
Farm Crisis Resources
Summer Camps

Photo was taken at the farm of MFU members Carol & Jerome Schmidt, Morrison County
Food from the Farm

Join the Minnesota Farmers Union celebration of the 2017 MINNESOTA COOKS from 10am – 4pm on Sunday, August 27 at Dan Patch Park (formerly Carousel Park) at the Minnesota State Fair.

This fun-filled day will celebrate local farm-fresh foods and honor 12 respected Minnesota farmers along with 12 accomplished chefs and cooks.

If you’re a farmer currently selling your product to restaurants, you could be a candidate for MINNESOTA COOKS.

To learn more, contact Claudine Arndt: claudine@mfu.org

Rhubarb Wild Rice Scones with Raspberry Rhubarb Compote

For Scones, makes 12:
- 3 c flour
- 1 T plus 1 t baking powder
- 2/3 c sugar
- 1/2 t cardamom
- 1/4 t anise
- 1 c cooked wild rice
- 3/4 c milk
- 1 large duck egg
- 8 T very cold butter, cut into pieces
- 2 c fresh or frozen rhubarb, chopped into 1/4” pieces (if frozen, do not thaw)

Preparation:
Mix first 6 ingredients together in a large bowl.
In a separate medium bowl, whisk together milk and duck egg.
Using a pastry cutter, cut butter into flour until the size of peas. Add chopped rhubarb to flour mixture.
Add wet ingredients to the dry, and mix together gently. Once all the flour is incorporated, gently pull together with a large spoon or hands. Do not over-mix.
Lightly flour a large cutting board. Place scone mixture onto board; pat into a circle about 10” round and 1” high. Cut into wedges or circles.
Bake at 400 degrees F for 15-17 minutes.

For Raspberry Rhubarb Compote:
- 2 c raspberries
- 2 c chopped rhubarb
- 1 T + 1 t chocolate balsamic vinegar
- 1/8-1/4 t ground anise
- 1/4 c honey
- 4 T sugar
- 1 medium apple such as Prairie Spy, peeled, cored, and diced

Preparation:
Combine all ingredients in a large saucepan and cook slowly over medium heat, stirring frequently to prevent burning.
Simmer until fruit is cooked and sauce is thickened (about 30 minutes).
Serve with scones.

The Rhubarb Wild Rice Scones with Raspberry Rhubarb Compote recipe was created by Pat Root of Farm Market Cafe using rhubarb from Dutch Fury Farm for the 2017 Minnesota Cooks calendar.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

MEET PRESIDENT GARY WERTISH

Gary Wertish was elected MFU President in January of 2017. Previously he served as MFU Vice President from 2009 until his election to President.

With a long history of Farmers Union service, Gary has been on the Farmers Union Industries Board of Directors, past MFU and NFU policy committees, and worked as a MFU Field Representative and Renville County President.

Gary and his wife Jeanne have four grown children and four grandchildren. Gary ran a diversified grain and livestock farm and now assists his son Tom operating the family farm near Renville.

gary@mfu.org

WFO

The World Farming Organization (WFO) held their General Assembly June 12 – 15 in Helsinki, Finland, with the theme of “The Future We Want to Harvest.” Attendees discussed issues for farmers across the world, including topics like trade, education, the environment, food security, research, and more. As a delegate to the assembly, I was able to highlight the issues we have been discussing around the state and inform our international peers of the challenges we face as American farmers and how we might work towards solutions to these universal problems.

The WFO was created in 2011 by the National Farmers Union (NFU) and more than 50 other agricultural groups and cooperative organizations from around the world. The WFO’s mission is to defend the interests of farmers worldwide to improve their economic conditions and livelihoods. It is yet another way that MFU represents the perspective of family farmers to policymakers that affect day to day farming in Minnesota.

For example, last year our participation in the WFO led NFU to be the sole farm organization representative on a panel before the United Nations to discuss antimicrobial resistance.

This year, Dave Velde, NFU and MFU Legal Counsel, participated in the WFO’s “Rural Political Forum.” Barbara Patterson, NFU Government Relations Director, also participated in a panel titled “Advocating for Farmer’s Role in the Food Security Agenda”.

It was very interesting and informative participating in the WFO General Assembly. Talking to farmers from around the world one thing is very evident; no matter what our native country, we are all struggling to make a profit with our farming operations.

The importance and market strength of country of origin labeling came out in a number of presentations:

- In Finland, the grocery store Kmarket now has 80% of the items on their shelves carrying the Finland origin label.
- Italy has started their own Italian label which is rapidly growing in acceptance. One of the bylines is “No Farmers, No Party.”
- A Ugandan farmer mentioned during her presentation that it is important to know “where is the food we are buying coming from.”

Legislature

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union, I would like to thank our policymakers for their work this legislative session to support family farms and also thank the Farmers Union members who reached out to comment on, and in some cases testify on, legislation.

At our Rural Issues Discussions this spring, MFU traveled the state listening to what rural people thought. We brought your message back to lawmakers and worked hard to make your voices heard.

For an issue by issue review, flip to MFU’s Government Relations Director, Thom Petersen’s article on page 6.

NFU Director of Government Relations Barbara Patterson (far right) speaks on a panel at the WFO General Assembly in June 2017 in Helsinki, Finland.

(continued on page 3)
Women’s Conference
Forty people gathered in Little Falls on June 3 for MFU’s 2017 Women’s Conference to discuss rural leadership, business planning, and management.

