



2023

Minnesota Farm Bureau Annual Review



® Minnesota Farm Bureau®

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors

President.....	Dan Glessing
Vice President	Carolyn Olson
Secretary	Karin Schaefer
Treasurer.....	Dave Johnson
District 1	Jeff Pagel
District 2	Robert Roelofs
District 3	Peter Bakken
District 4.....	Nathan Collins
District 5	Fran Miron
District 6.....	Miles Kuschel
District 7	Shayne Isane
Promotion & Education Chair.....	Cindy Durheim
Young Farmers & Ranchers Chair	Katie Wiese

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Staff

Administration and Finance

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

Communications

Director of Communications	Rachel Reisig
Communications Specialist.....	Emma Wielinski

Foundation and Leadership Development

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

Membership and Marketing

Director of Membership and Marketing	Robin Kinney
Northeast Region Specialist.....	James Dodds
Southeast Region Specialist.....	Virginia Magyar
Northwest Region Specialist	Kayla Mistic
Southwest Region Specialist.....	Amanda Revier
East Central Area Specialist	Dennis Sabel

Public Policy

Director of Public Policy.....	Pierce Bennett
Public Policy Specialist	Kaytlin Bemis

President's Message

The past year was an outstanding one for our members and the organization. As my second year serving as president comes to an end, I continue to be impressed by our members and what they accomplish.

We finished the 2023 membership year with 30,020 members, a gain of nearly 1,200 over the previous year. This is a testament to the great work our members, FBFS Insurance partners and staff are doing. As a grassroots organization, everyone coming together to share their Farm Bureau story and raise awareness about the organization makes all the difference.

And that awareness comes in a variety of ways. Members throughout the state volunteered at Farm Bureau-hosted and sponsored events, raising not only our organization's profile but also Minnesotans' awareness of agriculture. Many counties gave back to their local communities in a variety of ways, including raising thousands of dollars and pounds of food to help address food insecurity.

During a busy political year, Farm Bureau served as a trusted voice at the state capitol to represent the varied issues facing those involved in agriculture. It was a record year with testimonies given by our members, leadership and staff. We were also excited for the return of an in-person Day on the Hill, with over 130 members from every corner of the state coming together to meet with elected officials and other leaders to share their personal stories. And at a national level, I am always proud of our leaders when we visit D.C. and they advocate for agriculture, especially during a farm bill year.

Individually our members shone, demonstrating the great leaders Farm Bureau helps to develop, both within the organization and in their everyday lives. Through Young Farmer & Rancher competitions, regional leadership programs and other networking opportunities the next generation of agriculture is looking strong.



This annual review just scratches the surface of all our accomplishments. Looking back over the past year leaves me energized, and I am anticipating the momentum we will carry into the new year.

With gratitude,

Dan Glessing
President

Grassroots Advocacy

Increasing the positive public perception of agriculture

State Advocacy

In a busy legislative session featuring over 6,776 combined bills introduced by the house and senate, MFBF provided a voice for its members and agriculture on a wide variety of issues. With a daily presence at the Capitol, we focused on our six priority issues set by the Board of Directors which included: beginning and emerging farmers; research and investment; healthcare accessibility; clean energy and sustainability; rural connectivity; and rural vitality.

For a closer look at the specific issues addressed, visit our website at fbmn.org.

61+ Testimonies

Given during the state
legislative session

130+ Members

Joined MFBF as part of
Day on the Hill

National Advocacy

In a busy farm bill year, MFBF members traveled to D.C., attended and hosted local listening sessions, and engaged in a variety of ways, heightening awareness about this important piece of legislation.

130+ Meetings

 held with local and national policy makers

Farmers to D.C.

Twice a year MFBF takes members to meet with national legislators on a variety of issues. Our P&E and YF&R Committee Chairs also traveled to the nation's Capitol as part of the AFBF National Fly-In.

25 Members

Traveled to D.C.
throughout the year

State Legislator Farm Visits

Our members welcomed leaders onto their farms and ranches, showcasing not only the impact of legislation, but also the importance of agriculture across the state.

