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For further information:
Amanda Valencia, 651-288-4063, or
communication@mfu.org

Farmers Union Delegation to Participate at World Farmers' Organization Assembly Panel Discussions in Milan, Italy

St. Paul (June 17, 2015) – Four Farmers Union officials will participate in panel discussions during the World Farmers' Organization (WFO) General Assembly meeting later this month in Milan, Italy.

"I am very proud to be part of a delegation that is able to participate at the World Farmers Organization Assembly Panel" Stated Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) President Doug Peterson. "To be able to bring to the table the knowledge of rural farming, and agricultural issues affecting family farmers and express the need to produce more food for an increasing global populations and recognizing food production plus environmental sustainability to such an influential organization, is truly humbling"

The WFO General Assembly will take place June 24-26 at the Politecnico of Milan and feature sessions on sustainable and equitable solutions for feeding the world's increasing population, facing climate evolution. Dave Velde, NFU vice president of international relations, will discuss managing farmers' rights in contract issues and the UNIDROIT program. Other participants from National Farmers Union include, Alan Merrill from Montana Farmers Union, and Darin Von Ruden, from Wisconsin Farmers Union, and Mark Watne, from North Dakota Farmers Union.

Peterson will be addressing the International Farm, Faith and Environment Symposium that is being held on June 27 & 28, 2015, and presenting the importance of sustainable family farms and the role that it provides in the global food system as an economy of food and feeding the people of the world. Peterson will also focus on the successes of family farms in the United States, developed and developing countries, with an inclusion of women farmers, who represent over 50% of family farms in the world and providing 50% of all food on less than 2.5 hectares.

"I look forward to this trip and meeting with other world farming and agricultural leaders" said Peterson, "I also look forward to the upcoming Encyclical from Pope Francis on Stewardship and climate change as how we address challenges in farming for ensuring and moving forward on maximizing the success of family farms in the United States and worldwide."

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