According to the Minnesota Legislative Office on the Economic Status of Women, 157,821 businesses across the state are women-owned, making them an important part of enhancing greater Minnesota’s economy.

Conference attendees ranged from women thinking about turning their hobby into a profitable business to experienced farmers considering changes that would make their businesses more successful.

Morning speakers highlighted the need for a formal business plan, strong insurance, and access to funding. The afternoon focused on women who have successfully built their network through board positions, including the two success stories of Sprout Food Hub and the Old Creamery Quilt Shop.

Women have always played important roles in the success of Minnesota’s agricultural communities. MFU is proud to support women interested in starting or expanding a business and enhancing leadership skills.

I encourage anyone looking for resources to contact the state office or visit our website at: www.mfu.org/pages/resources.

Carol Anderson, Executive Director of Morrison County Community Development and Benton County Farmers Union President on “How Joining a Board Can Help You Spread Your Message”

Fun At Day Camp!
Bee and pollinator expert Ted Suss, Redwood County President

“All aboard!”
Day campers toured the Triple “O” Dairy Farm

MFU provided face painting

Minneapolis Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Draft Nitrogen Rule
The MDA has published their Draft Nitrogen Rule and it is open for public comment until August 11, 2017.

The rule is based on nitrogen fertilizer best management practices (BMP’s) developed by the University of Minnesota. The rule will affect fall fertilization in vulnerable areas of the state. They expect the rule to be adopted in the fall of 2018 and will be holding listening sessions on the proposal. It is important to look over this proposal and submit your comments by August 11. The MDA’s press release and dates of listening sessions are on page 8.

Farmfest
Farmfest will be held at the Gilfillan Estate August 1–3.

On Thursday, August 3 at 10:00 am, a U.S. House Agriculture Committee Listening Session is scheduled in the Wick Building, which is located next to MFU’s hoop barn.

Big River Pizza will be joining us in our booth again this year. Stop in for some good pizza and discussion. We look forward to seeing you!

Julie Anderholm of Central Lakes College lectures on “Starting and Understanding Your Business Plan”

Carol Anderson, Executive Director of Morrison County Community Development and Benton County Farmers Union President on “How Joining a Board Can Help You Spread Your Message”

Julie Anderholm of Central Lakes College lectures on “Starting and Understanding Your Business Plan”

Bee and pollinator expert Ted Suss, Redwood County President
First off, I hope all our farmers out there got their crop in and it is off to a strong start. It can be a very stressful time of year. Over the course of the last couple months I have run into several farmers and friends of farmers who see a looming crisis. For many farms the boom agriculture saw a few years back feels like hundreds of years ago. Working capital depleting, values of crop prices that are not in line with the cost of production, and access to operating money are a few of the issues that have led to the increase in concern across the country.

If you are not one of these farms, it is important not to ignore the problem. If you are one of the farmers struggling, or know of someone that is struggling, please know that there are resources out there. There are many talented people that have dedicated their career to helping those who are in need. I recently attended a meeting at the capital with leaders in the ag community where one official made it very clear that our job was to start spreading the word that there is help out there and you are not alone.

MFU has several resources on our website including Minnesota Farm Advocates, Farm Crisis Center, AgrAbility, Farmer-Lender Mediation, and the Farmers Legal Action Group.

These can be accessed at: www.mfu.org/pages/resources.

At a meeting with the Governor’s office, Thom and I were able to sit down and learn more about what role MFU could play in the Governor’s new 25 by ’25 Water Quality Goal, which would spur innovation and collaboration around strategies to improve Minnesota’s water quality 25 percent by 2025.

Without additional action, the quality of Minnesota’s waters is expected to improve only 6 to 8 percent by 2034. If approved by the Legislature, Governor Dayton’s proposed new goal would engage local governments, farmers, scientists, environmental groups, and business leaders in a collaborative effort to address Minnesota’s water quality challenges.

Achieving a 25 percent improvement in water quality statewide would require Minnesota to take aggressive, yet achievable, action. It also would help Minnesota meet existing commitments to reduce phosphorus 12 percent by 2025 and nitrogen 45 percent by 2040 in the Mississippi River.

Governor Dayton’s 25 by ’25 Water Quality Goal would not add additional regulations. It is instead a call to action to drive public engagement and partnerships to address the state’s growing water quality issues. The goal also would be flexible, allowing each of Minnesota’s eight local watershed regions to decide which pollutants to address, and strategies to employ. Setting and achieving this goal would make a significant impact on the quality of our waters and ensure they are more swimmable, fishable, and drinkable for future generations. (See page 13 for dates and locations of townhall meetings to discuss 25 by ’25.)

Just a reminder from a couple months ago, we need more recycling container sign-ups in the Sauk Centre area for the program to be sustainable. These are free dumpsters (which you will need to pick up the first time) and there are more deployments planned for June. If you could recycle plastic on your farm, know a neighbor who can, or see another business (a grain elevator, for example) with a lot of ag plastic, please sign up for this to help make the program sustainable. This will also expand it into surrounding counties, shrinking the cost per ton and allowing it to continue to flourish. The area including Stearns, Morrison, Douglas, Pope, Otter Tail, Meeker, Todd, and Wadena counties is the area that needs more concentration, then surrounding counties can be signed up. Please sign up whether you are in the zone or not (unless you already have).
The 2017 Legislature has wrapped up their work (for now!) and Governor Dayton has taken action on all pending bills. MFU had a very busy session testifying over 40 times on various bills. In addition, MFU had a very successful lobby day in February. Here is a review of the outcome of some of the issues worked on by MFU. Members who have further questions about these issues or any others are encouraged to contact me at the email or phone number above.

