Dear Farm Bureau member,

First of all, we hope you and your families are well during these challenging times. We’re nearly four months into the COVID-19 crisis, and the world has changed. Agriculture has not been spared. Like so many other segments of our economy, agriculture has stepped up to provide essential products and services. Minnesota farmers are #StillFarming, and Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) continues to be there for you, especially during these incredible financially and emotionally challenging times.

In Minnesota, we are blessed with a diversity of agriculture from what we grow to how we grow it to what size farm we have. This diversity also means that various agriculture sectors are being hit hard at different times and in different ways. From a decline in gasoline impacting ethanol to trade uncertainties hitting pork and soybeans to major disruptions in key markets for meat, milk, produce and eggs, very few aspects of agriculture have gone untouched.

As work on the farm and every aspect of food production has continued, Farm Bureau has been hard at work throughout this crisis. We wanted to take this opportunity to report to members some of the most important actions your organization has worked on during this time frame.

Amplifying Your Voice
Farm Bureau’s greatest strength is our members. Throughout the last few weeks and months, MFBF leaders and staff have worked collaboratively with our partners in agriculture and directly with elected and appointed officials to make sure that the challenges you are facing on your farms and the issues that your family and community were dealing with were shared with the appropriate decision makers.

As MFBF President, I participate in weekly calls with the Farm Bureau Presidents from all 50 states and Puerto Rico to discuss issues impacting agriculture across the country, identifying actionable items that we could implement to find meaningful solutions for the consistently changing challenges and hear from high level members of the administration and members of Congress for timely updates on the work that was happening at the federal level. We have had the opportunity to work directly with USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and his leadership team, leadership at the Small Business Administration (SBA) and members of Congress like House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson to share Farm Bureau members’ stories that are happening on the farms and ranches and in the communities all across the state.

Your Farm Bureau staff are also participating in frequent meetings to discuss what is needed to ensure action is taken to support farmers and rural communities and to stay in front of issues and find solutions to continue the important work of Farm Bureau. Each sector of Minnesota agriculture has been hit hard and need solutions as issues continue to arise each day. We continue to participate in weekly meetings with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to learn directly from Commissioner Thom Petersen about actions being taken at the state level to address ongoing issues as a result of the global pandemic. These calls also provided an opportunity to hear from Governor Tim Walz and from other state agency Commissioners including Department of Revenue and DEED on issues outside of MDA’s purview. In addition, MFBF led weekly calls with various Minnesota commodity groups, Minnesota Farmers Union and AgriGrowth to ensure that we were

Americans Support Aid to Farmers; Trust Remains High
Trust in America’s farmers and ranchers remains high amid the devastating blow delivered by the COVID-19 pandemic. A new American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) poll shows 84% of Americans trust the nation’s farmers and the same overwhelming majority support financial assistance from the government for farmers struggling to keep from going under because of the pandemic.

“The results of the survey indicate a growing understanding of how important a stable food supply is to the health and well-being of our nation,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Shortages at grocery stores and other food supply chain shockwaves caused by the pandemic gave many people a new understanding of the crucial role of America’s farmers and ranchers and the importance of their survival through the COVID-19 economic storm. It is so heartening to know that through it all, the American people’s trust in farmers is unwavering.”

Many struggling farmers were left out of initial federal aid, and some who received assistance are still being hurt by COVID-19 losses. USDA estimates suggest the decline in commodity value alone for 2019, 2020 and 2021 production totals almost $50 billion. This does not include all of agriculture’s losses, which would be billions more.

When the pandemic prompted stay-at-home orders, the market for several crops disappeared almost overnight, causing prices paid to farmers to drop drastically. It came at a time when farmers were already facing economic challenges following two years of trade wars. Farm bankruptcies for the 12-month period ending March 2020 increased 23% from the previous year and are expected to climb higher as a result of the pandemic. Because the pandemic shockwaves continue to cause agricultural losses, AFBF is calling on lawmakers to address critical needs that still exist for farmers impacted by COVID-19.

More broadly, the poll also reveals that a majority of Americans, 59%, also believe the federal government should classify U.S. agriculture as a matter of national security to ensure a stable food supply. Addressing agricultural labor shortages, ensuring farm and food worker safety and protecting trade partnerships to stabilize agricultural markets are all part of prioritizing U.S. agriculture.

A more in-depth look at the survey can be found at fb.org/files/AFBF_June_2020_poll.pdf.

LETTER TO 3

Farm to Fork PAGE 10
Seeking Entrepreneurs PAGE 14
Communications Survey PAGE 15
MINNESOTA FARMFEST Virtual Forums PAGE 16

“The difference between winning and losing is frequently not quitting.”
—Walt Disney
Do the Same Things, Differently

President’s Voice
KEVIN PAAP • MFBF PRESIDENT

Hopefully the letter from Karin and I on the front page helps to explain how engaged your Farm Bureau has been through the COVID-19 pandemic. When I’m asked what Farm Bureau is doing? My answer is “we are doing the same things, differently.” I would like to expand on what we must continue to do, and what we are currently doing differently at the local, state and national levels.

