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World Farmers' Organization Assembly and Farm Faith and Environment Symposium Wrap Up in Milan, Italy

St. Paul (June 30, 2015) – Four Farmers Union officials have wrapped up their visit and deep discussions with other Ag leaders, and academics during the World Farmers' Organization (WFO) General Assembly in Milan, Italy.

"This gathering demonstrates and supports the commitment of Ag leaders on the importance of family farmers in leading and feeding the world in a sustainable manner through the leadership of farmers" stated Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) President Doug Peterson "Farmers have answers and solutions for the complex problem of food, energy and stewardship because of their strong relationship with the land. Only through Ag leaders will the human aspects of food and hunger get resolved, as well as built to sustain and continue through our future generations." A pronouncement of the world's farmers was adopted at the World Farmers' Organization (WFO) General Assembly, it stated that there is a need to produce a food supply that will feed 9.2 billion people that will populate our planet in 2050, and this must be done in a sustainable and environmentally-conscious way.

Participants from National Farmers Union include, Alan Merill from Montana Farmers Union, and Darin Von Ruden, from Wisconsin Farmers Union, and Mark Watne, from North Dakota Farmers Union, Doug Peterson, Minnesota Farmers Union and Dave Velde, NFU Vice President of International Relations.

Peterson addressed the International Farm, Faith and Environment Symposium which was held on June 27 & 28, and was the wrap up to the Milan visit. "This is a timely opportunity to examine the crossroads of faith, food production and the environment," Peterson said. "We need to find better ways to ensure nutrition for the world's people while managing our ecological footprint."

The Encyclical from Pope Francis focused on stewardship and climate change as challenges in farming for ensuring and moving forward on maximizing the success of family farms worldwide. "All nations and all religions should pay attention to this" stated Monsignor Peter Wells.

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