



Minnesota Farmers Union: Government Relations Director

Organization Summary:

Minnesota Farmers Union is a progressive, grassroots membership organization that supports family farmers and rural development. Drawing on the base values of education, cooperation and legislation, MFU works with individuals at the county, state, national and international level to sustain economically viable family farms, support new farmers, further agricultural education, increase consumer awareness and ensure that the voice of family farmers is heard by policy makers.

Brief Description:

The Government Relations Director will work closely with the staff, county leadership and organizational partners to execute a comprehensive government relations strategy promoting the MFU grassroots policy document developed annually at the state convention.

Responsibilities include:

- Lobby for MFU's grassroots policy at the State Capitol. Build and maintain relationships with elected officials, staff and candidates at the national, state and local levels.
- Coordinate and manage advocacy aspects of MFU events, including the MFU Lobby Day, NFU Fly-In and MFU Convention.
- Draft correspondence to the administration, Legislature and outside organizations. Work with Communications Director to draft statements for press releases, newsletters and other publications. Represent MFU in the media as requested.
- Represent MFU on boards, panels and meetings with other farm organizations, commodity groups and organizational partners.
- Brief MFU staff, county leadership and members on policy updates through weekly emails, monthly MN Agriculture articles, bi-monthly phone calls, trade show staffing and presentations at state and county meetings.
- Work in person and over the phone with individual farmers to connect them with the necessary resources within the government to address farming and business challenges.
- Travel extensively statewide to MFU events and other meetings.

Experience:

- Strong understanding of agricultural policy and practices.
- Working understanding of the state and national legislative processes.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and effective listening skills.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully manage projects with competing priorities, deadlines and demands.
- Exceptional attention to detail, knowledge retention and ability to recall large amounts of detailed information.
- Five or more years' experience lobbying on agricultural and/or rural issues.
- Familiar and supportive of MFU and MFU policy.

Compensation:

Salary DOE. Full time, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. with flexibility to attend evening and weekend events required, especially during the legislative session. Office closes at noon on Fridays in the summer. Medical, dental, life, long and short term disability insurance, 401K, paid vacation and sick leave provided.

To Apply:

Submit a PDF cover letter, resume, and three references to MFU Operations Director Laura Sherar at laura@mfu.org. Please no phone calls or visits.