Grassroots Policy
Our grassroots policy development process is the strength of our organization. Although many will be virtual, Farm Bureau members will be at their policy development tables discussing and debating ideas to help direct our organization’s policy. I encourage you to be involved in your local discussions because your voice does matter. Our grassroots policy implementation process is second to none, and we must keep it that way.

Yes, there have been cancelled Days on the Hill in St. Paul and Farmers to Washington, D.C. trips, but our member engagement with elected and appointed officials must continue with phone calls, emails and virtual town halls. Review our weekly Impact e-letter to keep up to speed on the current issues, and how you can make a difference. Your voice does matter.

Our grassroots political action is always important, but it is critically important in an election year. In the last election, we had 315 county Farm Bureau members volunteer to serve on their County Evaluation Committees (CEC). They did 164 interviews and the Minnesota Farm Bureau Political Action Committee endorsed 78 candidates (in which 83% were elected). Interviews happen differently this year, but we must make sure our members are aware of candidates that are supportive of Farm Bureau policy. Your voice and your vote matter.

Member Engagement
Our member engagement is also seeing changes. There will be no pancakes and pork chops at Farm Fest, but there will be virtual political debates and public forums held. Many local Farm Bureau Annual Meetings will be using social distancing suggestions and adapting to fit the current situation. Your board of directors will be discussing what our 162nd State Annual Meeting will look like at our upcoming July board meeting.

Consumer Engagement
Our consumer engagement remains critically important. While, there have been many cancelled Breakfast on the Farms and county fairs, we must continue to invite consumers to be a part of our conversations. Virtual, drive-thru or something else creative, we all need to find the opportunities to help consumers gain a better understanding of the pride we take in growing food for their families.

We need your help, as a Farm Bureau member to build and maintain the trust of our customers and the public in our products and practices. We must continually improve the way we communicate our commitment to produce safe food, to protect animal well-being, to safeguard our natural resources and to contribute to a better quality of life in our communities.

In Closing
I am asking all Farm Bureau members to “do the same things, differently” and become more involved in your areas of interest to strengthen our future.

We Farm, We Vote!

The Zipline
ZIPPY DUVALL • AFBF PRESIDENT

In a normal year, we would have seen much more activity by presidential and congressional campaigns by this point. There’s less than five months left until Election Day, November 3, and things are beginning to get back to normal post-COVID-19, so we’re about to see a big increase in political ads, events (even if they’re virtual this year), yard signs and other great American traditions that come with our national elections.

One of those traditions is the American Farm Bureau Federation’s request that presidential candidates respond to questions about key issues of importance to farmers and ranchers. For the past 40 years, all major party candidates for president have responded to our questionnaire, so that Farm Bureau members can go to the polls informed about where the candidates stand on agricultural issues. Whoever wins this year’s election will be positioned to play a role in ensuring the future resiliency of our food supply.

This year’s questionnaire touches on topics including tax policy, farm programs, international trade, energy policy, federal regulations (including re-forming the Endangered Species Act (ESA), implementing the new Navigable Waters Protection Rule and ensuring speedy review of new biotechnology traits) and helping to provide a supply of agricultural workers over the long-term.

We’re also asking the candidates to share their positions on sustainability, and how they would ensure climate regulations don’t hinder agricultural productivity and competitiveness. Rural life issues are included, with a question about how the candidates would work to increase access to broadband, improve other infrastructure, strengthen economies and address health care challenges in rural America.

New in this year’s questionnaire is a question about food system resiliency, a topic that has taken on greater importance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Farmers and ranchers have faced economic hardships due to demand shifts and supply chain disruptions. Whoever wins this year’s election will be positioned to play a role in ensuring the future resiliency of our food supply.

These questions are relevant to congressional elections also, and I know that several state Farm Bureau organizations will be reaching out to congressional candidates to learn their positions on these or other agricultural issues.

Farm Bureau members are informed and engaged in the political process. We farm. We vote! I’m proud of the role that Farm Bureau plays in turning the candidates’ attention to agricultural issues and equipping our members with the information needed to vote for who they believe will be the best champion for farmers and ranchers, as well as anyone who cares about having a strong agriculture community and food security.

We look forward to sharing the results of our questionnaire. In the meantime, I ask all Farm Bureau members to take every opportunity to learn about all the candidates running for Congress or state offices. Ask them the tough questions that will help you to know if they will work for you—or, at a minimum, make them stop and focus on agriculture and realize that we farmers and ranchers are watching!
We will continue to amplify your voice and share your stories to find solutions to ensure that agriculture not only weather this storm but comes out stronger.

Our Farm Bureau has been hard at work helping our membership and all of Minnesota agriculture which includes the food supply system. Since mid-March, we have supported the following critical actions:

1. Agriculture is essential: We worked closely with MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to make sure that those in Minnesota’s food supply system were deemed essential, allowing anyone from farmers to truckers to processors to grocers to farm markets and greenhouses to continue the important work of keeping food available. We provided a template for essential workers traveling to and from work during the Stay at Home orders. On the federal level, we pushed back to strike workers deemed critical, and the consulates expanded the pool of applicants eligible for interview waivers. This ensured essential food products still get into the country.

