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Dicamba Herbicide Restrictions

Photo taken at the Linder Family Farm, MFU members in Red Lake County
Looking for a summer job? Come work at Minnesota Farmers Union Camp!

If you love the outdoors and working with kids, Minnesota Farmers Union Leadership Camp may be the perfect place for you! Working at a summer camp is hard work, but it’s worth the effort. You’ll leave camp with unique skills, new friends and a ton of great memories. Our campers and staff become a community, and we work hard to ensure that everyone is having a fantastic summer camp experience. From leadership experience, team building exercises and more, our counselors gain important life skills from their first day of training to the last day of camp. Our counselors have FUN, but they also learn a lot about their skills and their passions. A summer at camp is truly an experience you’ll never forget.

A Minnesota Farmers Union Camp Counselor is responsible for planning, leading and implementing core and non-core programs and experiences for children in small and large group settings. They will also be responsible for the general safety and development, growth, and skill achievement of the participants in their group. The counselor will provide high quality outdoor educational and recreational experiences for participants that focus on the MFU core values of cooperation, leadership, respect and responsibility.

**Required qualifications**
- Education classes or experience in camp, youth programs, recreation, working with children or a related area.
- Upon hire, completion of MFU-provided First Aid and CPR certification.
- Ability to lead, plan, organize and implement program activities.
- Ability to work as a member of a team and the ability to accomplish tasks with little direct supervision.
- Strong organizational and communication skills.

If interested, email MFU Education Director Glen Schmidt at glen@mfu.org for more information and to receive an application.

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Get Social With Minnesota Farmers Union!

Do you like to use Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to keep up with news you care about? You’ll find us there, too. Follow Minnesota Farmers Union on social media to find out about events, policy happenings, photos and more.

Facebook: Minnesota Farmers Union

Instagram: mnfarmersunion

Twitter: @mnfarmersunion

Tag us in posts we should see and we’ll like and share them.

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Volume 163  No. 1  January 2019
Happy New Year

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. 2019 is going to be an interesting year, as we’ve got much to work on. I look forward to seeing each of you at MFU events this year and learning from you how we can continue building our organization.

Remembering Bob Bergland

Roseau County Farmers Union member and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland passed away in December at the age of 90. Raised on a 360-acre wheat farm, Bob grew to become a farmer, labor union organizer, MFU Field Representative and organizer, Congressman and Secretary of Agriculture under President Jimmy Carter. He’s remembered for his delicate balancing act of creating policies that benefited both farmers and consumers, rather than seeing the two as enemies. There’s much merit to be seen in that philosophy. While farming in Roseau, he experienced poverty and crop failure, which he never forgot during his time serving in public life. After retiring, Bob continued to be active in MFU with his wife Helen at county meetings. We appreciate all he did for family farmers and the people of the United States and send our condolences to his loved ones.

Farm Bill passes Senate, House

Nearly three months after the expiration of the 2014 Farm Bill, the conference committee finally agreed on a new one. The conference compromise bill, whose language was closer to that of the Senate’s original bill than the House’s, passed both chambers overwhelmingly and was signed by President Donald Trump, fulfilling the special order passed at the 77th Annual MFU Convention calling for passage of the Farm Bill during the lame-duck session.

We are pleased to see this small step towards certainty for family farmers. It contains an improved dairy program, highly touted by House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-Minn.), replacing the Margin Protection Program with Dairy Margin Coverage. It includes some modest changes to the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) programs that would allow farmers to update their payment yields based on their 2013-2017 average yields per acre. It also kept the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in place, as well as a slight boost to Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage. The bill reauthorized funding for local food and organic programs, as well as beginning farmer and socially disadvantaged farmer programs and the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, which will provide mental health services to those involved in farming.

Another notable move was that the conference committee ultimately made no significant changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Originally, the House version contained bigger changes to the program that caused a partisan divide. The committee compromised on this so the final bill enjoyed widespread bipartisan support.

We thank Rep. Peterson for his leadership on the Farm Bill as well as Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith and Reps. Erik Paulsen, Rick Nolan, Betty McCollum and Tom Emmer for their support of the bill. We also recognize Rep. Tim Walz for his work on beginning farmer and soil initiatives. Though we are disappointed that some issues were not addressed, such as meaningful payment limitations, it meets many of the needs you expressed.

Rep. Collin Peterson answers Farm Bill questions at the 77th Annual MFU Convention

However, much more needs to be done to get the farm economy going back in the right direction, as farm income is projected to decline again this year. Congress must address the severe economic impact tariffs, bad trade deals, high health care costs and agribusiness consolidation have had on family farmers. We cannot have a sustainable family agriculture system without all farmers receiving a fair price for their labor. The new Farm Bill is a step in the right direction, but we must not stop there.

Health care priorities

Speaking of health care, I was pleased to attend the United States of Care inaugural convening in Washington, D.C. in early December. I sit on the Founder’s Council of this organization whose mission is to generate non-partisan discussion across the country about health care policy solutions. I’ve said many times that we need to take partisan politics out of health care and focus on helping people. The U.S. of Care aims to do just that.

One of the U.S. of Care’s core tenets is that states can and should take initiative in improving health care access. Former MNsure CEO Allison O’Toole is in a leading role there, as Senior Director of State Affairs. Minnesota Sen. Tony Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) has been a leader on that front, authoring legislation that would implement a MinnesotaCare buy-in option to our public health insurance market. He was a panelist at the event on local health solutions. Former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger

(continued on page 4)
(R-Minn.), who sits on the U.S. of Care Board, also represented our state, speaking on a panel about the broader political context of health care. We heard from cancer patients, primary care physicians, policy makers and nonprofit leaders. They agreed that there’s no “magic wands” to solving the problems with our health care system, but also that it’s possible to cooperatively improve it with a practical approach.

At our 77th Annual MFU Convention, you spoke out loudly and clearly on the need for better health care. That’s why I’m taking the time to learn from experts at events like this and why it’s one of our top priorities in the 2019 legislative session. We’ll be working for enacting the MinnesotaCare buy-in, renewing the provider tax that funds MinnesotaCare and lowering prescription drug prices.

