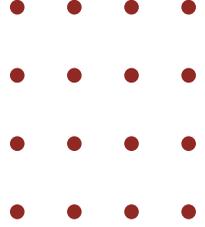


2022

ANNUAL REVIEW

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation



Board of Directors

Dan Glessing, President
Carolyn Olson, Vice President
Karin Schaefer, Secretary
Dave Johnson, Treasurer
Keith Allen, District I
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Amanda Cook, Promotion & Education Chair

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Karin Schaefer, Executive Director
Dave Johnson, Director of Operations
Alex Yang, Business Manager

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Rachel Reisig, Director
Brittney Tiede, Communications Specialist

Foundation and Leadership Development

Ruth Meirick, Foundation Director
Pam Debele, Education Coordinator
Rachael Peterson, Leadership Coordinator

Membership and Marketing

Robin Kinney, Director
James Dodds, Northeast Region Specialist
Virginia Magyar, Southeast Region Specialist
*Whitney Pittman, Northwest Region Specialist**
Amanda Revier, Southwest Region Specialist
Dennis Sabel, East Central Region Specialist

Public Policy

*Amber Glaeser, Director**
Kaytlin Bemis, Public Policy Specialist

**Left MFBF Fall, 2022*

AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Farm Bureau Member,

As I look back on my first year as president, it has been an exciting journey. Farm Bureau has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, and to be able to represent such a dedicated and passionate group is an honor.

Personally, I've enjoyed the many opportunities visiting with our members on their farms, at meetings and other events. Traveling the state and hearing their stories and experiences tell the true story of Farm Bureau and what it means to be a part of the organization. It's also been a privilege to host leaders from across the country and world in our great state, showcasing Minnesota's place as a national leader in agriculture production.

Throughout this annual review you'll see just a few of the ways Farm Bureau leads the way in making a difference for agriculture and rural Minnesota through policy, education and leadership opportunities. But it just scratches the surface. I encourage anyone reading this to reach out to their county Farm Bureau or visit our website to find ways to get involved. There truly are options for everyone.

Thanks to our members and everything you do to ensure agriculture remains strong in Minnesota. I look forward to what we will do together in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,



Dan Glessing
President, Minnesota Farm Bureau



AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS

Promotion & Education

The goal of the Promotion & Education program is to convey a positive understanding and awareness of Farm Bureau and agriculture. In 2022, our members shared their stories and built relationships in a variety of ways, including hands-on activities and outreach, letters to the editor, radio interviews and social media posts.

Ag Promotion Grants

Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation Ag Promotion Grants provide support for county Farm Bureau outreach, connecting consumers to agriculture locally. Programs such as safety camps, on-farm events, educational and leadership opportunities help raise awareness about agriculture's role in Minnesota along with other key issues. This year, nearly \$37,000 was distributed to 51 county Farm Bureaus. The grant program is funded by a generous donation from the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation.

Rural Wellness

Raising awareness around mental health in rural Minnesota was a key focus for our Promotion & Education Committee along with our members throughout the year. Volunteers shared information and personal stories surrounding mental health topics through letters to the editor, radio interviews and social media. Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation Director Ruth Meirick also presented on opioid misuse at various events across the state and beyond.



Minnesota State Fair

During the Minnesota State Fair over 70 volunteers, board members and staff shared with fairgoers how "Farmers Produce More than Produce." Fairgoers engaged with our interactive 2-D displays, competed against others with our quiz game and asked many questions surrounding agriculture.

Century Farms

The Century Farms program is managed jointly with the Minnesota State Fair. Since the program began in 1976, nearly 11,000 Minnesota farms have been recognized. MFBF works alongside its county Farm Bureaus, county fairs and agricultural societies to recognize recipient families. Seventy-eight farms were recognized as Century Farms in 2022.

Sesquicentennial Farms

This program began in 2008 by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Since then, Farm Bureau has administered the program. In 2022, there were 36 recipients recognized at the Minnesota State Fair.

Ag Day Gala

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation held the inaugural Ag Day Gala in 2022. This event brought people of all backgrounds together to celebrate the rich history of the farmers, organizations and communities that support the success of agriculture across Minnesota.



Throughout the course of the Minnesota State Fair, approximately **5,400** people visited our booth.

Volunteers reached over **1,800** students through Agriculture in the Classroom-type events.

More than **17,000** people attended Breakfast on the Farm events across the state.

Nearly **2,700** students and **550** adults received safety education.