2. Support for our businesses: Farm Bureau advocated for legislation that would help to administer assistance programs that are allocated for all of agriculture and get to where they are needed most. Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Health Care Enhancement Act critical programs have already begun to assist farmers and rural communities. We will continue to advocate for adequate funding to provide relief for farmers who have already experienced losses due to COVID-19 as well as those for whom the economic damage of the pandemic will impact planting and harvesting in the coming years.

3. Stable Food Supply: American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) sent a letter to the USDA and livestock production to President Trump asking for his leadership in conveying a clear and strong message about the importance of consistently following federal health and safety guidelines to ensure consistent, responsible decision-making at the state level that allows food production to safely continue.

4. Mental Health and Well-Being: We connected specific resources for farmers that address the unique stress placed on farmers and trained Farm Bureau staff to be able to have caring conversations with members regarding mental health and suicide. We also provided resources for county Farm Bureaus and members to address opioid dependency in rural areas especially during these difficult times. At the legislature, we successfully advocated for legislation that provided additional funding for rural mental health resources.

5. Animal Agriculture: We went to work to make sure meat inspectors could continue to work safely. Unfortunately, when processors needed to slow down or shut down, we saw layoffs. Farm Bureau worked with our livestock commodity organizations and with the MDA as farmers face livestock market challenges and depopulation. These all included logistical and financial support as farmers made difficult decisions to depopulate as well as proactive steps such as opening up CRP and DNR state lands to emergency harvesting and grazing. Farm Bureau has been very concerned about the serious availability, disruptions and volatility experienced in livestock markets. We have been pushing the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the USDA, our Congressional leaders and others to aggressively investigate why we have seen such a stark disruption in our livestock markets. Farm Bureau has also supported legislation that would support small and medium sized processors.

6. Crops: Farm Bureau took action to make sure access to equipment dealers, seed, fertilizer, crop protection products are included as essential, and farmers had full access to our national transportation networks. Unfortunately during this time, other industries took the opportunity to attack biofuels and programs like the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Farm Bureau worked to highlight the importance of renewable fuels for corn and soybean farmers across Minnesota, along with the value of byproducts like distillers grain and carbon dioxide. In addition, the ethanol industry took quick action to make and deliver sanitizer for their communities.

7. SBA Programs: We fought for access to SBA grant/loan programs, which historically excluded agriculture. Farm Bureau is continuing to advocate for legislation that will make these programs more workable for farmers. On the state level, small businesses, including farmers, now have access to new Small Business Relief Grants Programs that can demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

8. Transportation: We worked at the state and federal level to ensure waivers for hours of service and weight limits for trucks delivering critical supplies, including food and groceries, were granted. This alignment with the existing agricultural hours of service exemption and weight limit variance relieved one less barrier to the already stressed food supply system.

9. Access to broadband: Farm Bureau is looking at every possible solution at the state and federal level to increase access, and afford the cost of rural broadband. As our society quickly pivoted to even more reliance on the internet, it became even more clear that we need to further invest in broadband infrastructure for rural Minnesota.

10. Consumer Engagement: As the ways we interact with consumers changes drastically, Farm Bureau continues to think creatively and effectively on how to engage with our friends, neighbors and communities. From drive through farm tours to virtual learning experiences, Farm Bureau members have gone outside of traditional ways of sharing our stories to open the barn doors in any way we can to make sure consumers have confidence in their food supply.

Kevin Paap, President
Karin Schaefer, Executive Director
Save the Date for 2021 LEAP Conference
Mark your calendar for next year’s LEAP Conference to be held January 22-23, 2021 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The conference is planned and hosted by the Promotion & Education and Young Farmers & Ranchers Committees. Look for more information this summer.

Federation & Foundation News Notes

YF&R Contest Deadlines
These Leadership Development Contests are available for Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) who are Farm Bureau members ages 18-35. The following deadlines are for the 2020 contests:
• Achievement Award Application: September 15
• Excellence in Agriculture Application: September 15
• Collegiate Discussion Meet will be held in the fall before the state contest on November 21.

Why are you a Farm Bureau member?
Have you asked your friends and family to be Farm Bureau members? Check out the Farm Bureau member’s sharing why they are members at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/minnesotafarmbureau/videos.

Applying for Agricultural Professional Awards
Every year the Minnesota Farm Bureau sponsors four awards to recognize the outstanding contribution of the following agriculture professionals: Agricultural Communicator, FFA Advisor, Extension Faculty/Staff Educator and Post-Secondary Agricultural Educator.

The recipient of each award is recognized at our Annual Meeting in November and receives a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in San Diego, California in January.

County offices have applications and guidelines for this year’s awards. Applications submitted in 2018 and 2019 that were not selected as award recipients can be re-evaluated in the 2020 contest if the applicant grants permission. Applicants are, however, encouraged to update or submit new applications. The deadline for submitting applications is September 15. Winners will be notified by mail in October. Applications can be found at fbmn.org/award-applications.

For more information, contact your county office or Kim Oakes at 651-768-2111 or kim.oakes@fbmn.org.

