



82nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

November 17 - 19, 2023

*Delta Hotels by Marriott
Minneapolis Northeast*

On behalf of the Minnesota Farmers Union, I welcome you to our 82nd annual convention. We come together each year to set our organization's policy and connect with each other.

The Policy Committee will lead us in debating the resolutions that county Farmers Unions passed. We will vote on each section of the policy statement, with time for members to express their support for or opposition to the policy. Our cooperative, democratic process makes us who we are, and I look forward to seeing it in action once again.

The convention begins Friday afternoon with a series of panels on timely topics, including access to health care in rural areas, how to think like a banker to get your project financed and your idea from dream to reality, climate-smart markets and health and life insurance solutions for you and your farm.

On Saturday, we'll have a full day of policy debate punctuated by a variety of speakers. We're trying something new this year as we've moved the awards program to Saturday's lunch. We are honoring several members for their contributions to agriculture and Farmers Union, and we'll leave time for each of them to make a few remarks. On Saturday evening, we'll gather for our banquet.

On Sunday, we'll elect delegates to the 2024 National Farmers Union Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona and draw the winning ticket in our Happy Camper raffle. See the invitation for more information on purchasing your raffle ticket.

Our meals are a highlight of convention and once again we are sourcing as many ingredients as possible from our members. We thank the farmers who have sold food to us and the chefs at Twin Cities 400 Tavern who work with MFU to create and prepare our delicious convention meals.

In order to be good stewards of the meals prepared, we are asking you to RSVP by Nov. 6 so we can provide an accurate count to the hotel. Last year, several banquet meals were wasted because of an inaccurate count. We are striving to do better this year. As an incentive, everyone who mails their check in by the Nov. 6 deadline saves \$5 per meal and you save even more by buying the full meal package. See the invitation for details.

We thank the many sponsors who financially support the convention. Their logos will be included in your convention binder, on convention signage and in a future issue of Minnesota Agriculture. Please thank them for their support.

Several exhibitors will also join us at convention. Be sure to stop in the Lake Superior Room to visit them and learn more about their products and services.

I look forward to seeing you Nov. 17-19 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Minneapolis Northeast. If you have any questions regarding the convention, reach out to the MFU staff.

Warmest regards,

Gary Wertish, Minnesota Farmers Union President



Minnesota
Farmers
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Hotel Reservations

You are responsible for your own hotel reservation.

To reserve a room, contact Delta Hotels by Marriott Minneapolis Northeast at 612-455-6322, or go to bit.ly/82hotel (case sensitive), by Nov. 7 to guarantee a special rate of **\$124 plus taxes and fees**. Please ask for the "Minnesota Farmers Union Annual Convention" room block. A credit card is required to book your reservation. The hotel is located at 1330 Industrial Blvd. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

Check-in begins at 3 p.m. and check out is at noon.

Questions? Contact Operations Director Glen Schmidt at (651) 288-4066 or glen@mfu.org.

Fundraiser Auction

The fundraiser auction will be held Saturday, Nov. 18. Members are encouraged to donate items. Many of the items will be silently auctioned during the day; others will be set aside for the live auction, which begins that evening at 8:30. The proceeds benefit the MFU Foundation.

Examples of items to donate include:

- Farm machinery collectibles
- Farmers Union commemorative/antique items
- Baked goods
- Theme baskets

Items may be checked in and dropped off in the foyer near the Lake Mille Lacs Room beginning Friday, Nov. 17 at 12:45 p.m. and resuming on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 8 a.m. Questions? Contact Stacy Ripka at (320) 412-6362 or Cindy VanDerPol at (320) 220-1852.

Child Care

Childcare at the convention is open to all members. Children must be 4 years of age or older to attend. **You must register by Friday, Nov. 10.**

To register: bit.ly/ConventionChildCare23
Questions? Contact Education Director Winona Anderson at (651) 288-4096 or winona@mfu.org.

MFU PAC Reception

The MFU PAC will hold a reception on Saturday, Nov. 18 starting at 4:30 p.m. in the St. Paul Ballroom. All are encouraged to attend. **Suggested donation is \$25.** For more information, contact Stu Lourey at (320) 232-3047 or stu.lourey@gmail.com.

Pre-Convention Prep Call

Join us for an informational session on November 15 at 7 p.m. We will cover what to expect as a delegate to convention.

Zoom link: bit.ly/ConventionPrepCall
Meeting ID: 842 5780 9014

"The Happy Camper"

Enter to win "The Happy Camper" - a Minnesota-made 2023 Scamp Pull-Behind Camper. Only 500 tickets sold. Your \$100 tax-deductible ticket contribution will support the work of the MFU Foundation. Final drawing on Sunday, Nov. 19. Need not be present to win. To purchase a ticket, contact Operations Coordinator Jeff Diamond at (651) 288-4060 or operations@mfu.org.

Questions? Call (651) 639- 1223 or Email glen@mfu.org