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For further information:
Public Affairs Director, Amanda Valencia
651-288-4063, or amandav@mfu.org

Minnesota Farmers Union leaders meet with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

St. Paul, Minnesota (April 8, 2015) – On Wednesday, April 8, 2015, Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) leaders President Doug Peterson, Vice President Gary Wertish, and Legislative Director Thom Petersen, met with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to reinforce their support for the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and to provide clarity to the definitions of Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS).

MFU emphasized the need for continued investment and research into maintaining the first generation renewable fuels plus moving towards the second generation through investment and research for the purpose of national security, fuel independence, and rural jobs.

MFU President Doug Peterson stated “Administrator McCarthy was open to working with farmers in providing clarity on exemptions and exclusions within agricultural waters as it pertains to WOTUS. McCarthy states there was clear support from the EPA for RFS, however the EPA needs stronger congressional intent and direction on biofuels for domestic use and national security”

RFS drives much needed reinvestment in our rural communities when it operates reliably, but the inconsistency of management will jeopardize existing and future investments. There are opportunities being missed to reduce greenhouse emissions through RFS, which contributes to climate-related risks that are facing family farmers.

There is a diversity of opinions on the proposed WOTUS rule among different Farmers Union organizations, but what we have in common is a genuine interest in making sure the EPA understands the concerns of family agriculture and the desire to protect and enhance our shared clean water resource.

Minnesota Farmers Union leaders left the meeting with EPA Administrator McCarthy with the confidence that she is concerned about family farmers and protecting their future.

Minnesota Farmers Union (www.mfu.org), Standing for Agriculture, Fighting for Farmers.
