



## **Minnesota Farmers Union Agricultural Research Economist**

### **Organization Summary:**

Minnesota Farmers Union is a grassroots membership-driven organization that supports family farmers and rural development. Drawing on the base values of education, cooperation and legislation, MFU works with individuals at the county, state, national and international level to sustain economically viable family farms, support new farmers, further agricultural education, increase consumer awareness and ensure that the needs and perspectives of family farmers are understood by policymakers.

### **Job Description:**

This position will report to the Government Relations Director and is new for the organization. Together with the Government Relations Director and the Directors of the Climate and Antimonopoly programs, the Agricultural Research Economist will work with Minnesota Farmers Union elected leadership and members to design, execute, and promote a research agenda. Research will respond to priorities identified by MFU's family farmer members and inform audiences including MFU members, staff, policymakers, and the broader public about topics important to the economic sustainability of family farm agriculture.

The position will:

- Define and manage research projects and produce original research relating to climate smart programs and markets, economic concentration, the value of cooperatives, and other topics relevant to the future of family farm agriculture.
- Identify opportunities for MFU leadership on emerging market topics.
- Integrate research agenda with existing organizational priorities.
- Build and maintain partnerships with other organizations producing research or working in relevant areas.
- Create opportunities for farmer members to directly inform research projects and provide feedback and guidance to work.
- Participate in public-facing events and write briefs, blogs, and short articles for non-academic audiences.
- Prepare reports, graphics, and other communications about research findings and recommendations.

**Experience:**

- Master's degree or higher in agricultural or resource economics, or a related field.
- Experience identifying research questions, performing original research, and advancing a research agenda.
- Familiarity with topics related to climate change, renewable energy, soil health, and/or market concentration, antitrust, monopoly power and/or farm bill, agricultural policy.
- Strong understanding of agriculture and farm economics, particularly in the Minnesota context. Experience working on a farm is highly valued.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully complete projects with competing priorities, deadlines and demands.
- Enthusiasm for working with farmer members and organizational partners to advance priorities.
- Strong communication skills, including writing for both general and technical audiences
- Experience and comfort in public speaking in formal and informal contexts.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team and employ effective internal communication.
- Familiarity with MFU and MFU programs.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite including Excel, Word, and Outlook.

**Compensation:**

Salary \$90,000-105,000, depending on experience. Full time, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. with flexibility to work evenings and weekends as required, especially during August, September, and November of each year. This position can be remote, with strong preference for candidates living in Minnesota. We are also open to part-time or other flexible work arrangements, depending on the candidate's needs. Office closes at noon on Fridays in the summer and our holiday schedule typically includes 25 paid days off. Medical, dental, life, long and short-term disability insurance, 401K contributions, paid vacation and sick leave provided.

**To Apply:**

Submit a PDF cover letter, resume, and a writing sample related to your research to [hr@mfu.org](mailto:hr@mfu.org). No phone calls or visits please. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.