Thank You Farm Bureau Members

First and most importantly, thank you! Thank you for being a Farm Bureau member, thank you for all the things you have done for us, and thank you for all the things you will continue to do. You have continued to be here for our Farm Bureau family, and our Farm Bureau family will continue to be there for you.

In these unprecedented times, we understand the tremendous stress, uncertainty and all the emotions that life brings. Your Farm Bureau family will provide information on USDA and other government assistance programs and mental health materials for those important personal conversations we all need to be having. Please reach out to us, if there is more we can help you with or something you think we should know.

We are here for you and will continue to be here for your needs. Your mental and physical health is very important to us. Please stay safe. We will get through this together.

Kevin Paap  
President  
Minnesota Farm Bureau  
507-327-4555

Paycheck Protection Program Loans (PPPL)

After receiving clarification from the Small Business Administration, agriculture enterprises that employ 500 or less people whose principal place of residence is in the United States are eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program Loans (PPPL). The PPPL is designed to help small
businesses keep their employees paid through this difficult period by providing forgivable loans to small businesses to pay employees and keep them on the payroll.

Funds from this program will be allocated to small businesses on a first-come, first-served basis. We recommend reaching out to an approved lender as soon as possible. The sample application, found here, can help potential borrowers prepare for the lender meeting.

Farmers can apply for the PPPL through any existing SBA 7(a) lenders or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union or Farm Credit System institution that is participating. Current eligible lenders can be found by searching the SBA website here.

Applications can begin on:
- April 3 for small businesses and sole proprietorships through existing SBA 7(a) lenders;
- April 10 for independent contractors and self-employed individuals through existing SBA 7(a) lenders

Read more in the AFBF Market Intel.

---

**Agriculture Must Be Included in Disaster Loan Program**

American Farm Bureau and 30 other agriculture organizations and businesses are calling on the U.S. Small Business Administration to include agricultural businesses in the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, as intended by Congress in the CARES Act.

In a letter to SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza, the agriculture groups wrote, “Agricultural producers and businesses are critical elements of this nation's economy and food system. Prior to COVID-19, farmers and ranchers had already experienced a drastic 24-percent decline in net farm income from highs experienced just six years ago. With the further downturn in the economy, agricultural businesses are at risk of closure and may be required to lay off employees.” Read the AFBF news release here.

Click here for the full letter.
Click here for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program website.

---

**Hours of Service Requirments**

Last week, Governor Walz signed Executive Order 20-27 to lift the hours of service requirements for truck drivers transporting livestock feed or fertilizer.

Executive Order 20-27 - Providing for Emergency Relief from Regulations to Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota

List of all the Governor’s E.O.’s related to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here.

---

**State Legislature Update**

The State Legislature will meet tomorrow to pass legislation related to workers’ compensation. The bill can be found here. There are also a variety of committees, including the COVID-19 Response Working Group, meeting through Wednesday.

Both bodies have tentatively agreed to reconvene after the Easter/Passover break on April 14.
Coronavirus Impact Ripples across Farm Country

From dairy farmers with nowhere to send their milk and cattle ranchers reeling from plummeting beef prices, the impact of the coronavirus is rippling through farm country. Corn, cotton and soybean futures have tumbled, ethanol plants have been idled, and some fruit and vegetable farmers are finding their best option is leaving produce in the field.

Read more [here](#).

Minnesota COVID-19 Website

The state of Minnesota has put together a website designed to provide Minnesotans with timely, accurate information about the data that informs decisions on COVID-19 response, recovery, and resources. Learn more [here](#).

State of the State

On Sunday night, Governor Tim Walz addressed Minnesotans during his second State of the State address focusing on the state’s response to COVID-19.

[State of the State](#)
[Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka response](#)

Pandemic Injects Volatility into Cattle and Beef Markets

The self-distancing and quarantine protocols put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 have reduced economic growth, shuttered consumers in their homes, and changed the way Americans purchase and consume food. A slowing economy is bad for all of the animal proteins, but beef – typically the highest priced of the proteins and considered a luxury product in economic terms – stands to suffer the most when consumers spend less in response to wage cuts and job losses. Additionally, beef is used more heavily in the food service channel than pork.

