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### **Minnesota Farmers Union Elects New President**

St. Paul, Minn. (January 21, 2017) – Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) held a special election on Saturday, January 21, 2017 to elect a new President to replace former president, Doug Peterson, who retired December 31, 2016. The special election consisted of the full board members of county presidents from around that state.

Former MFU Vice President, Gary Wertish was elected by the full board members on Saturday to be the 10th President of Minnesota Farmers Union.

Gary has served as the Vice President of Minnesota Farmers Union since 2009, and has filled in as interim President since the retirement of Doug Peterson on December 31, 2016.

Prior to being elected as Vice President, Gary had worked as a field representative for Farmers Union. Gary worked for Senator Mark Dayton as his Agricultural Director. He farms with one of his sons raising corn, soybeans, and navy beans.

“Today marks a new era within the Farmers Union organization. Being elected as the new President is humbling” remarked Gary Wertish “I look forward to continue working with entire Farmers Union membership, along with other agricultural groups to enhance the economic interests of a struggling rural economy, which is just as important now as it ever has been. We will work to keep our momentum flowing and to bring new ideas to the table that will help us reach new goals within the organization, and to continue fighting and representing family farmers.”

Gary is married to his wife, Jeanne; together they have four children and live in Renville, MN.

Requests for interviews can be made to the Public Affairs Director, Amanda Valencia at: 651-288-4068 or [amandav@mfu.org](mailto:amandav@mfu.org)

*Minnesota Farmers Union—Standing for Agriculture, Fighting for Farmers ([www.mfu.org](http://www.mfu.org)).*

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