



For Immediate Release:
January 4, 2016

For further information:
MFU Communications, 612-288-4068, or
amandav@mfu.org

Minnesota & National Farmers Union Recognize Women's Contribution to Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 4, 2016) – Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) President, Doug Peterson and National Farmers Union (NFU) President, Roger Johnson today thanked a growing number of women in agriculture for their invaluable contributions to family farming and ranching and noted that their growing presence in farming is vital to the nation's food security.

Women in agriculture are roughly 30,000 strong; representing 26 percent of farmers, they over 7.3 million acres and have an economic impact in Minnesota of nearly \$400 million dollars. Women in agriculture are one million strong; representing 30 percent of farmers nationally and responsible for a \$12.9 billion dollar economic impact.

“One of the many promising trends in agriculture is the growing presence of women who are using their talents to help strengthen the viability of the family while also supplying food, feed, fuel and fiber to Americans and consumers abroad,” said Johnson. “And their growing presence in agri-business board rooms and as chief operators on family farms is important to the nation's food security,” he said.

NFU policy supports women in agriculture through their leadership skills by offering an annual NFU Women's Conference. It focuses on leadership development and risk management training for women. This year's conference emphasizes building knowledge and skills related to farm transitions as well as advocacy training plus workshops on estate planning and grassroots organizing. The event takes place Jan. 23 to 27, 2016 in Clearwater Beach, Florida. Registration will remain open until Jan. 15. Discounted early bird registration ends January 5.

“Women farmers play an integral part in farming and in making our country thrive,” said Doug Peterson, Minnesota Farmers Union President. “That is why Minnesota Farmers Union feels it is so important to educate, support and thank all the women farmers locally and nationwide. MFU & NFU have built several programs throughout the years to continue our support for women in agriculture and to help them recognize their potential and to be aware of the networks that can help them achieve their goals.”

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

###