Read more:
[Market Intel update](#)
[Newsline (podcast)](#)
[FencePost](#)

Your Input Needed! Communications
Survey
Share your input on communications preferences by taking the communications survey at fbmn.org/survey and be entered to win one of six $25 gift cards.

TransFARMation
Prompted by the many sources of stress currently impacting farmers and ranchers, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Red River Farm Network have joined forces to create a new radio and podcast series called TransFARMation.

TransFARMation: Talking Helps
TransFARMation: Farm Leader Says Healing Can Begin by Talking
TransFARMation: The Proper Attitude Can Help Take on the Challenges
TransFARMation: Let People Help You
TransFARMation: Farm Stress in Farm Children
TransFARMation: Faith and Farming

If you have a story idea for TransFARMation, contact Riley Maanum – MFBF area program, who serves on the TransFARMation advisory team. Riley can be reached at riley.maanum@fbmn.org.

Cultivating Resiliency for Women in Agriculture

Sessions to Help Weather Stress
Raising awareness of farm stress is important, but offering some tools to help weather the stress is critical. This interactive online series sets out to help women in agriculture cultivate resiliency by focusing on what they can control in these challenging times and connect them with resources and information that can help them weather stress.

- UMASH has archived sessions - listen here.

Farm Resiliency Resources
Please ask for help. Click the underlined phrases for more information.

Resources for difficult times
Find help, counseling, advocacy, legal and referral resources.

Farm financial counseling
Experiencing financial stress? Call 1-800-232-9077 for free, confidential financial counseling.

Farmer-Lender mediation

Minnesota Farm and Rural Stress Resources
-Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Ted Matthews - 320-266-2390
Monica McConkey - 218-280-7785
Rural Mental Health Counselor
Ted and Monica work with farmers across Minnesota. No cost; no paperwork. This service is available thanks to funds from the Minnesota State Legislature. You are welcome to contact either Ted or Monica. Monica generally serves the area north of Highway 12 (which runs from Ortonville through Willmar to the Twin Cities), and Ted generally serves the area south of Highway 12.

Need help with farm debt? Learn how mediation can help.

Source: University of Minnesota Extension

The following links are meant to keep you aware of what's in the news. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation.

USDA’s work during COVID-19
- USDA The Sonnyside of the Farm

Strategies for Combating Fear and Stress During the Coronavirus

Behavioral Health and Emergency Preparedness
- MDH

Preparing for sick agricultural workers and COVID-19
- BAH

Minnesota Farm Group Presidents Pleased RMA Providing Crop Insurance Flexibilities
- WNAX

Awareness of grain bin safety heightened even more
- Brownfield Ag News

Didi Edwards encourages balance with work and family during hard times of agriculture
- Worthington Globe

No Farmers Markets? Consider Online, Phone Orders And Deliveries
- Farm Journal AgWeb

Manage a Stress-Free Life
- Farm Journal AgWeb

Fuel inventory concerns for #Plant20
How to talk to essential employees during COVID-19 crisis
- Beef Magazine

Animal Rights groups still lurk in darkest corners
- Feedstuffs

Now is the time for agriculture to show America what it does best
- Animal Agriculture Alliance

---

**Upcoming Events**

**June 4**
Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation
Sporting Clays Tournament
Viking Valley Hunt Club, Ashby

**June 23**
Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation
Golf Outing
River Oaks Golf Course, Cottage Grove

**August 4-6**
Farmfest
Gilfillan Estate, Redwood Falls

**August 27-September 7**
Minnesota State Fair

**September 15-18**
Farmers to Washington, D.C. Trip

**November 19-21**
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
102nd Annual Meeting
DoubleTree Hotel, Bloomington

---

Minnesota Farm Bureau Website