40% School Levy Property Tax Credit
The Legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation that provides a 40% credit to farmers for the portion of their property taxes coming from a new or existing capital improvement levy starting with taxes payable in 2018. MFU wishes to thank Rep. Steve Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa) and Rep. Paul Marquart (D-Dilworth) for their work on this issue over the years.

Beginning Farmer Tax Credit
Also passing this year was a beginning farmer credit that MFU has worked on for many years. The bill provides an income tax credit of 5% for selling land to a beginning farmer and 10% for renting to a beginning farmer. In addition, beginning farmers will be eligible for a credit against participating in financial management programs. MFU thanks chief authors Rep. Nels Pierson (R-Rochester) and Sen. Mike Goggin (R-Red Wing) for their work on this legislation. MFU will be gathering information on this program for members.

Buffers!
After many meetings and negotiations, modifications to the state’s buffer law were included in the omnibus Environmental bill that passed and was signed into law. The main modification will be the opportunity for farmers to receive up to an eight month waiver extension for installing a buffer on a public waterway until July 1, 2018. Landowners may also get up to a one year waiver for obtaining financial assistance. Members who have further questions can speak with their local SWCD office or refer to the Mn BWSR website. Rep. Dan Fabian (R-Roseau) and Sen. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake), among other legislators, did great work on this legislation.

RFA Funding
MFU was pleased Governor Mark Dayton signed legislation to fund the Rural Finance Authority (RFA). The RFA helps farmers secure funding for various loans including restructure, beginning farmers, and farm improvement. MFU appreciates the efforts of the chief authors Rep. Tim Miller (R-Prinsburg) and Sen. Andrew Lang (R-Olivia), as well as many legislators from both sides of the aisle in recognizing the need to expedite funding for the RFA which had lacked funding since December 31, 2016. The RFA partners in lending with local banks on these programs.

Ditch Mowing Bill Signed
MFU also applauded the signature of SF 218 by Governor Dayton that implements a moratorium on the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) in enforcing permits for mowing and baling in right of ways on trunk highways, except for land that adjoins state land, until April 30, 2018. MFU had raised concerns with the new permit system MNDOT had announced in December 2016, that many farmers saw as unnecessary, confusing, and burdensome. Under the legislation, MNDOT will recommend to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over transportation, agriculture, and natural resources that there be an establishment of a permit or notification system to mow or hay in trunk highway right-of-ways. The recommendation must be developed with input from agriculture and environmental groups. MFU thanks Rep. Chris Swedzinski (R-Ghent) and Sen. Gary Dahms (R-Redwood Falls) for their work as chief authors of this legislation.

Farmer-Lender Mediation Act Extended
Another piece important to MFU that passed this year was the extension of the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act which was set to sunset next year. The Legislature extended this act until 2022. While MFU was disappointed that the trigger was raised from $5,000 to $15,000, the legislation also raised allowable living expenses when in mediation from $1,600 to $3,600. MFU thanks Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck) for his work on this legislation.

MDA Grant Programs
The Legislature also continued funding for the AGRI program at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Included in AGRI are popular grant programs for Livestock, Value-Added processing, Farm to School, and other programs. MFU will work to publicize RFP’s for these grant proposals as they are announced.

Forever Green
MFU was pleased to see the Legislature appropriate money for the Forever Green Initiative at the U of M which is designed to protect the state’s natural resources while increasing efficiency, profitability, and productivity of Minnesota farmers by incorporating perennial and winter annual crops into existing agricultural practices. The Legacy bill contained $1.5 million for the initiative. Groups, including MFU, had sought more funding and will continue to work to secure more in the future.

County Fairs
MFU supported legislation that passed that will add $150,000 per year to county agricultural societies to enhance arts access and education and to preserve and promote Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage as embodied in its county fairs. The grants are in addition to the aid distribution of $474,000 annually to county agricultural societies.

Minnesota Grown
The Legislature provided base funding of $186,000 per year for MN Grown, which promotes MN Grown products produced and sold from the farm. MFU has been a major sponsor of the program for many years.
Farm to Food Shelf
MFU was pleased to see $2.2 million dollars allocated within the agriculture bill for continued funding for the Farm to Food Shelf program in which many MFU members participate. The program helps agricultural producers and processors offset the cost to harvest and package their donated fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go unharvested or be discarded.

Palmer Amaranth Funding
The Legislature appropriated dollars to help fight noxious weeds, notably Palmer Amaranth, which was a hot topic at last year’s MFU State Convention and was discovered in western Minnesota last year. MFU supported the legislation that will increase funding to MDA as well as provide grants to counties to control and eradicate noxious weeds.

Governor Signs Milk Truck Legislation
Governor Dayton also signed H.F. 1725 authored by Rep. Drazkowski and Sen. Goggin into law in the closing days of the session. The measure allows single-unit milk trucks a 10 percent increase in their weight capacity, assuming they follow bridge limits and recommended tire load weights. After hearing from members about this issue during our listening sessions, MFU supported lobbying efforts of the Minnesota Milk Producers Association who led the effort in passing the legislation.