#StillFarming
In an effort to continue to share the story of agriculture and to reassure our nation that food is still being grown and raised to help calm the fear of food availability at the grocery store etc., we are encouraging members to use #StillFarming and #FarmBureauProud when posting information about activity on your farms and ranches on social media.

A very important aspect of this AFBF campaign is to also be respectful of all professions and situations during these unprecedented times.

Centennial Book for Sale
Take a trip down memory lane as you read the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation’s 100-year book available online and as a book. Read more at fbmn.org/centennial. Carolyn Van Loh wrote the 90-year history book ‘Strong Roots – The People of the Minnesota Farm Bureau’ and the “100 years and growing...The People of the Minnesota Farm Bureau.” Read about it at fbmn.org/centennial-book.

AFBF Resources & Lesson Plans
Check out the downloadable activities and lesson plans about agriculture and foods to use in the classroom. Education materials go to agfoundation.org/free-resources. For more information check out the Food and Ag Resource Guide at agfoundation.org/ag-resource-guide.

Minnesota Ag in the Classroom
Wanting to share agriculture resources for families to try at home? Check out the free curriculum, educational resources and grants to increase agricultural literacy in K-12 education at minnesota.agclassroom.org.

Ag Transportation Handbook
The Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, in partnership with Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and Minnesota State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Inspectors, has available the Agriculture Transportation Handbook with state and federal statues, rules and exemptions for transporting agricultural goods on the highway.

To order a FREE copy, contact info@fbmn.org with full name, mailing address and number of copies requested. An electronic copy can be found on our fbmn.org/ag-transportation-handbook.

Funderaiser for Hunger Solutions
The Minnesota Farm Bureau (MFB) Foundation, is selling Minnesota bracelets from Montana Silversmiths. Funds raised from the sales will be used for the Hunger Solutions grant program.

The bracelet is seven inches with a Minnesota pendant and a small heart cut out for $32.50. Limited quantity - great gift. Please Note: the necklace is sold out.

Send orders to Ruth Miccick at ruth.miccick@fbmn.org or 651-768-2115.

Save the Date!
Minnesota Farm Bureau Farmers・Families・Food Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

ANNUAL MEETING
November 19-21, 2020

FARM BUREAU FLAG PHOTO

Annual Golf Scramble
MINNESOTA FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION hosted their annual Golf Scramble on June 23 at River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center in Cottage Grove. This year 92 golfers participated in the Foundation fundraiser, raising over $22,000.

Save the Date!
American Farm Bureau Convention
Jan 8-13, 2021 • San Diego, CA

Discover MINNESOTA!
Spend a Day at One of Minnesota’s Least-Visited State Parks

• Beaver Creek Valley, Caledonia
Drive down the ravine to enter Beaver Creek Valley State Park, and the surrounding landscape disappears. The 21-acre park’s namesake creek is one of a handful in the state to offer year-round trout fishing. In addition to drive-in and walk-in campsites, the park offers a seasonal camper cabin.

• Old Mill, Argyle
Well off the beaten path in northwest Minnesota, it’s easy to see why 408-acre Old Mill State Park is overlooked. It offers a campground, hiking trails, a swimming area and a landscape as it was before settlers arrived. The old mill still gets fired up once a year to make flour.

• Kilen Woods, Lakefield
Within the 553 acres of Kilen Woods State Park lies the state’s largest population of prairie bush clover, a legume believed to exist in only 100 places in America. The park stretches along the Des Moines River in southwest Minnesota, offering hiking, canoeing and drive-in and walk-in camping.

• Charles A. Lindbergh, Little Falls
The boyhood home of aviator Charles Lindbergh is located within the state park that bears the name of his father, a former U.S. Congressman. Located along the banks of the Mississippi River, 576-acre Charles A. Lindbergh State Park features boat access to the Mississippi and Pike Creek, 43 drive-in campsites and two cart-in sites, one of which can be a boat-in.

• Schoolcraft State Park, Deer River
Explorer Henry Rowe Schoolcraft is believed to have camped in what is now Schoolcraft State Park as he charted the headwaters of the Mississippi River with an Anishinaabe guide in the 1860s. Today, the area is a major draw for migratory waterfowl. The 222-acre park offers boat access, 28 rustic drive-in campsites and one canoe-in site.

• Judge C.R. Magney, Hoyland
Judge C.R. Magney State Park is the one most drivers along the North Shore blow past en route to other destinations. The 4,695-acre park along the Brule River offers up brook and rainbow trout and the mystery of the Devil’s Kettle, where a massive pothole swallows half the river in one of two impressive waterfalls.

• Lake Louis, LeRoy
Lake Louis State Park is Minnesota’s oldest, continuous recreation area. The 1,176-acre park is located near the Iowa border where a dam created a lake at the confluence of two forks of the Upper Iowa River. Facilities include winter and summer trails, camping, horse camp and swimming area.