**Taxes**

Each year, we work with legislators on a wide variety of policies. Besides health care, a big one we’ll focus on this year is tax conformity. Currently Minnesota’s state tax code does not line up with the federal tax code on Section 179, with has to do with accelerated depreciation. Many of you have expressed concern about this. Another tax priority will be maintaining the 40 percent credit to agricultural landowners on school capital improvement levy property taxes and possibly expanding it to include other levies.

For more on our legislative priorities, see an update from Government Relations Director Thom Petersen on pages 6-7.

**Trade cease-fire?**

Our trade relationships continue to be thorny. A good piece of news is that the U.S. and China have agreed to a “cease-fire” in the president’s trade war. The Trump administration agreed not to slap more tariffs on China before March 2, and the two sides will continue negotiating.

Some in agriculture have become more optimistic, as China has purchased U.S. soybeans again. It's not likely to make a difference, though. The beans they've purchased are small amounts to replenish their government stocks, so they don't have to pay tariffs on them. When soybean harvest begins in Brazil and Argentina soon, China will likely be able to rely on them for beans, as North Dakota State University economist Dr. Frayne Olson said at the North Dakota Farmers Union Convention last month. Also, there's no sign that the Chinese will renge on their unethical trade practices. If they don't, it's likely the tariff battle will continue. It's going to take much more to restore this market than one "cease-fire."

On the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the new Congress will take up the proposed U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). President Trump is threatening to formally remove the U.S. from the agreement in less than six months if Congress does not ratify it within that time frame. This threat is unwise, as all three countries need to ratify the agreement.

With the steel and aluminum tariffs still in place, we won't receive many of the benefits USMCA could provide. For instance, Mexico still has retaliatory tariffs in place on cheese from the U.S. We need to remove the steel and aluminum tariffs before we see any real improvement in our trade situation.

**Lobby Day Drive-In**

Our annual Lobby Day Drive-In is coming up on Tuesday, Feb. 5. I invite each of you to join us at the State Capitol in St. Paul, where we'll meet with elected officials and other policy makers. It’s important for legislators to hear from real family farmers and rural residents – your voice makes a difference. More information is available on page 6.

Also, winter is a busy time for agricultural trade shows, conventions and conferences. We will be at many of them. Find a list of our upcoming events on page 15 and be sure to come say hello if you’re at an ag conference.

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Save the Date!

**March 3 – 5, 2019**

117th Anniversary Convention
Bellevue, Washington

The National Farmers Union 117th Anniversary Convention will take place on March 3–5, 2019 at Hyatt Regency Bellevue.

The convention provides NFU members and attendees the opportunity to learn, collaborate and grow through thoughtful discussions, breakout sessions and farm tours. NFU is pleased to offer attendees new learning opportunities this year while maintaining a focus on the issues that matter most to family farmers and ranchers, such as the economy and defending the farm safety net.

Visit: [nfu.org/convention](http://nfu.org/convention) for more information and registration details.
Each year Minnesota Farmers Union and National Farmers Union offer numerous scholarship opportunities to members and their children. Altogether there is more than $10,000 of scholarship money available. Please encourage any student currently attending or just starting college to visit www.mfu.org/scholarships for more information and to download the applications.

NFU Women's Conference Scholarships
I am pleased to announce that we have six individuals receiving scholarships to attend the 2019 National Farmers Union Women's Conference, held Jan. 13-17 in San Diego, Calif. They are:

Theresa Bentz of Northfield: “I would like to learn more about supports for women in ag since I am the brains and sweat behind my small operation, and to learn from other women who have made their mark in the world of ag.”

Katie Brown of Rogers: “This conference will help me become more informed about current issues that our industry is facing as well as learning about ‘Farming in Community.’ The Minnesota Farmers Union will benefit from my attendance to this conference because I will be taking this information and experiences and bringing it directly into different communities in Minnesota as I begin my career as a high school agriculture teacher.”

Amy Liddell of Ada: “I would like to attend the NFU Women's Conference so that I can further my knowledge of how agricultural can transform communities and the roles that women play in this. I believe sharing this information within Minnesota could help encourage more women to get involved.”

Josephine Troppe of Northfield: “I see the NFU Women's Conference as an incredible learning opportunity and a way for me to authentically uphold my commitment to developing my leadership within my local, regional, state and national agricultural community.”

Cynthia VanDerPol of Kerkhoven: “When we get together for the Minnesota farmers union women's conference we always have a lot to talk about, mental health of our farming families, struggles that we are all facing in these difficult farming time and how to keep our family homes going. I hope that we can get ideas from a national side of things and bring that back here to Minnesota.”

Kirsten VanDerPol of Kerkhoven: “I'm honored to attend the NFU Women's Conference. Farmers Union is a large part of my life and a large part of why I am majoring in Agricultural Business. I would love to see how women are impacting agriculture across the country.”

Congratulations to all the 2019 Women's Conference scholarship winners!

Rice County scholarships
Rice County Farmers Union has a long history of sponsoring scholarships within Rice County and to students statewide. Scholarships from Rice County Farmers Union are available to Minnesota Farmers Union family members who plan to attend or are currently enrolled in post-secondary institutions, technical or trade schools, community colleges, state universities or private institutions.

The Rice County Farmers Union has selected three outstanding candidates to receive scholarships in 2018-2019:

Riley Donkers, son of Jim and Gail Donkers of Faribault. Riley attends South Dakota State University where he is majoring in Agronomy with Precision Agriculture and Economics minors. Riley wrote in his essay, “Farmers Union has always been a part of my life. In my early childhood we would go and visit my Grandma Pat at the state convention so we could go swimming and have the night away. We would learn all about what the hot topics were at the conference and visit with the other members. The Farmers Union paper was always on the table at home and we'd read the articles that interested us and discuss the item over dinner. I don't think I realized it until recently, but the Farmers Union mentality has played a very strong role in my upbringing and has continued to help shape my political and economic decisions.”

