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### **Minnesota Farmers Union states key issues for the 2016 legislative session**

ST. PAUL (January 5, 2015) - With input from its family farmer based membership, Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) has shares some of its top key issues that they are looking at for the 2016 legislative session.

“We will be clearly setting our priorities over the next month, but do have some top issues that are concerning us and family farmers throughout Minnesota,” said Doug Peterson, MFU President. “MFU will work with the Dayton Administration and legislators to find common sense solutions to address key issues such as buffers, property taxes, farmer-lender mediation and transportation.”

A few top issues that are affecting family farmers and Minnesota Farmers Union are:

- **Clarify new buffer rules:** What waters are included? What are the “alternative” practices allowed? What is the appeal process for disputes? What compensation is available? What is impact on property taxes for buffered land?
- **Property tax relief:** With a nearly \$1 billion dollar surplus MFU has been seeking property tax relief for Ag land. Specifically MFU has been working to lower the amount farmers pay for capital improvement levies for schools.
- **Extend Farmer-Lender Mediation:** This popular program is used by thousands of farmers every year and is set to sunset this year if the Legislature does not extend the program. MFU feels that with low commodity prices this is an important program for farmers. MFU also supports extending the program at its current threshold of \$5,000.
- **Transportation funding:** While MFU would support a modest increase in the gas tax, that is unlikely to happen; MFU also supports a strong bonding package for local roads and bridges.

These are just some of the issues MFU will be working on in the 2016 legislative session. Also, these are the issues MFU members will be talking to legislators about when they head to the State Capitol for their annual lobby day. For more information, go to [www.mfu.org](http://www.mfu.org).

*Minnesota Farmers Union, standing for agriculture, fighting for farmers, [www.mfu.org](http://www.mfu.org).*

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