



Minnesota Farmers Union

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Minnesota & National Farmers Union 2015 Washington, D.C. Fly-In Comes to a Close

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 21, 2015) – Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) members joined nearly 300 fellow farmers, ranchers and rural citizens from across the country in Washington, D.C., Sept. 16-18, for the National Farmers Union 2015 fall legislative fly-in.

Minnesota Farmers Union fly-in participants were able to meet with several U.S. Senators and Congressman. The concerns of farmers that were highlighted were:

- Supporting voluntary COOL
- Opposing legislative changes to the RFS
- Trade
 - Rejecting TTP and
 - Supporting full trade with Cuba
- FMD (foot and mouth disease)

One major component of the fly-in was having the opportunity to present the Golden Triangle award to the key leaders who strongly support agriculture and family farmers, and have a 100 percent voting record with MFU & NFU policies. These leaders are Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Al Franken, Representative Colin Peterson, Representative Rick Nolan and Representative Tim Walz.

“Having Minnesota Farmers Union members in our nation’s capital allows the family farmers of Minnesota directly with representatives in Congress, and tells the real story of family farming, from those who are out in the fields and tractors. They have the opportunity help members of Congress understand the impact of their decision has on family farmers and rural communities,” said Doug Peterson, Minnesota Farmers Union President.

In addition to Capitol Hill visits, MFU members were addressed by Krysta Harden, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; Dr. Jack Shere, Associate Deputy Administrator of Veterinary services, who highlighted the avian flu; as well as Val Dolcini, the Administrator of FSA, who highlighted the programs from FSA that support family farmers.

Minnesota Farmers Union members who attended the fly-in include Jay and Janelle Swanson of Thief River Falls; Richard Moen of Clearbrook; Ross Eischens of Minneota; Markell Vogt of Palisade; Michael and Linda Frost of Pine Island; Alan Perish of Browerville; Adeline Wooliscroft and Alton Walker of Bagley; Carol Anderson of Foley; Anne Schwagerl of Browns Valley; Marvin and Marlys Jensen of Kensington; FFA leader Rita Olson of Halstad; FFA students Amanda Tomerdahl of Hendrum, and Brandi Lee of Holstad; Agriculture educator Mark Stone of Prior Lake, Gene Paul of Delavan, with NFO; with the Farmers Union Enterprises' Young Couples Program, Steve and Jodi Read of Nerstrand; MFU FFA essay winner, Anna Buckentine and her mother Jeanie of Moorhead; with the NFU Next Generation Advisory Council, Jennifer Klabunde and her husband Bryan, from Waubun.

Plus MFU staff: Doug Peterson MFU President, and his wife Elly, of Madison; Gary Wertish, MFU Vice President of Renville; Rodney Allebach, Farmers Union Agency President and his wife Linda, of Otsego; Field Representative Ken Pazdernik, and his wife Cheryl of Ada; Public Affairs Director Amanda Valencia of Forest Lake; and Government Relations Director Thom Petersen of Pine City.

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