Source: Adapted from Pioneer Press article

EVENTS CALENDAR

• August 4-6 • Farmfest CANCELLED
• August 7-September 7 • Minnesota State Fair CANCELLED
• September 9 • Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation Sporting Clays Tournament Caribou Gun Club, Le Sueur
• September 15-18 • Farmers to Washington, D.C.
• November 19-21 • Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation 102nd Annual Meeting DoubleTree Hotel, Bloomington

✔ Century Farm Correction
Our apologies for a misprint in the Century Farm listing in the May issue of The Voice of Agriculture. Congratulations to the following farm family for being designated a Century Farm this year by Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau:

Aitkin County
Aitkin, Flat Rock Farm, 1920
Free At-Home Educational Activities About Water

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture continues to provide resources for parents to help kids keep learning while they’re home from school during the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out a blog post about water, soil, agriculture careers, fruits and veggies and more. Sign up for weekly updates online at agfoundation.org/news.

Financial Help for Minnesota Farmers

COVID-19 has caused unprecedented economic repercussions for farmers. Many federal and state programs have been created to help farmers and others in the food and agriculture industry weather the difficult economic situation.

The University of Minnesota’s Extension’s Agricultural Business Management Team created a guide to financial assistance programs for Minnesota farmers caught in the unique challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more at extension.umn.edu/get-help/financial-help-minnesota-farmers.

Farmside Chat Podcast: New Dairy Tale Brings Kids to the Farm


Farmside Chat takes a closer look at today’s farming in America, explores the latest agricultural innovations and brings listeners right alongside the people who are growing our food, fuel and fiber. On this monthly podcast, Duvall chats with farmers, leaders and lawmakers around the country about what goes into growing a safe and sustainable food supply.

Decision Affirms NRCS Must Obey Its Own Rules

A battle over a farmer’s right to use and care for his own land is one step closer to being resolved. A determination by the director of USDA’s Natural Appeals Division admonishes the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for failing to obey its own rules, favoring a farmer who battled NRCS for more than a decade. The decision is a welcome signal that concerns from across the countryside about NRCS conservation compliance are being heard.

For less than $1 a day, you can change the life of a child.

Your own.

On average, people estimate that life insurance costs three times more than it actually does.

See how affordable it can be to protect those most important in your world with life insurance. Contact your Farm Bureau agent to schedule a SuperCheck® today.

Farm Bureau Financial Services

It’s your future. Let’s protect it.

Individual eligibility for all product promotions is subject to underwriting and approval. Estimated premium payment is for 20-year Choice Term Guaranteed Premium Plan; Standard; 35-year-old male or female; non-smoker. Amount is for demonstrative purposes only. Contact your Farm Bureau agent for a quote on your actual monthly premium payment. 2019 Insurance Barometer Study, Life Happens and LIMRA. Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877.860.2904, Member SIPC. Advisory services offered through FBL Wealth Management, LLC. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Western Agricultural Insurance Company. **Western, IA. 

\*Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. LI172 (6-20)
USMCA in Force July 1

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) President Paap shared comments during the Minnesota AgriGrowth Council’s “USMCA and Agriculture: Partnership, Progress, and Prosperity” webinar on June 17. He joined senior representatives from U.S., Mexico and Canada to celebrate U.S.-Mexico—Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) and what it means Minnesota’s agriculture and food industry. USMCA will enter into force on July 1. Following that notification to Congress, the United States became the third country to notify the other Parties that it had completed its domestic procedures to implement the agreement—the final step necessary for the USMCA to enter into force.

“In agriculture, our neighbors are so important. Working with our neighbors and working together works,” said MFBF President. “In Farm Bureau and in agriculture, we are committed to working with our neighbors in North America. Looking forward to increasing trade amongst all three countries and around the world.”

According to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Canada and Mexico are the top two markets for U.S. agricultural exports. Based on the 2019 agricultural export data, Minnesota agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico generate $5.7 billion in output impact and 17,106 jobs.

Winona County Donation
WINONA COUNTY FARM BUREAU donated dairy products to fill St Charles’ Hometown Resource Center’s new commercial refrigeration unit from Midwest Dairy. Pictured at right is Glen Groth, Winona County Farm Bureau president with Winona County Dairy Princess Kate Meyer and Junior Dairy Ambassador Lyza Tweten.

USMCA – Agricultural Trade Impact on Minnesota

U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA, formerly NAFTA) Overview
- The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is an updated version of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- NAFTA was implemented in January 1994, with a goal to eliminate barriers to trade and investment between the three North American countries.
- The USMCA-NAFTA countries have a combined population of 490 million and GDP of $23.5 trillion.
- In the years since NAFTA, U.S. agricultural trade with Canada and Mexico has more than tripled, growing much more rapidly than U.S. agricultural trade with the rest of the world.
- Canada and Mexico are the top 2 markets for U.S. agricultural exports.

