Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors

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Secretary ................................................................. Karin Schaefer
Treasurer ................................................................. Dave Johnson
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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

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Director of Operations ............................................ Dave Johnson
Business Manager .................................................. Alex Yang

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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

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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

Our Impact in 2023

10,000+ People

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

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

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
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>$15,000+</th>
<th>$3,000+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combined given back to food shelves across the state through local Farm Bureau outreach</td>
<td>Adult and youth safety vests distributed, keeping individuals safe on the farm and around the neighborhood</td>
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<tr>
<th>89</th>
<th>43</th>
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<td>Century Farms and Sesquicentennial Farms</td>
<td>Were honored as part of programming recognizing family farms and their legacies across the state</td>
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<tr>
<th>61</th>
<th>2,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>Testimonies</td>
<td>Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Given at the state capitol by our leadership and members during a busy legislative session</td>
<td>Took part in 66 policy development meetings held across the state, highlighting our grassroots policy development process</td>
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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**
SMSU student Lafe Aarsvold finished in the top four of the national Collegiate Discussion Meet.

**FFA 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.

**The Herd**
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**
1,000+
Members participated in a MFBF development event

23,000+
Volunteer hours

14
Development events hosted by MFBF

2,000
Members attended county annual meetings
# Agricultural Awareness

*Increasing the positive public perception of agriculture*

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<th><strong>10,000+</strong></th>
<th><strong>18,000+</strong></th>
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<td>People visited our booth at the Minnesota State Fair</td>
<td>People attended a Breakfast on the Farm event</td>
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<td>This year’s exhibit highlighted agriculture’s connection to sports.</td>
<td>These annual events bring people directly to the farm for hands-on learning.</td>
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| **300+** |
| Safety kits distributed throughout the harvest season |
| The kits included first aid items, mental health resources and more to help keep farmers healthy during the busy harvest season. |

| **70** | **52** | **300+** |
| Counties hosted an ag display during their county fair | Counties hosted an ag awareness event | Media interviews given by our members |

| **2,000+** | **30+** |
| Students engaged with a member at a school or safety event | Urban ag groups met with MFBF |
| Our members are continually giving back to local schools by volunteering. | These meeting 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.