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For further information:
MFU Communications, 651-288-4068, or
amandav@mfu.org

Minnesota Farmers Union delegates return home from the 2016 National Farmers Union Convention held in Minneapolis, MN

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (March 8, 2015) – Family farmers and ranchers from around the country together at the Radisson Blu in the Mall of America to discuss the grass-roots policy of National Farmers Union.

“We came to Minneapolis from farms and ranches that operate thousands of acres to farms that operate less than half an acre. We have full-time farmers and part-time farmers as members. And yet, we all share a common bond because in many ways we face the exact same challenges. We all make NFU a much stronger organization,” said NFU President Roger Johnson during his State of the Farmers Union address.

While education is a focus of the annual meeting, the “most important aspect is the policy adoption process” at the conclusion of the convention. Johnson explained, “It is the job of the delegates to decide on our policy positions for the coming year.”

In a unique grassroots process, 136 delegates from member states come together to review, line-by-line, the organization’s policies. In addition, the delegates adopted 10 special orders. The adopted orders place special emphasis on the issues of:

- [Family Farming and Country-of-Origin Labeling \(COOL\)](#)
- [Family Farming and Trade Policy](#)
- [Family Farming and Cotton](#)
- [Family Farming and the Current Farm Bill](#)
- [Family Farming and ARC-County Payments](#)
- [Family Farming and Animal Disease Protection and Research](#)
- [Family Farming and the Renewable Fuel Standard \(RFS\)](#)
- [Family Farming and Future Farm Bills](#)
- [Family Farming and Leading the Way on Climate Change](#)
- [Resolution Establishing an NFU Dairy Price Committee & Campaign](#)

“There was knowledgeable discussion and review for the entire policy and of the special orders by the full delegation” stated Minnesota Farmers Union President, Doug Peterson, “There is passion in the hearts of all family farmers and this is where a strong grass roots policy comes to life.”

Delegates to the NFU Convention were Darin Narum of Gary; Mark Thell of Wrenshall; Trevor Jensen of Owatonna; Anne Schwagerl of Browns Valley; Brent Imker of Lamberton; and Markell Vogt of Aitkin.

Other MFU members who attended are: Farmers Union Insurance Agency President Rodney Allebach and his wife Linda of Albertville; Merlyn and Sandy Hubin of Westbrook; Larry and Gina Jacobson of Hitterdal; Richard Moen of Clearbrook; Alan Perish of Browerville; Bryan and Jennifer Klabunde of Waubun; Jacob and Jennifer Yost of St Peter; Bill and Juanita Sorg of Hastings; Bessie Klose of Atwater; Lisa Severson of Eau Claire,

WI; Lori Klose of Benson; Brian Rohrenbach and Linda Larson of Rosemount; Ed and Lynn Jostock of Rochester; Vernon Pooch of Farwell; Korydon and Carol Chervestad of Oklee; Gary Gregerson of Badger; Tim and Connie Velde of Granite Falls; Ted and Marge Winter of Fulda; Ross Eischens of Minneota; David and Donna Johnson of Fergus Falls; and Don and Paula Knutson of St. Paul.

MFU staff who attended will be: President Doug Peterson and his wife Elly of Madison; Vice President Gary Wertish and his wife Jeanne of Renville; Education Director Glen Schmidt of St. Paul; Membership Director Bruce Miller and his wife Chris Fullerton of St. Paul; Public Affairs Director Amanda Valencia of Forest Lake; and Executive Assistant Laura Sherar of St. Paul; and Director of Renewable Energy Michelle Medina of Forest Lake.

Johnson concluded, “At the end of the day, we are only as strong as our members, and I’m proud to say Farmers Union members are the best and brightest in the country. I’m optimistic about what lies ahead for our great grassroots organization and for agriculture.”

More from the convention, including audio of the speeches and the full text of the adopted policy manual, will be available at www.nfu.org.

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

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