USMCA and Minnesota Agricultural Exports
- Minnesota agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico reached an estimated combined total value of $1.98 billion in 2019:
  - Canada (Minnesota’s #1 ag export market): $1 billion or 15% market-share
  - Mexico (Minnesota’s #2 ag export market): $953 million or 14% market-share
  - MN total agricultural exports in 2019 (estimated): $6.8 billion

USMCA-MN Agricultural Trade Impact (Estimated)
- Growth of Minnesota agricultural export to Canada and Mexico:
  - Minnesota agricultural exports to Canada: 258% growth from 1995 to 2019
  - Minnesota agricultural exports to Mexico: 444% growth from 1995 to 2019

USMCA: U.S. Ag Export by Commodity (% share by value)
- Fresh veg/fruit: 11%
- Prepared food: 7%
- Meat: 6%
- Dairy: 6%
- Nuts: 5%
- Corn: 4%
- All other: 41%

USMCA: U.S. Ag Import by Commodity (% share by value)
- Fresh veg/fruit: 29%
- Prepared food: 25%
- Meat: 14%
- Dairy: 10%
- Nuts: 8%
- Corn: 6%
- All other: 39%

*The U.S. had a $12 billion trade deficit in 2019.

Source: USDA-FAS

Prepared by Su Ye, Chief Economist, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (2020)
It is my pleasure to serve the Minnesota Farm Bureau organization in the capacity of executive director. I am proud to serve an organization where members for over 100 years have come together for a common mission.

In addition to the off-farm employment, my husband, Matt, and I raise beef cattle and crops in Howard Lake with our children. We are active Wright County Farm Bureau members and have had the pleasure to see Farm Bureau at work at the local level.

I have long enjoyed the saying, “The past is your lesson. The present is your gift. The future is your motivation.” A vast 100-year history with the Farm Bureau organization, has provided us with a wealth of lessons. Agriculture is currently amid a critical juncture in our future. Now is a time for leadership in agriculture. Now is a time to lean on the Farm Bureau organization to step up to the plate to tackle these challenges head on. The gift in this situation is that adversity which tends to bring people together for a common mission.

As we face these challenges, I am grateful for the amazing members that dedicate their time to strengthening our organization. I am grateful for the passionate staff who work tirelessly for our members. I am grateful for the MFBF Board of Directors for the wisdom to guide the way. I look forward to serving you, as members, in this role!

Farm Bureau members receive $500 BONUS CASH*

Our valued partnership highlights the great movement that we have together, and how farming and trucks have gone together for over 100 years.

Don’t miss out on this offer. Visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com today!

AITKIN
AITKIN MOTOR CO.
800-793-9010
www.aitkinmotorco.com

HAWLEY
MUSCATELL--BURNS FORD
218-483-3357
www.muscatellburnsford.com

PAYNESVILLE
YARMON FORD
320-243-4235
www.yarmonford.com

MINNEAPOLIS
FREEWAY FORD
952-888-9481
www.freewayford.net

*Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. This incentive is not available on Mustang Shelby GT350®, Mustang Shelby® GT350R, Mustang Shelby® GT500®, Ford GT, F-150 Raptor, Bronco and Mustang Mach-E. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer’s stock by 1/4/21. Visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: Claim in VINCENT using #37408.
DELEGATES WILL ELECT VICE PRESIDENT AND THREE STATE BOARD MEMBERS

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MBBF) Board of Directors elections will be held at this year’s Annual Meeting on November 20. Board of Director positions up for election include: MFBF Vice President (two-year term) and board members (three-year terms) from Districts III, IV and VII.

District III includes the counties of Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock and Yellow Medicine. District IV includes the counties of Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Todd and Traverse. District VII includes the counties of Becker, Clay, Kittson, Mahnomen, Norman, Northwest Regional, East Otter Tail, West Otter Tail, East Polk, West Polk and Wilkin.

The Young Farmers and Ranchers chair and the Promotion and Education chair (one-year terms) will also be confirmed by the voting delegates.

The deadline for candidate position statements and headshot photo to be submitted in “The Voice of Agriculture” is Friday, October 9. Statements should be sent to Minnesota Farm Bureau, Attn: Kristin Harner, PO Box 64370, St. Paul, MN 55164 or emailed to kharner@fmbm.org.

District caucuses will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, November 20. County Farm Bureau delegates from Districts III, IV and VII will nominate an individual to represent that district on the MFBF Board of Directors. The election of vice president, district board directors and confirmation of state committee chairs will be conducted by all county Farm Bureau delegates during the Annual Meeting Voting Delegate Session.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE MFBF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

According to the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation by-laws, Article IV – Board of Directors – Section 3: Qualifications: The members of the Board of Directors of this corporation shall be voting members in good standing of a county Farm Bureau Association holding active membership in this corporation and shall be actively engaged in farming. A person shall be deemed to be “actively engaged in farming” if such person’s occupation or source of livelihood involves agriculture. A person holding or actively seeking an elective office to represent the general public in the state or national government shall not be eligible to be an officer or member of the Board of Directors.

Membership Growth: Board members are expected to meet the MFBF Producers Club threshold by signing at least five (5) new Farm Bureau members each year.

Attendance at state board meeting: Board members are expected to attend all board meetings and/or conference calls as scheduled throughout the year.