Ethan Johnson, son of Dean and Elizabeth Johnson of Heron Lake. Ethan is majoring in Agricultural Education and Dairy Manufacturing at SDSU. Ethan says, “Growing up I often heard stories about my great-grandfather Ernest Johnson. He was a participant of the Farm Holiday Association, an effort to protect small farms during the 1930’s. That experience led him to be one of the founding members of Farmers Union in our county. He passed that passion of small farming to my grandfather and my father who were/are both Farmers Union members. That passion has inspired me to look for careers that will allow me to stay in the area helping out local farmers with an eventual goal of coming back to the farm.”

Abigail Donkers, daughter of Jim and Gail Donkers of Faribault. Abigail is studying Agricultural Leadership with minors in Animal Science and Non-Profits at South Dakota State University. In her essay, Abigail wrote, “A few years ago Minnesota Farmers Union held their first ever Women’s Conference, and I can proudly say that I attended this conference. I loved everything about the conference – from the music and theme ‘This Girl Is On Fire’ to the AWESOME local food we shared! By far my favorite session was learning how to share my story. I learned that I have a very short window of time to share my story – so make it matter!”

MFU Collegiate Scholarship
Minnesota Farmers Union has is also happy to announce the winners of the MFU collegiate scholarship. They are: Alexys Roseland, daughter of Lisa Roseland of Arlington, attending the University of Minnesota-Duluth; Meghan Beckendorf, daughter of Brad and Jennifer Beckendorf of Renville, attending Southwest Minnesota State University; Katrina M. Thoe, daughter of Susan and Jeffrey Thoe of Hayfield, attending Winona State University; Riley and Abigail Donkers; and Ethan Johnson.

For more information on MFU and NFU scholarship opportunities, visit www.mfu.org/scholarships. Questions? Contact me at 651-288-4066 or glen@mfu.org.
2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The 2019 Legislative session will begin on Jan. 8, 2019 with many changes. The biggest is that Gov.-elect Tim Walz will be taking over as Gov. Mark Dayton finishes his term, and we will see the Minnesota House of Representatives controlled by the DFL. The Senate remains under a one-vote Republican majority. MFU will have an ambitious agenda this session. I encourage you to contact me with questions and hope you consider attending our annual Lobby Day Drive-In at the Capitol on Tuesday, Feb. 5 (see below for more information). Here are some of the issues MFU will be working on in the upcoming session. Contact me with questions and comments at thom@mfu.org or (651) 288-4067.

Health Care: MFU strongly supports allowing people to buy into the state MinnesotaCare program. MFU further supports extending the provider tax which sunsets Jan. 1, 2020 that helps fund the current MinnesotaCare program. MFU also supports extending the provider tax which sunsets Jan. 1, 2020 that helps fund the current MinnesotaCare. MFU also supports making changes to allow a portion of the credit could be used for making a family member who is selling or renting to another family members eligible for the credit (currently not allowed) and making it easier to obtain credit for farm business management to qualify for the credit.

Wolf depredation: MFU strongly supports adequate funding for wolf depredation to be paid to farmers who experience losses and for the DNR to manage the population. MFU also supports a cost share program for farmers to mitigate wolf-livestock conflicts. MFU supports the wolf hunting and trapping season which is currently suspended.

Transportation funding: MFU strongly supports working to create adequate funding to support Minnesota roads and bridges; this includes increasing the state gas tax.

Join MFU at the Capitol • Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019

Come make your voice heard with MFU at the 2019 Lobby Day Drive-In at the State Capitol in Saint Paul. Help us deliver our member-driven legislative priorities to lawmakers.

We will begin the day at 10 a.m. in room 300 North of the State Office Building, and then members and staff will spend the day meeting with legislators, attending committee hearings and meeting with other elected officials. The day usually ends about 3 p.m., but you can join us for however long you are able.

This is a great and important opportunity for MFU members to connect with their legislators and help MFU make our presence felt at the Capitol.

Members who have questions about Lobby Day or to RSVP should contact Laura Sherar at laura@mfu.org or (651) 639-1223.

MFU can provide you with convenient Capitol parking options and maps for your visit to the Capitol upon request. MFU will also be organizing some carpools to the Capitol if you do not wish to drive yourself or would like to ride with someone. Please contact MFU Field Services for assistance: Lee Johnson, lee@mfu.org or (507) 317-7537
Ken Pazdernik, ken@mfu.org or (218) 206-4499
Diana Rico, diana@mfu.org or (651) 368-6247
Peter Ripka, peter@mfu.org or (320) 412-6355
Amanda Rosendahl, amanda@mfu.org or (320) 815-8670
2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Renewable energy: MFU supports legislation that would increase the state Renewable Energy Standard (RES). The current standards call for 25 percent of Minnesota’s energy to come from renewable power by the year 2025; the legislative proposal ups those goals to 37 percent by that same deadline and 50 percent by 2030.

Right to repair: MFU supports legislation that would allow farmers to fix electronic parts of their own equipment without going to a dealer.

Meat processing: MFU will be working on legislation to address roadblocks and address wait times for farmers at Minnesota processing plants.

Farm to School: MFU supports legislation and funding for the Farm to School program which brings local fresh foods to Minnesota K-12 schools.

Industrial hemp: MFU supports funding for MDA to manage the industrial hemp program and support the farmers and business as interest in the crop continues to grow.

Buffers: MFU supports the current buffer language but would support continued clarifying language as needed as well as compensation to landowners, including a tax credit.

Ditch mowing: MFU supports working on a legislative solution that would clarify farmers would be allowed to mow and bale roadside ditches before the current Aug. 1 date under certain circumstances to be determined.

Good Food Access Fund: MFU supports continued funding for this program created by the Legislature last year that works to bring fresh foods to parts of MN that lack access and infrastructure to fresh foods.

Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule: MFU supports MDA’s Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule and the changes that have been made to the rule as it has moved through the process. MFU has heard from members in affected areas that they generally do not fall apply nitrogen. The rule banning fall application would not go into effect until 2020. However, MFU does support the committees with jurisdiction over the rule to hold hearings on the rule this coming legislative session.