Water Certification Funding
Included in the Legacy bill was $5 million dollars to provide continued funding for the Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program. MFU provided written support for this program. The program is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. The program has grown to over 300 farms covering more than 200,000 acres.

Farm Advocate Funding Increased
The omnibus agriculture bill also increased funding for the Minnesota Farm Advocate program by $40,000 per year. MFU thanks Rep. Jeanne Poppe (D-Austin) and Sen. Kent Eken (D-Twin Valley) for championing this cause. Farm Advocates provide one-on-one assistance for Minnesota farmers who face crises caused by either a natural disaster or financial problems. Farm Advocates understand the needs of our agricultural families and communities. They are trained and experienced in agricultural lending practices, mediation, lender negotiation, farm programs, crisis counseling, disaster programs, and recognizing the need for legal and/or social services.

Pollinators
The Legislature also appropriated $500,000 to create the pollinator habitat and research account for the University of Minnesota to aid in research and outreach including, but not limited to, science-based best practices and the identification and establishment of habitat beneficial to pollinators. MFU supported this legislation. The Legislature also clarified part of Governor Dayton’s Executive Order on neonicotinoids saying basically that the state cannot require an applicator to prove “verification of need” to apply a product using neonicotinoids if the applicator has been tested and is licensed to apply product. MFU also supported language added that will see the inclusion of verification to MDA applicator testing of pesticides.

Wolf–Livestock Conflict Help
The Legislature also passed an MFU-supported new funding initiative authored by Sen. Ruud and Rep. John Poston (R-Lake Shore) that appropriates $240,000 to MDA for wolf–livestock conflict prevention grants. The grants will be used for non-lethal ways such as fencing or guard dogs for protecting livestock from wolves. When these grants become available, MFU will work to share the information. The Legislature also continued funding programs for wolf and elk depredation.

Farm Nuisance
Two pieces included in the higher education bill that passed, of interest to MFU members, were inclusion of funding for loan forgiveness programs at the U of M for Large Animal Veterinarians and Agriculture Educators. MFU supported both of these pieces to help address shortages within certain areas of these professions.

Loan Forgiveness
Two pieces included in the higher education bill were proposed by MFU members. MFU supported legislation included in the omnibus environmental bill that extends the current ban on permitting new open air swine basins another five years. The law was set to sunset this year. MFU thanks Rep. Fabian and Sen. Carrie Ruud (R-Breezy Point) for carrying this legislation.
The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is seeking public review and comment of a draft proposal for regulating the use of nitrogen fertilizer in Minnesota. The purpose of the proposed Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule is to minimize the potential for nitrate-nitrogen contamination from fertilizer in the state's groundwater and drinking water. Nitrate is one of the most common contaminants in Minnesota's groundwater and elevated levels of nitrate in drinking water can pose serious health concerns for humans.

The MDA will be holding public listening sessions throughout the state to discuss the proposed Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule at which written comments can be submitted. The draft rule can be viewed at www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr. All comments regarding the proposed rule must be submitted in writing. After review of comments received, the MDA expects to publish the final draft of the rule in the fall of 2017. The rule is expected to be adopted in the fall of 2018.

The draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule is based on the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP) which recommends steps for minimizing impacts of nitrogen fertilizer on groundwater and emphasizes involving the local community in developing local solutions. The NFMP went through an extensive development process with input provided by farmers, crop advisors, and others in the agricultural community.

Nonpartisan fiscal staff estimates the plan could cost the state $384 million over the next biennium. MFU preferred legislation authored by Rep. Clark Johnson (D-North Mankato) and Sen. Tony Lourey (D-Kerrick) that would allow Minnesotans to have a public health care option by buying into Minnesota Care. That legislation received a hearing in the Senate but not the House and did not pass. Early in the session, the Legislature appropriated $327 million in assistance to Minnesotans struggling with rising health insurance premiums. While not perfect, MFU supported this process and was pleased to see relief on the way to farmers who do not qualify for federal subsidies. Included in the bill is language allowing farmers and agribusinesses to work with providers to establish agricultural cooperative health plans.

**Fence Law**
Legislation, authored by Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), passed that removes the current cost-share requirement on fencing unless there are livestock on each side of the fence. Under current law, when two parcels of land over 20 acres are next to one another, and one of the landowners decides to put up a fence, the other landowner is required to pay half of the cost.

**Hemp**
The Legislature also appropriated $400,000 for 2018-2019 to MDA to administer the Hemp Pilot Project. Last year about seven farmers grew approximately 35 acres of hemp in the pilot project, this year 41 farmers have applied to plant over 2,000 acres! MFU supported this legislation and thanked Rep. Mary Franson (R-Alexandria) and Sen. Kent Eken for their work.

**Transportation**
While MFU was pleased to see the Legislature appropriate about $300 million in general fund dollars to transportation and bond for another $255 million, our organization was disappointed not to see dedicated long-term funding.

**Broadband**
MFU was pleased to see the Legislature include $20 million dollars for the state's Border to Border matching grant fund broadband program. Governor Dayton had requested $60 million in funds for the next two years.

**Environmental Review**
MFU opposed legislation (S.F. 1016/H.F. 1456) that would have said a mandatory environmental assessment worksheet is not required for an animal feedlot facility with a capacity of less than 2,000 animal units or an expansion of an existing animal feedlot facility with a total cumulative capacity of less than 2,000 animal units. This would have been an increase from the current 1,000 animal unit threshold. This legislation also stalled out during the final weeks of the session.