45+ Tours

Given by our members to
elected officials and ag leaders

State of the Union

Stearns County
President Hannah
Molitor was invited by
House Majority Whip
Tom Emmer to attend
the State of the Union.

Day on the Hill

Members came together in
person for the first
time in three years to
advocate for agriculture at
the state Capitol on
National Ag Day.

Advancing Ag

County members
gathered for issue
surfacing and policy
development meetings,
addressing the issues
impacting them.

66 Policy Development Meetings

Held by our leaders, highlighting the grassroots policy process



30,020
Members

Are now a part of the
Minnesota Farm Bureau,
a gain of over 1,200 from
the previous year

23,000+
Volunteer
Hours

Logged by our county leaders
during various local
and state events

200
Combined
Events

Hosted or sponsored by
Minnesota Farm Bureau,
the Minnesota Farm Bureau
Foundation and county/regional
Farm Bureaus to connect people
to, and raise awareness
about, agriculture

Our Impact in 2023

10,000+
People

Visited our building during the
Minnesota State Fair, learning
about agriculture and its reach
across the state

130+
Members

Joined Minnesota Farm Bureau
leadership at the State Capitol
for Day on the Hill to advocate
for agriculture and meet with their
elected officials

\$15,000+

Combined given back to
food shelves across
the state through local
Farm Bureau outreach

3,000+

Adult and youth safety vests
distributed, keeping individuals
safe on the farm and around
the neighborhood

89

Century
Farms

and

43

Sesquicentennial
Farms

Were honored as part of
programming recognizing
family farms and their legacies
across the state

61

Testimonies

Given at the state capitol
by our leadership and
members during a busy
legislative session

2,000

Members

Took part in 66 policy
development meetings held
across the state, highlighting
our grassroots policy
development process

Member Engagement

Helping members grow personally and professionally

Excellence in Ag National Runner-Up

Kristy Miron of Washington/Ramsey County Farm Bureau finished as the national runner-up in the Excellence in Ag contest, which highlights an individual's contributions and accomplishments to agriculture off the farm.

National Leaders

Steele County Farm Bureau members Jason and Caitlin Keck were named to the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee last year. Cheryl Tyrrell of Todd County completed her second year on the AFBF Promotion & Education Committee.

National Competitors

Lyon County Farm Bureau member Brad Hennen advanced to the top 10 of the AFBF Ag Innovation Challenge. He had the opportunity to pitch his invention, the Hennen Pig Chute, during the AFBF Annual Convention in Puerto Rico.

Jeff Pagel of Olmsted County and Staci Sexton of Wabasha County also competed during the AFBF Convention, taking part in the Discussion Meet and Achievement Award, respectively.

Collegiate Discussion Meet	FFA Discussion Meet	The Herd
SMSU student Lafe Aarsvold finished in the top four of the national Collegiate Discussion Meet.	Katie Radman of the Randolph FFA chapter was the winner of the annual FFA Discussion Meet, held during the Minnesota FFA State Convention.	Three collegiate students from across the state were selected for the inaugural class, sharing their agriculture story with a wider audience.

Agriculture Leadership Network

The inaugural class of the ALN kicked off programming in 2023, with seven members from across northern Minnesota. ALN is designed to provide emerging leaders in production agriculture with advocacy skills, leadership training, and networking opportunities.



30,020 members





Agricultural Awareness

Increasing the positive public perception of agriculture

10,000+

People visited our booth at the Minnesota State Fair

This year's exhibit highlighted agriculture's connection to sports.

18,000+

People attended a Breakfast on the Farm event

These annual events bring people directly to the farm for hands-on learning.

Safety kits distributed throughout the harvest season

300+

The kits included first aid items, mental health resources and more to help keep farmers healthy during the busy harvest season.

70

Counties hosted an ag display during their county fair

52

Counties hosted an ag awareness event

300+

Media interviews given by our members

2,000+

Students engaged with a member at a school or safety event

Our members are continually giving back to local schools by volunteering.

30+

Urban ag groups met with MFBF

These meetings are critical to understanding the challenges the groups face, and how Farm Bureau can work with them





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



Minnesota Farm Bureau®