Forever Green: MFU supports legislation for grants to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to fund the Forever Green Agriculture Initiative and to protect the state’s natural resources while increasing the efficiency, profitability and productivity of Minnesota farmers by incorporating perennial and winter annual crops into existing agricultural practices.

FUIA AGENT HIGHLIGHT:
JOE MCCOLLUM
(218) 844-5970
joe@mnfuia.com
115 Willow St. W, Suite 2E, Detroit Lakes

Why is working with Farmers Union Insurance Agency and MFU important to you? Working with Farmers Union Insurance Agency and MFU is like being part of a family; they are my support team and an extension of my business. Growing up on the family farm, my mother Judy (a 3rd grade teacher), and father David (a crop farmer and insurance Agent), instilled in me honesty and a strong work ethic so I am grateful to serve my customers with anything as it arises.

What community organizations are you passionate about? I am an active board member for the Brady Oberg Legacy Foundation. My brother-in-law, Brady, who served his country on the front lines of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, took his own life in 2015 from PTSD. I have seen first-hand how PTSD affects those who serve to protect our country. The Brady Oberg Legacy Foundation has driven me to support veterans and their families through education and increasing awareness of PTSD.

I’m also a member of the Naytahwaush Night-Riders Snowmobile club. We do an annual drive to raise money for local hospice care.

Please tell us a little bit about your family life. I grew up as the second oldest of four children in Mahnomen, which is in North-west Minnesota. I married my wife, Amy, in August 2014. We live in Detroit Lakes and whenever possible, we enjoy traveling and spending time with friends and family. If I ever have a spare moment you’ll find me outdoors: deer hunting in the Fall, ice fishing in the Winter and enjoying the lakes in the Summer.

What is your #1 concern when reviewing and selling farm insurance? My number one concern is making sure my customers have the accurate coverages they need. I know that farming is a business with very little forgiveness, and it’s my job to be sure that my clients have what they need. Beyond accurate coverages, I want my customers to know that I will help them in any way I can to make their business successful. Growing up on the family farm, my mother Judy (a 3rd grade teacher), and father David (a crop farmer and insurance Agent), instilled in me honesty and a strong work ethic so I am grateful to serve my customers with anything as it arises.

Joe started the Detroit Lakes Agency in 2012. Follow Farmers Union Insurance Agency on social media at MFUFA, and visit our website at mnfuia.com.
Building our grassroots membership through active counties

By Bruce Miller, Membership and Outreach Director

Active local and county Farmers Union organizations are key puzzle pieces in creating Farmers Union’s grassroots success. At both the state and national levels, Farmers Union is greatly appreciative of the efforts by our locals and counties and wishes to recognize those groups demonstrating leadership in their communities.

It takes even more effort to keep our counties viable in today’s hectic world. We compete with so many other events and activities, and it seems as if we’re all time-challenged. But having a local connection is something our members cherish and support.

To gain state and national recognition, there is a Leadership Achievement Award with National Farmers Union for counties for building our grassroots membership.

Those selected for the award will receive recognition for their work.

What does a county have to do to qualify?
1. Hold at least four meetings per year
2. Have your county organization represented at a minimum of two state and/or national meetings a year
3. Participate in or conduct at least two community activities or programs during the calendar year
4. Have your county organization represented during the calendar year at one local and/or state cooperative organization function
5. Have a membership increase over the previous year

Every MFU county that achieves a NFU Leadership Achievement Award will receive a certificate from NFU and other rewards for their work.

For questions on how your county can meet these criteria, please contact me at bruce@mfu.org.

Membership Incentive Programs

Want to help build Minnesota Farmers Union and earn a little money doing so? Take part in the Minnesota Farmers Union Membership Recruitment Reward Program.

Individual Member Bonus Payments

Any member of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) who helps renew memberships or recruit new members is eligible for the Individual Member Bonus Program.

A recruiting member will receive $7.50 for every one year membership and $12 for every two or three year membership. This applies to both new and renewing memberships.

To encourage the recruitment of new members, each recruiting member will receive an additional $3 for new members recruited.

Incentive payments are mailed to recruiting members in the spring of the following year after all memberships have been processed for the year and annual MFU membership is certified.

Do you need a membership book? MFU updated membership slips to include additional information needed to process payments. Please contact the office to receive your up-to-date membership books and track your recruitment.

2019 Rider Program

Any recruiting member who accompanies a MFU staff member on recruiting visits is eligible to earn the incentive fees as outlined in the Individual Member Bonus Program.

Riding with another MFU member also makes you eligible for the Individual Member Bonus Program. There is nothing better than working with friends, building membership, as well as getting recognition and some extra cash.

We welcome members to work with staff and other Minnesota Farmers Union members to recruit new members and to encourage current members to rejoin MFU.

On the bottom of the membership slip, make sure to add your name as the rider! This is how MFU staff tracks your incentive payments from the Individual Member Bonus Program.

National Farmers Union Star Awards

MFU members who actively recruit new members are eligible for awards from NFU: the Blue Star and Silver Star. You can earn points towards these Star awards each time you sign up a new member, plus get other gifts along the way. Here are the awards:

• 10 points – Farmers Union logo cap
• 15 points – Farmers Union shirt
• 20 points – $100 credit toward any Farmers Union event registration: state or national convention, camp, Fly-in or other educational program
• 25 points – $200 Cabela’s gift card
• 40 points – The Blue Star Award! Blue Star lapel pin and a $350 Cabela’s gift card
• 50 points – The Silver Star Award! The historic Silver Star lapel pin for outstanding leadership in membership recruitment, plus a $500 credit toward any Farmers Union event registration or $350 Cabela’s gift card.

Here’s how the point system works:
• One-year renewals: 1/2 point
• One-year new memberships: 1 point
• Multi-year membership renewals: 1/2 point per year renewed
• New multi-year membership: 1 point per year signed up for

All awards are based on Membership Recruitment conducted between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 of each year. MFU staff are not eligible to participate in these programs. For more information or to participate, please contact Bruce Miller at bruce@mfu.org or Laura Sherar at laura@mfu.org. Membership forms and materials will be sent to you.