**Health Care**
The focus of the health care insurance legislation that passed was to establish an insurance pool for health insurance carriers, governed by the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association, a Legislature-created nonprofit. Under the plan, carriers would share the burden of high-risk patients' medical costs once claims hit a certain threshold.

**Legislative Recap**
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FSA County Committee Nomination Period in Minnesota is Now Open

FSA holds annual elections for County Office Committee members each year. Although the election won’t take place until November the nomination period to have a name placed on the ballot has begun. June 15, 2017 marked the beginning of the 2017 FSA County Committee election process. The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a County Committee member, please contact your local FSA office for more information on which Local Administrative Area (LAA) is up for election this year.

The nomination period for your local FSA county committee began on June 15, 2017. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in your local County FSA Office by close of business on August 1, 2017.

County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election, and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority, and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

This year, nominations and elections will be held in one Local Administrative Area, which includes a previously selected area of the county.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about county committee elections is available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committees consist of three to 11 members.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning November 6, 2017. Ballots are due back in your local County Office by mail or in person no later than December 4, 2017. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2018.

For more information about county committees, please contact your local County FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.
MEET THE 2017 CAMP STAFF

*Minnesota Farmers Union Leadership Camp is affordable and open to everyone! It’s all about helping young people become good citizens by planting the seeds of responsibility, leadership, and cooperation in an environment where those qualities can grow and flourish.*

**Introducing the 2017 camp staff!**

Returning for his 14th year at camp (fourth as a counselor, second as Co-Director) is Caleb Schmitz. Now a Sauk Centre native, Caleb works in the wondrous world of insurance when he is not at camp. This soon to be 22 year old enjoys bowling, golfing, and hanging out with friends and family in his spare time. Aside from missing his beloved dog Shasta, Caleb is really looking forward to the talent show this year and putting on a show that will never be forgotten.

Joining Caleb as Co-Director this year is Hannah Ulrich, better known as HannU by campers. This will be Hannah’s eighth year at MFU camp, her second as a counselor. Hannah is 20 years old and attends Metropolitan State University where she studies music business, human resource management, and entrepreneurship. At camp, Hannah enjoys scary stories about cabin 9, hearing strange knocks on her window, and taking long walks to Mt. Tom alone in the dark. In her spare time, Hannah rocks out at a local music venue or enjoys figure skating on the Leather and Laces Synchronized Skating Team. Hannah is extremely excited for another summer at camp, especially for the tater tot hot dish and seeing Keytastic Cal and the Skidazzles live in concert.

Rachel Ecklund comes from the small town of Benson. She’s been going to camp for roughly six years and this is her first year as a counselor. Rachel is 19 years old and attending North Dakota State University for a degree in Marketing. Outside of camp she enjoys bird watching and knitting large blankets to keep her warm. She is looking forward to making friends and learning about Farmers Union history this summer.

Hannah Ricard is returning for her seventh year at camp and second as a counselor. She grew up in Benson with her parents, Maureen and Steve; her sisters; Holly, Grace, and Claire and her dogs; Nigel and Matilda. Hannah is 20 years old and just finished her sophomore year at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities where she is pursuing a double major in music and psychology with the intentions of becoming a music therapist. In her free time she enjoys studying, making music, and spending time outside. Her favorite camp activities are singing songs and making friendship bracelets.

Andrew VanDerPol is returning for his second year as a counselor and ninth year at camp. Andrew is 19 years old and is attending Ridgewater College where he studies Farm Operations and Management with an emphasis in livestock. Andrew is from Kerkhoven where he farms with his family. In his free time, Andrew enjoys fishing and working on his vehicles and tractors.

Nathan Magnell has reemerged from his home in Moorhead and the hustle and bustle of college life, to make his 14th appearance at camp (fourth as a counselor). Nathan is on his way to obtaining his degree in English Education with a certificate in publishing. When he isn’t reading, writing, playing with his dog, or making the long trek back to Gully to visit family, Nathan can usually be found hanging out with friends. In his 22 years on this planet, there is nothing he is more excited about each year than camp. He is looking forward to another fun filled summer but he is most excited for the super fun crafts and gnarly theme nights this year.

Laura Amacher is a Saint Paul native. This will be her 12th year at camp. She is a 21 year old senior at M State pursuing her RN. Outside of camp, she enjoys getting sushi with Nathan, caring for Nathan’s camp pet Kasvi, petting Nathan’s dog Ven, and occasionally fixing Andrew’s tractors. Laura comes from a strong bloodline of MFU camp staff, including her mom, who was a camp cook, and her older sister, who was previously a counselor. She’s excited to be back for another summer of camp after a brief break last year to take part in the NDSU dance team.

We invite you to join us this summer for a week of fun! For more information go to www.mfu.org/camp!

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**GLEN SCHMIDT**
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

glen@mfu.org
DAIRY DAY CAMP IS HUGE SUCCESS

Triple “O” Dairy near Randolph had more than cows roaming on its farm on June 17. It had over 100 kids visit the farm to attend Day Camp on a Dairy Farm. The camp, sponsored by Minnesota Farmers Union in conjunction with Dakota County Farmers Union, provides a venue to educate children about a working dairy farm and is also a way to celebrate dairy farmers during the month of June.