Financial Compensation: Board members shall be paid a per diem of $150 per day for attendance at officially called board meetings including electronic meetings or for attendance at any event as a representative of Farm Bureau as requested by the MFBF President or Executive Director. They shall also be reimbursed for meals and lodging when attending Farm Bureau functions. A board member shall be paid travel expenses based on the latest IRS rate.

For additional information, contact Karin Schaefer, MFBF executive director, at karin.schaefer@fmbm.org or 651-768-2704.
Meet Our Interns

VALERIE SAUNDER
Minnesota Farm Bureau is pleased to have two interns join our team for this summer: Valerie Sauder and Elaine Dorn.

Found Intern
Valerie, Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation intern, is from Pine Island. She recently completed her sophomore year at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, where she double majors in agricultural education and agricultural communication and marketing.

“This summer, I’m excited to build relationships within the Farm Bureau family. Agriculture is a closely connected community, and I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of the Foundation’s work!”

ELAINE DORN
Public Relations Intern
Elaine is from Kenyon and is working as the public relations intern. As a student at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, she is entering into her sophomore year of school and majoring in agricultural communications and marketing and French studies.

“Agriculture is filled with passionate, skilled and dedicated people. This summer, I’m thrilled with the opportunity to promote and share their story, and that of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, through my role as the public relations intern.”

Thank You Yvonne and Riley

Yvonne Simon and Riley Maanum recently announced their resignations.

Yvonne Simon, MBF South Central area program director, resigned her position after eight years with MBF and announced her candidacy to run for House Representative in District 23B. Her last day with Farm Bureau was June 18.

“I will always value my time with the MN Farm Bureau staff, board, county boards and members,” said Yvonne. “The opportunity to work with Farm Bureau members and staff and the relationships that have developed during that time will always be cherished. I will take all those experiences with me as I go forward with my new endeavor.”

Riley Maanum, MBF Northwest area program director, resigned his position with MBF and will be moving back home to farm full time. His last day with Farm Bureau was June 26.

“I want to thank you all for working with me over the last seven years,” said Riley. “The relationships and experiences I’ve gained will always be appreciated.”

Thank you Yvonne and Riley for your commitment and devoted service to Farm Bureau, its members and agriculture. We wish you all the best in the new phase of your career.
FROM FARM TO FORK
The Story of the Middleman Behind Your Food

By Elaine Dorr
MF&BF Public Relations Intern

Blondies Butcher Shop is a vibrant processing facility located in Wanamingo, and the people behind it are equally as dynamic. Owner, Lindsey Fulton, took the reins of the Wanamingo Locker, prominent in the community since 1935, six years ago after moving back to Minnesota from time working as first a horse trainer and then a paramedic in Colorado and Montana.

When asked where the name came from, Fulton stated “my customers are really the ones who came up with it. After a couple years of farmers saying we’re taking a steer down to Blondies the name just stuck.” Today, that same name has evolved into the iconic and recognizable Blondies Butcher Shop.

When the Wanamingo Locker made its transition to Blondies Butcher Shop, Fulton received support from both the local community and from other small local processing facilities in the surrounding area.

“The locker was really a staple of the local community, and people were invested in making sure it stuck around,” said Fulton. Since then, Blondies has continued to increase in both customer base and recognition.

This past year alone, Blondies has been visited by National Geographic, American Beef Council and many, many others seeking to share the story of where food comes from and the people who make it happen. The telling of that exact story is one of Fulton’s favorite aspects of her work at Blondies Butcher Shop.

“People don’t know the story behind their food,” said Fulton.

LINDSEY FULTON, OWNER of Blondies Butcher Shop in Wanamingo is a staple in the local community. Her shop has been a media focal point in educating the public on where our food comes from.

“"To me, Farm Bureau is an insurance policy. A voice needs to be heard to make a change, and Farm Bureau is that voice."

"We had to hire more people, add new phones and have extra batteries charging so we could keep up with all the calls and orders. One day, we timed it out, and we were getting a call every 20-30 seconds."

Currently, they are booked out through March and continue to function at a high level due to the pandemic. In addition to a much busier workload, COVID-19 has also brought with it some rather unexpected challenges. From a loss of a market for hides, bones and organs, to difficulty getting seasoning and nowhere to eat, Blondies Butcher Shop has certainly received its fair share of challenges brought on by the pandemic. Despite those challenges, Blondies has continued to thrive and function as a critical and essential local business.

As a long-time Farm Bureau member, Fulton also shared some of the value it’s added to her and her business.

“To me, Farm Bureau is an insurance policy. A voice needs to be heard to make a change, and Farm Bureau is that voice.”
STATE ISSUES

★ Peacetime Emergency Powers and a Special Session
On June 12, Governor Walz formally extended the Peacetime Emergency through July 13. In doing so, he was required to convene the State Legislature for a Special Session beginning June 12 to address items left undone during the regular session and recent events, including:
- Bonding bill
- Tax bill
- Police reform proposals

Minnesota has been under a Peacetime Emergency since March.