MFU President Wertish addressing a county meeting
More than 40 MFU county officers attended a leadership training session at the 77th Annual MFU Convention in November. It was the first time we had held such a session at convention. We had excellent engagement from county presidents, vice presidents, secretaries and treasurers.

Organized as an MFU Membership and Education program, this session had three goals: First, to introduce new leaders to the MFU state staff; second, to distribute a copy of the Farmers Union Leadership Manual, adapted from National Farmers Union materials; third, to have a dialogue about county organizations and membership building activities and how county officers can build them.

The meeting opened with Minnesota Farmers Union President Gary Wertish and Vice President Bryan Klabunde talking about the need for engagement and involvement by county leaders, whether people are brand-new officers, or have been officers for a while. They each shared their stories of becoming leaders in Farmers Union and why it’s important to them.

The group then heard from state staff who introduced themselves and talked about their roles in the Farmers Union organization. MFU Operations Director Laura Sherar spoke about MFU reports and how county officers can work with the State Office. Communications and Public Relations Director Brita Moore encouraged leaders to write letters to the editor and build relationships with local media outlets. Programming Director Michelle Medina described the MFU renewable energy program and how county leaders can be part of it. Education Director Glen Schmidt talked about the camp program and other MFU educational initiatives. Government Relations Director Thom Petersen talked about how county officers can take leading roles in building MFU policy and advocate with elected officials. And I went into the details of MFU’s history and our mission. All of these are important for any county officer to remember to do the job well.

David Velde, legal counsel to Minnesota Farmers Union and National Farmers Union, also addressed the group. He discussed the importance of involvement and the positive impact the organization has had, and will have, on moving policies that benefit family farming forward through the Minnesota Legislature and Congress.

Reviews of the information and training session were very positive, and members said they’d like to see this take place again. We will work on planning more at future state conventions, as well as possible regional outreach sessions. The dialogue on local leadership will continue among our state staff and Membership and Education Committee.

If you would like a copy of the Leadership Manual or have any questions about county leadership, please contact me at bruce@mfu.org or (651) 288-4064.

Mary Lou Dwyer, Governmental Relations

MFU seeks input on Rural Voices Discussion locations

For two years, MFU has organized several very successful Rural Voices Discussions, allowing hundreds of members and other people across the state to voice their opinions and concerns on the issues impacting them as family farmers or others in rural Minnesota.

As we prepare for conducting additional sessions in 2019, we would like to hear from you if your county would be interested in hosting a session. We would need your help to find a venue that can hold 50-75 people, has a room that we can set up theatre-style, is low/no cost and where we can serve milk, coffee and refreshments.

If you have ideas for a location, please contact Membership & Outreach Director Bruce Miller at bruce@mfu.org or (651) 288-4064.
At the time of this writing, both houses of Congress have passed the conference committee report for the 2018 Farm Bill. The legislation is in the hand of President Trump awaiting his signature.

Once policies are written and provided to the field, USDA employees will begin the task of educating producers. It’s our goal to assist every producer in understanding the provisions of this law. We want farmers to make decisions that ultimately strengthen their farm operations.

Stay tuned for more on the provisions of the new Farm Bill as more information becomes available.

**Deadline to sign up for Market Facilitation Program is January 15**

In September 2018, USDA launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to tariff retaliation by foreign nations. This program is known as the Market Facilitation Program (MFP). The sign-up period is ongoing until Jan. 15.

Recently, the USDA announced that farmers would receive a second payment, in addition to the one announced in September. Each payment is issued on 50 percent of the producer’s total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. Producers only need to sign up once to receive both payments.

Farms who have already applied, completed harvest and certified their 2018 production will receive the second payment on the remaining 50 percent of their production, multiplied by the MFP rate for the specific commodity.

The first step in order to participate is to sign the application. Instructions are provided at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). Producers then have until May 1 to report production numbers in which payment is based upon. MFP provides payments to almond, cotton, corn, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, fresh sweet cherry and wheat producers. Payments will only be issued once production is reported.

**Market Facilitation Program Payments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Estimated Initial Payment*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>$0.01/bu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy (milk)</td>
<td>$0.12/cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pork (hogs)</td>
<td>$8/head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>$1.65/bu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>$0.86/bu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>$0.14/bu.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Initial payment rate on 50 percent of production

**OneUSDA Internship Program Announced**

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently announced that USDA is accepting applicants to the “OneUSDA Internship” Program for summer 2019.

Today’s students are the future of America. USDA is aiming to find fresh talent, with diverse backgrounds, across all 50 states, to begin their careers in this internship program.

As part of the Federal Pathways Program, the OneUSDA Internship will provide students a way to explore serving their country through a career in government while gaining work experience in agriculture, natural resources, rural development and other career fields.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in working at USDA, please pass this information along to them. This could be a great opportunity and the start of a long-term career of service at USDA.

The OneUSDA Internship Program provides students with experience in a dynamic work environment that will enhance their educational goals and shape their career choices. At USDA, we are committed to teaching and shepherding the next generation of strong leaders.

In the summer of 2019, USDA will hire Pathways Interns in every state for the following occupational fields:

- Veterinary science
- Biological sciences (e.g., natural resources management, forestry, wildlife biology, fish biology, ecology, botany, rangeland management, recreation)
- Engineering
- Agribusiness, contracting, procurement and industry
- General administration and office support
- General administration and office support
- General administration and office support
- General administration and office support
- General administration and office support

After choosing the preferred geographic region and the career path that best matches the students’ area of study and professional aspirations at [www.usda.gov/Internships](http://www.usda.gov/Internships), students simply follow the weblinks to [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) to set up an account, then follow the prompts to apply to the internship. The application window will close on Jan. 18.

For more information, visit [www.USDA.gov/Internships](http://www.USDA.gov/Internships).
Linder Family, Red Lake County

“I wish everything was a cooperative,” Steve Linder of Oklee said recently.

It’s no wonder, then, that he’s the Red Lake County Farmers Union President and member of the Red Lake Electric Co-op Board. He’s passionate about building up the cooperative model in his area, one side of the Minnesota Farmers Union triangle and support system for family farmers.