Campers watched cows being milked, learned about what they eat and were able to interact with the calves. Under the direction of Ed Terry, Randolph High School Ag Instructor, two FFA members also explained about raising hogs and beef cattle production. Goodhue County Dairy Princesses got into the act too by scooping ice cream cones during snack time and doing a short demonstration on making butter.

Following the snack break, MFU counselors, who had helped supervise the campers throughout the afternoon, led them in craft making and organized games.

Triple “O” Dairy was formed in 1994 and consists of brothers Kerry and Jay Otte and their deceased father William. Their mother, Mary, still lives on the farm and plays an integral role, as well as Jay’s son Scott.

The Day Camp on a Dairy Farm, is one of several day camps that are hosted by MFU.

Camps vary on topics and activities and are held throughout the state. MFU extends a huge thank you to Triple “O” Dairy for hosting the day camp.

MEET OUR NEW INTERNS

Welcome to MFU’s new intern, Katie Wilts! Katie started as an MFU intern in May 2017. She grew up on a hobby farm in Kerkhoven where she and her family raise corn, soybeans, sugarbeets, and a small herd of purebred Charolais beef cattle. Katie is entering her senior year of college at the University of Minnesota where she studies Agriculture and Food Business Management with a minor in Marketing. In her free time she enjoys playing piano, helping on the farm, being outdoors, and spending time with family and friends.

Also, a very warm welcome to MFU’s camp intern, Abby Donkers! Abby started as the camp intern on May 1. She grew up on a diverse livestock operation in Faribault where she and her family raise sheep, dairy steers, pigs, corn, and soybeans. Abby is entering her junior year of college at South Dakota State University where she is studying Agriculture Leadership with minors in Nonprofit Organizations and Animal Science. In her free time she enjoys hanging out with friends and family, showing sheep at local and state fairs, and attending Farmers Union events.
Solar & Wind Field Day
Saturday, July 15 • 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Pastures A Plenty Company, in cooperation with Marvin Boike and family, are hosting a Solar & Wind Field Day. The day starts at the Pastures A Plenty Farm site with the solar portion, located at 4077 NE 110th Ave. in Kerkhoven (8.25 miles north of Clara City on Chippewa Co. #2, or 14 miles west of Willmar on Highway 40, then 1.3 miles south on #2). James Darabi of Solar Farm will give a short presentation.

Midafternoon, the event moves to the Boike Farm for the wind portion, located at 2050 40th Ave. SE, Maynard (2 miles due west of Gluek). Refreshments will be provided and a wind installer will be in attendance. Various businesses, organizations, and groups interested in solar and wind will also be in attendance.

Come join the dialogue about solar and wind and how it can fit into your energy future. Everyone is welcome.
For further information about the field day contact the VanDerPols at 320-367-2061 or Boikes at 320-367-2767.

Renewable Energy Working Session
Monday & Tuesday, July 17 – 18
Minnesota Farmers Union will be hosting its second Renewable Energy Working Session at our state office. The focus of the Working Session will be on policy discussion, resolution creation, solar and wind issues, distributed generation, legal considerations, legislative changes to distributed generation, and more.
If you are interested in attending contact Michelle Medina at michelle@mfu.org or 651-288-4096.
Note that space is limited and participants will be accepted on a first come first served basis, with priority given to those who did not attend last year.

Dates/Times: 10:00 am – 5:30 pm on Monday, July 17
8:00 am – 2:00 pm on Tuesday, July 18
Location: 305 Roselawn Ave. E, Saint Paul
Contact Michelle Medina with questions and to RSVP.

Benton County Farmers Union Hops Tour
Thursday, July 27 • 2:00 – 5:00 pm
Tour Minnesota’s largest hop farm, Mighty Axe Hops!
Construction of a new harvest facility and building out 80 acres of trellis – there’s a whole lot to see at the new farm in Foley.
The tour is free, family-friendly, and open to the public. Check out the hop fields, hop harvesting facility, and equipment. Refreshments will be served!
Location: 8505 NE 95th St. in Foley
For directions or information contact: Benton County Farmers Union President Carol Anderson at 320-387-2883

Save the Date!
Healthy Soils Field Day
Friday, August 11
Join MFU for a Healthy Soils Field Day in Oronoco.
The day starts at 9 am at People’s Energy Cooperative. Numerous local experts will give a presentation on soil health and cover crops. After a noon lunch, a tour will take place on Rod Sommerfield’s farm. Refreshments and lunch are included.
Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, with farm tour to follow
Location: People’s Energy Cooperative, 1775 Lake Shady Ave. S, Oronoco
For more information and to RSVP, contact MFU Field Representative Dori Klein at 507-843-4560 or dori@mfu.org.
UPCOMING EVENTS

July 13 • Kandiyohi and Swift County Farmers Union Picnic • 6:30 pm • Diamond Lake County Park #3, Hilltop Shelter • Potluck with pork chops and beverages provided FFI: Donnel Williamson at 320-220-3100

July 16 • MFU Beginning Farmers Experience • 1:00 – 6:00 pm • Mighty Axe Hops, 8505 NE 95th St., Foley • FFI: Eric Sannerud at eric@mightyaxehops.com

July 18 • Pine County Farmers Union Meeting 12:00 pm • American Legion, Pine City FFI: Kay Hills at 715-635-9521

July 23 • Aitkin County Picnic 1:00 pm • Potluck Picnic • FFI: Market Vogt at 218-927-2215