AG AWARENESS BY THE NUMBERS



GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY



For more than 100 years, MFBF has been the trusted voice for Minnesota farm and ranch families. Our dynamic strength stems from our members at the grassroots level, brought together with elected officials, government agencies and others as needed by our dedicated leadership and staff, to address key issues in agriculture and find solutions to help farming and rural Minnesota thrive.

Our public policy team had a daily presence at the Capitol during session, making sure our members voices were heard.



MFBF testified more than **25** times at the State Capitol.

More than **70** member stories were shared with elected officials.

11,266 people received weekly *Impact* advocacy emails.

14 elected officials, including Governor Tim Walz, attended the 103rd MFBF Annual Meeting.

32 members visited Washington D.C. as part of the Farmers to D.C. trips.

Nearly **65** members representing **44** counties attended the MFBF Council of County Presidents. There were also **38** legislators in attendance.

238 interviews were conducted by members across the state to make recommendations to the State PAC Committee for the 2022 fall election.



ADVOCACY BY THE NUMBERS

At the Capitol

Minnesota Farm Bureau working for its members



Serving members and the issues that impact them is at the heart of what Minnesota Farm Bureau does.

Issues surfaced by our member counties help raise awareness around actionable items necessary to keep agriculture and Minnesota thriving. Based on those issues, our Board of Directors set the following priority issues in 2022. Here's a closer look at our work at the state level last year.



Drought Relief

MFBF made drought relief a priority after hearing directly from its membership the impact of last year's drought not only on crops, but on livestock and other agriculture inputs. With bi-partisan support, the legislature approved \$8.1 million in drought relief grants for livestock and specialty crop farmers, in addition to \$2.5 million allocated to the Rural Finance Authority (RFA) Revolving Loan account prioritized for those impacted by the drought.



Supply Chain

Supported investment into the Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation program, specifically around grants for meat, poultry, egg and milk processing.



Sustainability

Collaborated with agriculture groups across the state to help launch the Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program.



Workforce Development

Supported funding for grants to secondary career and tech education programs for instruction in meat cutting and butchery.



Research and Investment

Advocated for a variety of funding investments, including animal disease response, support for the U of M Vet Diagnostic Lab, and continuing support of the beginning farmer tax credit.



Rural Communities

Supported funding for the expansion of broadband access across the state.



Healthcare

Advocated for expanded mental health resources, and supported the reinsurance program.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Ag Safety and Awareness Week

County Farm Bureaus across the state hosted farm safety events to recognize National Ag Safety and Awareness Week in March. The Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee sold high-visibility youth safety vests as an agriculture safety campaign.

LEAP Conference

The 2022 Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Promotion (LEAP) Conference welcomed over 210 attendees to Minnetonka in January. The annual conference allows participants to take deep dives into agriculture issues, participate in leadership and professional development experiences and expand their personal and professional network by connecting with other members and leaders from across the state.

AFBF YF&R Conference

Four of our members attended the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference in Louisville, Ky. in March. They enjoyed connecting with other members, industry leaders and experts from across the nation. Ben Olander represented Minnesota in the Collegiate Discussion Meet.

On the Farm Events

Numerous volunteer members helped to coordinate on-farm events in over twenty counties. These events brought more than 12,000 people to various farms throughout the state, connecting them directly to agriculture.



Council of County Presidents

Sixty-five Farm Bureau leaders gathered to learn more about drought relief, supply chain issues and other current policy topics in the state. Members were joined by 38 legislators for a social hour and dinner following the sessions.

Competitive Leadership Contests

At the state level, many members competed in the Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture competitions. Minnesota had representation in both contests at the AFBF Annual Convention in Atlanta, with Michaela Ehlers participating in the Discussion Meet. Mark and Sara Hewitt competed in the Excellence in Agriculture contest, advancing to the Top 10.

National Ag in the Classroom

Members of the Promotion & Education Committee attended the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in New York. Attendees gained valuable insight on various topics around agriculture literacy.



Nearly **3,000** youth safety vests were distributed across the state and beyond as part of the YF&R campaign.

During the LEAP Conference, over **\$3,000** and hundreds of pairs of socks were donated to the "Sandwich Guy" and the Minneapolis Recreation Development Inc.

More than **80** volunteers helped to put on **30** safety events.

Volunteers sold nearly **4,200** pork chops at Minnesota Farmfest, raising funds for the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation and its outreach efforts.

County Farm Bureaus raised over **\$10,850** to support initiatives addressing food insecurity in their communities.

Over **2,225** members attended county annual meetings across the state.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS



A YEAR IN PHOTOS







Minnesota Farm Bureau[®]

*To ensure Minnesota's agricultural vitality,
the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
amplifies its members' voices through
engagement, grassroots advocacy and
agricultural awareness.*