Steve, his wife, Donna, and their three children have carried on the Linder Farm legacy, dating back to his grandfather’s generation. Involved in Farmers Union activities at a young age, he’s never let up on working for family farmers.

The farm story

Steve’s grandparents moved to the Oklee land in 1903 from the Beltrami area. They milked cows for a while, then moved onto beef cattle. Now the family raises corn, soybeans and wheat over their 1,400 acres. Steve estimates he’s been farming for more than 50 years now, and he’s been principal operator for 42 of those years.

“It’s kind of an interesting thing for a kid to figure out when you start farming,” he said. “It can be either when you first have some crop of your own, or when you first start doing work.”

Donna, who is also from Oklee but didn’t grow up on a farm, met Steve at a family wedding in Mexico. When they got married, she jumped right into farming alongside him.

“Steve trained me on driving the combine, and I did a little of everything for quite a few years,” she said. “I also worked at the (Red Lake County Central Elementary) School for five or six years as a paraprofessional.”

They raised three children – Amber, 38, Ben, 24, and Levi, 21. Currently Amber lives in town, while Ben farms with his family and Levi also lives on the farm.

Nudged into action

Exposed to Farmers Union activity from a young age, Steve’s made our organization part of his family farm’s legacy. A Farmers Union member sign adorns the welcoming sign on their driveway, and their barn contains several older pieces of memorabilia.

“I’ve been to almost all of the MFU conventions for the last 30 years,” he said. “My parents were pretty active in Farmers Union, going to county meetings and conventions. My uncle, who lived with us, was active too. I went to Junior Reserve meetings as a kid.”

He was involved in a 1986 tractorcade at the State Capitol and a blockade of the Thief River Falls Farm Service Agency office. More recently, he and Donna joined MFU and North Dakota Farmers Union at the Rally for Agriculture in West Fargo last spring, when President Trump was visiting the area. They made signs for the event and keep them in their garage.

Now, Steve is looking to build momentum in his county Farmers Union and work on recruiting more members. He often joins his local electric cooperative with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association on its lobbying trips to Washington, D.C., though he hasn’t been on an NFU Fly-in yet. He and Donna are active participants in the MFU Renewable Energy Working Sessions, too.

‘It’s like in a dream where you’re running and can’t get anywhere’

Health care, crop insurance and beginning farmer loan programs are the policy issues the Linders cited as most important to them.

“I’d like to see the FSA loan rates be higher too,” Steve said. “Then you’re not forced to sell your crop as quickly when the price is low. The loan rate used to be a lot closer to the market price.”

Though they’ve certainly not been immune to the depressed agricultural economy, the Linders said they don’t feel it’s quite as bad in their area as in the 1980s.

“Around here it’s not as bad, but that was largely weather-related (in the 80s),” Steve said. “From 1979-85, there was flooding every year. In those really wet years, your income would get cut by a third or a half. Now we’ve been having pretty big crops, so it’s different.

Though that’s why we have this surplus that keeps the price down. It’s like in a dream, where you’re running and can’t get anywhere.”

The present hard times haven’t discouraged son Ben from farming alongside his parents, but it’s easy to see how anyone can be less inclined to go into the profession.

“When the markets go down, the land price stays high,” Donna said.

That’s why these issues are so important – they affect the price that farmers get for their labor and how the next generation is able to make the transition into being the primary operators.

“You should be able to buy land and pay for it out of the profits of farming,” Steve said. “Right now, it’s pretty damn hard.”

The good news is, the new Farm Bill preserves crop insurance and beginning farmer programs. Improving our health care system has long been a priority for MFU and especially will be at the upcoming Minnesota legislative session.

‘Be grateful for what you have’

With mental health in the agricultural community becoming a more prominent news story, the Linders have made it a priority to raise awareness with their own community.

“I can recognize depression in people,” Steve said. “I’ve talked with people and shared my mental health journey with them. If someone’s alone and isolated, that could be a bad thing.”

Indeed, relationships are an important part of helping with hard times. Steve said he’s been glad to have a supportive partner during the stresses of farming.

“Talking with my wife helps me,” he said. “If you have someone good to talk to, it’s like having a counselor. I also think it’s important to have ag information centers (in rural areas) where people can get help, from therapy to financial advice.”

In their own minds, the Linders find it helpful to keep things in perspective.

“If nothing else, I think about how things could be worse,” Steve said. “I can remember that at least my family is healthy.”

And Donna added, “Be grateful for what you have.”

MEMBERS IN FOCUS: LINDER FAMILY
Great River Energy and member cooperatives roll out new agricultural audit program

Agricultural producers are the focus of a new energy audit program that is now available to members of Great River Energy’s 28 member-owner cooperatives across the state of Minnesota.

Qualified participants will receive one-on-one assistance in identifying and prioritizing energy efficiency opportunities to ultimately come away from the experience with an energy management plan to implement.

“We understand that each operation is unique and requires personalized assistance,” said Jill Eide, program manager at Great River Energy. “This program will take the guesswork out of where you should spend your time, money and efforts when it comes to energy management.”

Audit outcomes will provide information ranging from simple, no-cost operational changes that can save you money to an analysis of your energy use, which equipment is using the most energy and what can be done to decrease your energy costs.

These 28 distribution cooperatives are able to offer this opportunity with assistance from its wholesale power provider Great River Energy, which was recently awarded a $100,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Energy for America Program (USDA-REAP) to conduct these audits. Program participants will only need to pay 25 percent of the cost of their agricultural audit, with the other 75 percent being covered through grant funding. Average cost to producers are approximately $625 but can vary based on operation size.

The United States Department of Agriculture has additional financial resources available for both energy audits and energy efficiency project through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP audit funding can be applied for through your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRSC) office.

Have an energy efficiency project for this year and don’t want to wait for EQIP audit funding? Use the cooperative agricultural audit program to cover 75 percent of an AgEMP audit cost and immediately qualify for cooperative implementation rebates and EQIP implementation funding.

Not sure where to start with the agricultural audit or USDA-EQIP programs? For more information call 800-441-8525 to verify eligibility and cost.