Aug. 19 • MFU Full Board of Directors Meeting • 9:00 am • MFU state office FFI: Laura Sherar at 651-639-1223 or laura@mfu.org

Youth Camps

July 10 • Northern Junior Camp (Ages 11-14) • Farmers Union Lake Sarah Campground near Erskine

July 17 • Lac qui Parle Day Camp (Ages 5-12) • 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Dawson Swimming Pool Park • FFI and to RSVP: Deb Breberg, 320-769-2088 • FREE

July 18 • Morrison County Day Camp (Ages 5-12) • 10:00 am – 2:00 pm • Little Falls Lions Park • FFI and to RSVP: Carol Schmidt, 320-632-9432 • FREE

County Conventions

Aug. 2 • Redwood County Convention 6:00 pm • Gilfillan Estates Picnic Area near Farmfest • FFI: Ted Suss at 507-828-3377

Aug. 6 • Big Stone County Convention 12:00 pm • Camp for Christ Oronville FFI: Mike Jorgenson at 320-273-2437

Aug. 7 • Goodhue County Convention 7:00 pm • Area 57 Restaurant, Wanamingo FFI: Deborah Mills at 651-764-0006

Aug. 10 • Waseca County Convention 5:30 pm • Pizza Ranch, Waseca FFI: David Clausen at 507-234-6872

Sept. 7 • Pope, Douglas, and Grant County Convention • 6:00 pm • Lakeside Ballroom, Glenwood • FFI: Vernon Pooch at 320-815-8360

Sept. 11 • Morrison County Convention 7:00 pm • The Royal Café, Little Falls FFI: Lee Johnston at 320-573-2328

Sept. 12 • Dodge & Olmsted County Convention • 6:30 pm • Ashland Town Hall, Dodge Center • FFI: John Larsen at 507-273-1451

Sept. 14 • Swift & Kandiyohi County Convention • Further details to follow

Sept. 17 • Becker County Convention 5:00 pm • 59er Café, Detroit Lakes FFI: Roger Schaef at 218-334-4631

Sept. 17 • Todd County Convention 7:30 pm • Thunder Lodge, Long Prairie FFI: Alan Perish at 320-760-2516

Sept. 18 • Mahnomen & Norman County Convention • 12:00 pm • Klabunde Farm, 2843 140th Ave., Waubun • FFI: Bryan Klabunde at 218-556-0634

Sept. 27 • Dakota County Convention 7:00 pm • The Royal Café, Little Falls FFI: Lee Johnston at 320-573-2328

Join the discussion and help to make Minnesota’s water quality cleaner by 2025

Governor Dayton wants to hear from Minnesotans and will host a series of Town Halls over the summer and fall. In addition, he is calling on Minnesotans and civic organizations to organize their own Community Water Meetings this summer to provide further feedback and ideas.

Gather your community, school, family, and friends to have a conversation this summer about what you can do at the local level to help Minnesota reach our 25 by 25 goal!

Locations and dates for the water quality town-hall meetings:

- Rochester • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Monday, July 31, 2017 Rochester Community and Technical College Heintz Commons
- Mankato • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Wednesday, August 16, 2017 Minnesota State University
- Marshall • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Thursday, August 17, 2017 Southwest Minnesota State University

The 25 by ’25 Water Quality Goal is a new program designed to improve Minnesota’s water quality 25 percent by 2025. Without this action, the quality of Minnesota’s waters are expected to improve only 6 to 8 percent by 2034.
MFU Offers FREE Agritourism Sign to Members

WARNING

Inherent Risks of Agritourism

Under Minnesota law, a provider of agritourism activities is not liable for injury, damage, or death of a participant resulting from an inherent risk of agritourism. Inherent risks include: natural hazards and conditions of land, water and vegetation; behavior of wild, domestic, and farm animals; ordinary dangers of farm, ranch, processing, and other machinery, equipment and structures; and, other dangers or conditions integral to an agritourism activity. Participants assume the inherent risks of agritourism activities.

MINN. STAT. 604A.40 (2016)

Thinking of inviting the public onto your farm this summer for a farm tour, breakfast, U-pick, etc.? MFU worked to pass the state agritourism bill in 2015. To be protected, the provider of the agritourism activity must post signs warning attendees of the inherent risks of visiting a farm. These signs should be posted at the entrance to the property and be clearly visible to all visitors.

Upon request, Minnesota Farmers Union will provide interested members one FREE sign that meets the specific guidelines in accordance to the Limited Liability Law. With the sign, you’ll also receive a two-page guide to the law that was put together by Farmers Legal Action Group (FLAG). Additional signs for members can be purchased for $7. Signs for non-members cost $10.

To get your sign, contact MFU Executive Assistant Laura Sherar at laura@mfu.org or 651-639-1223.

Notice is hereby given that filings are open for the office of Minnesota Farmers Union President and Vice President.

Anyone wishing to file for these offices must get a petition from the State Secretary via the State Office.

Please contact Laura Sherar at 651-639-1223 or Anne Schwagerl, State Secretary
c/o MFU, 305 Roselawn Ave. E, Suite 200. Saint Paul, MN 55117

Nominations procedure according to MFU Bylaws, Article VII, Section 4 state:

“The President and Vice President of Minnesota Farmers Union shall be elected and installed at the biennial meeting of Minnesota Farmers Union in odd numbered years on such date as may be set by the state Executive Committee.

a) Nominations for President and Vice President shall be made by petition and such nominations shall be in the hands of the State Secretary on or before October 1 of each odd numbered year.