In addition to the USDA-REAP audit program, many cooperatives offer incentives for a variety of agricultural end uses. Contact your local cooperative to determine the opportunities available in your area.

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by 28 electric distribution cooperatives. Collectively, they serve approximately 685,000 members in Minnesota.
“It’s the price.”

The unofficial theme of the 77th Annual MFU Convention is a core tenet of our organization. Family farmers need a fair price for their labor and products. At many points in the history of Farmers Union, and today, that has not happened.

In the early years of the Great Depression, Kandiyohi County Farmers Union member John Bosch decided to take matters into his own hands. He called for a “holiday” on farm foreclosures, like a bank holiday; for farmers to receive cost of production prices for their products; abolition of the Federal Reserve System, which some blamed for price inconsistency; and taxing all profits from war production 100 percent, if the United States were to go to war. If these things weren’t done, farmers would “strike.”

Bosch carried his proposal from the local level all the way to the National Farmers Union Convention in 1931. Ultimately, delegates there approved a resolution to create a new organization not officially connected with Farmers Union but supported by members. This was the Farm Holiday Association. The situation that birthed the FHA might look familiar to you. According to Farmers Union historian Don Muhm, “grain commission companies, railroad companies and others owned most of the facilities which represented the primary markets for the crops…” Farmers were beholden to the economic interests of businesses and processors. As the Depression went on, farm foreclosures skyrocketed. Milo Reno of Iowa, one of the leaders of the FHA, said, “Buy nothing; sell nothing” or “strike” until farmers received a fair price.

John Bosch became the vice president of the FHA, whose membership consisted of at least 50 percent Minnesotans, as he told historian David Nass. Before his group organized anything official, its members began holding strikes of their own. They would block highways and shut down plants. They also organized “penny auctions,” where at farm foreclosure sales someone would buy a piece of land for one cent, and protested law enforcement serving foreclosure notices. At one point, a huge crowd of farmers gathered in Montevideo to block a federal marshal from completing a foreclosure sale. This got President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s attention.

Then-Minnesota Gov. Floyd Olson said he backed the FHA’s efforts, but he warned Bosch of the risk of “buck(ing) the federal government.” They got on the phone with Roosevelt, who asked, “What do you want me to do?” Bosch described his ideas. Soon after, the administration and Congress took action with the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933.

We remember the Farm Holiday Association for its bold action against the unfairness of the farm economy. Its members likely saved thousands of farms from foreclosure. They show us that by coming together and speaking out consistently, we can make a difference. We need that spirit now as much as ever and do all we can to work for a fair price on the family farm.

Source: More Than a Farm Organization: Farmers Union in Minnesota by Don Muhm.

MDA announces state-specific restrictions on use of dicamba herbicide for 2019

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) today announced a state-specific restriction for the use of the herbicide dicamba in Minnesota for the 2019 growing season. Dicamba is primarily used for controlling post-emergence broadleaf weeds. The 2019 Minnesota restriction is in addition to those established by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The affected formulations are XtendiMax by Monsanto; Engenia by BASF; and FeXapan by DuPont.

The decision follows the MDA’s ongoing investigations and informal surveys into reports of crop damage from alleged dicamba off-target movement over the past two growing seasons. In 2017, the MDA received 253 reports of alleged dicamba drift; 55 of those were formal complaints requesting investigations. Those reports impacted an estimated 265,000 acres. After state restrictions were put in place for the 2018 growing season, the number of complaints dropped dramatically this year to 53 reports, of which 29 were formal complaints. Just over 1,800 acres were impacted in 2018.

“We now have two years’ worth of data to show what measures can and should be taken to limit the potential drift of dicamba to non-target crops,” said Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson. “It is evident that measures put in place last year worked well and we must continue to use this product in a prudent manner.”

Based on the review of survey results and peer reviewed literature, and input from the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association Drift Task Force, the University of Minnesota Extension weed scientists and the pesticide manufacturers, Commissioner Frederickson has added one additional protocol for dicamba use for the 2019 growing season:

Cutoff date: Do not apply after June 20, 2019. Setting an application cutoff date of June 20 is again expected to help reduce the potential for damage to neighboring crops and vegetation. Most Minnesota soybeans are still in the vegetative growth stage by June 20 and research has shown that plants in the vegetative stage are less affected than those in the reproductive stage. There will be no temperature application restriction in 2019.

In Minnesota, the XtendiMax, Engenia and FeXapan formulations of dicamba are “Restricted Use Pesticides” for retail sale to and for use only by Certified Applicators.
Farm & Rural Helpline

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has extended its “Crisis Connection” telephone hotline service for another year. The program has renamed the service Farm & Rural Helpline, with the toll-free number (833) 600-2670. You are encouraged to call this line if you need any kind of assistance. It’s available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Farm Advocates

Farm Advocates provide one-on-one assistance for Minnesota farmers who face crisis caused by either a natural disaster or financial problems. They understand the needs of agricultural families and communities. They are trained and experienced in agricultural lending practices, mediation, lender negotiation, farm programs, crisis counseling, disaster programs and recognize the need for legal and/or social services. Most Farm Advocates are MFU members.

The Farm Advocate Program has been supported by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture since 1984. There is no charge or fee for Farm Advocate assistance.

Farm Advocates:

Jan Boll               Trail        (218) 268-4472
Bruce Lubitz          Perham      (218) 346-4866
Connie Dykes          Lake City   (651) 345-5149
David Eliason         Isle        (320) 676-3559
David Hesse           Comfrey     (507) 877-3012
Dean Hetland          Eagle Bend  (218) 639-9302
Dan Hunz              Monticello  (320) 743-5660
Ruth Ann Karty        Clarkfield  (320) 669-7135
George Bosselman      Fosston     (218) 200-9432
Steve Zenk            Danube      (320) 894-2517

www.mda.state.mn.us/about/commissionersoffice/farmadvocates

Porter Braised Bison Roast

Eichtens Hidden Acres Cheese & Bison Farm and FireLake Grill House & Cocktail Bar

Yield: 15 servings

10 lb. bison chuck roast, cut into 3-inch slabs across the grain
salt and black pepper
18 oz. bacon, cut into ½-inch pieces
2 2/3 onions, peeled, sliced 1-inch thick
18 green peppercorns, crushed
6 T tomato paste
12 T Dijon mustard
4 cups dark beer
6 cups au jus
3/4 cup red wine vinegar
18 green peppercorns, crushed
3 bay leaves
2 sprigs fresh sage
3 sprigs fresh thyme

Trim ribs of excess fat. Season with salt and pepper.
In heavy bottom braiser, cook bacon until just rendered. Remove with slotted spoon. Set limp bacon aside. Brown bison chuck in bacon fat, working in batches so you don’t crowd the pan.
After browning bison, pour off fat. Then lightly brown onions in same pot, about 5 minutes.
Add tomato paste and mustard; cook 2 minutes. Add beer, au jus, red wine vinegar and green peppercorns. Bring to a boil, add bay leaves, and return bison and bacon to pan. Cover and cook at 350°F until tender, approximately 2 hours 45 minutes.

Cool meat in sauce. When sauce is cool, remove excess fat from top. Remove meat from sauce, strain sauce into a pan, then reduce to coating consistency.
Remove from heat and steep fresh sage and thyme into sauce.
Bison roast can be prepared 48 hours in advance. When ready to serve, slice meat into portions, and reheat with sauce, covered at 350°F.
FSMA Produce Safety Rule Grower Trainings

This fall and winter, MFU is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), University of Minnesota (UMN) Extension, Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (MFVGA), Minnesota Farmers Market Association (MFMA) and other partners to host Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule trainings around the state for produce farmers. The Produce Safety Rule is one of seven parts of FSMA, which is a new federal food safety regulation. The Produce Safety Rule applies to produce growers who sell more than $25,000 in produce per year (adjusted for inflation). Some farms covered by the rule may also qualify for an exemption based on sales, crops grown or the intended use of the produce.

To comply with this rule, fruit and vegetable farms that grow, pack, harvest and/or hold produce and that do not qualify for an exemption or exclusion need to attend this training that uses the FDA-approved curriculum. To learn if your farm is fully covered by the rule, view the FDA’s Coverage and Exemptions/Exclusions Chart at www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/UCM472499.pdf or see this fact sheet by UMN at extension.umn.edu/growing-safe-food/fsma-and-produce-safety-rule-does-rule-apply-me.

However, all growers interested in learning about produce safety, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and the FSMA Produce Safety Rule are encouraged to attend. Learning about and implementing good agricultural practices protects your farm and business, can help you get a GAP audit if needed and keeps our local foods safe and healthy. These courses will be co-led by trained fruit and vegetable farmers and staff from UMN Extension and MDA.

Register: www.psp.tix.com. Deadline is 10 days before each class or until full. Producers are encouraged to register early, as last year 4 of 5 courses were sold out with wait lists.

Cost: $25 (this cost is subsidized and will likely rise in the coming years). Registration includes training materials, lunch, refreshments and a certificate of attendance issued by the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). Certificate of attendance is good for life.

Schedule: Check-in is at 8:30 a.m. Training runs from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Class Size: Limited to 40 participants. No walk-ins accepted.

For more information: Contact the MDA Produce Safety Program at (651) 539-3648 or www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/fsma-produce-safety-rule-grower-training-courses. Visit UMN Extension On-Farm GAPs Education Program for more information on Good Agricultural Practices and the FSMA Produce Safety Rule at extension.umn.edu/safety/growing-safe-food.

Learn about FSMA: www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334114.htm. Learn about the Produce Safety Alliance: producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/

Dates and Locations
Jan. 16 St. Cloud, Rivers Edge Convention Center (day before MFVGA/ MFMA conference)
Jan. 23 Mankato, Country Inn and Suites
Jan. 25 Cloquet, Cloquet Forestry Center
Feb. 6 St. Charles, St. Charles City Hall
Feb. 20 Andover, Bunker Hills Activity Ctr.
Mar. 13 Moorhead, Hjemkomst Center
Mar. 20 Farmington, U of M Reg. Ext. Office

Look for MFU at these upcoming events!

MFU will have a presence at the following upcoming trade shows and conferences this winter, often alongside Farmers Union Insurance Agency. Members are welcome to help us staff the booths during the events. If you are interested in doing this, contact MFU Membership & Outreach Director Bruce Miller at (651) 470-5438 or bruce@mfu.org. Or, come and say hello and get some MFU swag!

Trade Shows and Conferences:
Jan. 10-11 • Minnesota Organic Conference • River’s Edge Conference Center, St. Cloud
Jan. 17-18 • Upper Midwest Fruit, Vegetable & Farmer’s Market Conference & Trade Show • River’s Edge Conference Center, St. Cloud
Jan. 18-19 • Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators Ag-Tech Conference • Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

Jan. 23-24 • Minnesota Ag Expo • Verizon Center, Mankato
Jan. 25-26 • Emerging Farmers Conference • UMN Continuing Education & Conference Center, St. Paul
Feb. 5 • MFU Lobby Day Drive-In • Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul
Feb. 9 • Sustainable Farming Association Annual Conference • College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph
Feb. 14-17 • NFU College Conference on Cooperatives • Twin Cities

Feb. 20-21 • International Crop Expo • Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND
Feb. 26-28 • Central Minnesota Farm Show • River’s Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud

Farmers Union Meetings:
Jan. 21 • 12 noon • Crow Wing County Farmers Union meeting • Saw Mill Inn, Brainerd
Feb. 4 • 7 p.m. • Todd County Farmers Union Meeting • Eagle Bend City Hall, Eagle Bend
Feb. 18 • 12 p.m. • Crow Wing County Farmers Union meeting • Saw Mill Inn, Brainerd

MFU Full Board Meeting
Feb. 16 • 9 a.m. • MFU State Office, St. Paul

UPCOMING EVENTS
Now that the busy harvest and holiday seasons are over, it’s the perfect time to review your farm policy and ensure you have what you need covered.

Interested in getting a new quote? Our Agents have access to many companies with competitive rates and prices to better serve your needs.

Wishing you and yours a prosperous 2019.