The nominating petition shall require the signature of at least one member in good standing from each of five local or at-large county unions. To be valid, the nominating petition must bear the signature of the nominee, indicating that it is being filed with the nominee’s knowledge and consent.

The state Secretary shall, on a date not more than 90 days nor less than 20 days prior to the final date for filing, publish in the official publication of Minnesota Farmers Union a notice that filings are open for the particular offices and that nomination petition forms shall be available to any member in good standing upon request to the State Secretary.

The State Secretary shall, on a date not less than 10 days prior to the first day of the convention, publish in the official publication of Minnesota Farmers Union a list of the persons nominated by petition for the particular offices.

If there are no nominations by petition, or if any of the nominees who are nominated by petition shall be unable to serve or become ineligible, convention delegates shall have the privilege of nominating from the floor the day prior to balloting.

Petition forms must be in the hands of the State Secretary by October 1, and a list of candidates will be included in the October Minnesota Agriculture, paper deadline permitting.
Planning to have a booth at your county fair? Need some MFU swag to help get the message of Minnesota Farmers Union out in your community? If yes, then make sure you order your County Fair Kit today!

You can request the entire fair kit as a whole, or individual pieces that best suit your booth and county needs. Please note that there is NO COST for the fair kits or individual items.

Can’t afford a fair booth or need more help staffing? Contact your local MFU Insurance agent and share a booth! Additional help with ideas and staffing for the booth can be directed to Membership & Outreach staff. If your fair board requires insurance, MFU can provide insurance at no additional cost to your county organization.

Contact the MFU State Office at 651-639-1223 with questions.

County Fair Kit Order Form

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<tr>
<th>MFU Fair Kit</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Includes: 20 chip clips, 20 key chains, 25 jar openers, 30 carpenter pencils, 20 pens, 40 temporary farm tattoos, 40 MFU buttons, 50 copies of MN Agriculture paper, 50 copies of promotional brochures, and 50 MFU camp info cards)</td>
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I would like to request a banner with MFU logo ________

Please allow up to two weeks to receive your fair kit items.

Date ordered ___________________________ Fair Dates ___________________________

President ___________________________ County ___________________________

Please return to: MFU Fair Kit c/o Michelle Medina, 305 Roselawn Ave. E, Suite 200, Saint Paul, MN 55117.

You can also fax to 651-639-0421 or email to michelle@mfu.org

County Conventions
Schedule your meeting now!

Counties are eligible for a $200 early bird bonus if they hold conventions by October 1, 2017 and submit all paperwork to the MFU state office by October 15, 2017.

Contact Laura Sherar at 651-288-4060 or laura@mfu.org to schedule your annual county convention.

Visit Us At FarmFest!
August 1–3, Redwood Falls
MFU Booth 509
Stop by and let’s talk ag policy. Enjoy a slice of pizza provided by Big River Pizza.

Visit Us At FarmFest!
August 1–3, Redwood Falls
MFU Booth 509
Stop by and let’s talk ag policy. Enjoy a slice of pizza provided by Big River Pizza.
Farmers Union Insurance Agency is wholly owned by Minnesota Farmers Union.
A portion of your premium dollars go right back to supporting Minnesota Farmers Union,
protecting family farms, ranches and cooperatives, enhancing the quality of life of family farmers
and ranchers, and supporting the hardworking men and women in Minnesota’s agricultural communities.

Call your local FUJA Agent today and experience
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BENSON
Tom Hollingsworth
(320) 843-2422

CANBY
Mike Panka
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CROOKSTON
Chris Swanson
(218) 281-6724

DAWSON
Deborah Breberg
(320) 769-2088

DETROIT LAKES
Joe McCollum
(218) 844-5970

DULUTH
Brad Anderson
(218) 481-0812

ELK RIVER
Rob Pampusch
(763) 441-4250

FARIBAULT
Angela Francis
(507) 209-7598

FARMINGTON
Jerry Theisen
(651) 463-7667

NEW!
FERGUS FALLS
Grant Davenport
(218) 736-5697

FRANKLIN
Joel Harmoning
(507) 557-7000

GOODHUE
Dan Hedeen
(651) 923-4433

NEW!
GUARDIAN
Alison Peters
(651) 923-4433

NEW!
HALLOCK
Jay Swanson &
Brittany Pulec
(218) 853-2468

IVANHOE
Mike Panka
(507) 694-1750

LAKE CRYSTAL
Matt Peterson
(507) 726-2961

LITTLE FALLS
Dan Prokott
(320) 632-3806

LUVERNE
Steve Cattanach
(507) 283-8383

MAHOMEN
David McCollum
(218) 935-2175

MARSHALL
Dennis Klocow, Jr.
(507) 532-0418

MENAHGA
Kim Rasmussen
(218) 564-5300

MONTEVIDEO
Ivan Anderson
(320) 269-9463

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Dennis Fjeld
(218) 236-1966

MOOSE LAKE
Mark Sagvold
(218) 485-8144

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Debbie Anderson
(320) 589-3245

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Lisa Preuss
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Jay Swanson
(218) 681-6443

WINDOM
Ted Winter
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Cary Sundlof
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SAINT PAUL
Paul Johannes
(320) 235-2540

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