★ State Session Overview
Lawmakers adjourned Sine Die from an unprecedented and historic regular legislative session on May 18. Victories for agriculture in the 2020 regular session include passage of:
- Rural Finance Authority funding, the Agriculture Policy bill and a Supplemental Agriculture Finance bill.
- Rural Finance Authority (RFA) – $50 million in funds to ensure the RFA maintains important resources to continue to offer eligible farmers affordable financing options through a wide-variety of loan programs.
- Farm Safety Recommendations – Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Farm Safety Advisory group must develop recommendations regarding how best to provide financial and technical safety assistance to Minnesota farmers. Requires a report to the legislature by January 15, 2021.
- Farm Safety Grants – $25,000 increase in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 for farm safety grants and outreach efforts. Total allocation of $125,000 with $75,000 for grain storage facility safety grants and $50,000 for outreach.
- Mental Health Resources – $40,000 allocated for community outreach, mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

★ State Budget Deficit
Lawmakers also face a $2.5 billion state budget deficit, a nearly $4 billion downturn from the surplus projected at the start of the 2020 Legislative Session.

★ New Safe on Farm Cost Share Program
Minnesota U-Pick Operations, On-Farm Markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farms seeking help to ensure a safe and sanitary experience at farms and pick-up sites can apply for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) new Safe on the Farm Direct Marketing Cost Share program.

Eligible businesses may be reimbursed up to $250 for the purchase of equipment and supplies that will help them comply with the Guidance for Minnesota U-Pick Operations and On-Farm Markets.

Examples of eligible equipment include handwashing stations, personal protective equipment, tables to create space between workers and customers, signage to properly communicate safety instructions or social distancing, sanitation supplies to clean commonly touched surfaces, and rope, fencing, tape, chalk or flags to guide customers through their farm experience.

In order to qualify, the applicant must be a current or new Minnesota Grower member.

Applications to the program are being accepted now through August 31 or until all funds are depleted. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Businesses will receive payment approximately two to four weeks after their application is approved.

For more information and to get an application form, visit the MDA’s Safe on the Farm Cost Share webpage.

FEDERAL ISSUES

★ COVID-19 Relief Legislation
Farm Bureau is calling on lawmakers to provide critical resources to farmers impacted by the COVID-19 shockwave to the food system and to rural communities grappling with the pandemic’s impacts. Many struggling farmers were left out of initial federal aid, and some who received assistance are still being hit with COVID-19 losses.

The list of priorities for additional COVID-19 relief legislation include:

- Relief funding for farmers
- Extend relief funding for losses incurred after April 15.
- Replenish Commodity Credit Corporation funding to $68 billion
- Include the Farming Support to States Act, which provides resources to state and local Departments of Agriculture.
- Support biofuel production facilities.
- Support for livestock farmers and ranchers
- Provide aid to independent and contract poultry farmers.
- Open Conservation Reserve Program acres for emergency haying and grazing to feed livestock being kept longer than expected due to processing capacity issues.
- Waive overtime fees for FSIS meat inspectors in small and medium-sized packing plants.

★ Rural Health Care
- Increase funding for community health care centers.

★ Small Business
- Expand eligibility and increase funding for the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Cover H-2A workers in PPP.
- Qualify rental payments for business-related items.
- Allow Farm Credit institutions to access the set-aside for small financial lenders.

★ Rural Broadband
- Fund expedited implementation of the Broadband DATA Act.
- Allow distressed communities access to the Economic Development Administration grants for broadband deployment.
- Provide housing funding to accommodate social distancing guidelines for H-2A workers.
- Provide funding to offset the cost of PPE and sanitizing supplies.

★ Mental Health Legislation
A recently introduced bill led by Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) would help boost mental health services in rural areas. The Farm Bureau-backed Home-Based Telemental Health Care Act of 2020 (S. 3917) would direct the secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) in coordination with USDA’s Rural Health Liaison to award licenses for home-based telemental health care demonstrations.

Designed to increase mental health services in rural medically underserved populations and for individuals in farming, fishing and forestry occupations, the bill would authorize up to $10 million of funds currently available to the HHS secretary for each of fiscal years 2020 to 2024.

★ Farm Bureau-supported Bill Allows CRP Grazing during COVID-19 Emergency
Sens. John Thune (R-SD) and Tina Smith (D-MN) and Reps. Roger Marshall (R-KS) and Angie Craig (D-MN), recently introduced legislation that would allow emergency haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the current statute, emergency CRP haying and grazing is limited to weather-related disaster events. Allowing for emergency haying and grazing of CRP acres will help farmers provide adequate forage for livestock they are having to keep longer than expected due to low prices and/or meat processing capacity shortfalls resulting from the pandemic.

★ Coronavirus Food Assistance Program
USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance program on April 17. CFAP will use funding and authorities provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and other USDA existing authorities. This $19 billion immediate relief program includes direct support to farmers as well as the Farmers to Families Food Box Program.

Eligible farmers and ranchers will receive one CFAP payment, drawn from two possible funding sources. Funding provided in the CARES Act compensates farmers for losses due to price declines that occurred between mid-January 2020, and mid-April 2020 and for specialty crops for product that was shipped and spoiled or unpaid product. The second funding source uses the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to compensate farmers for losses due to on-going market disruptions.

To qualify for a payment, a commodity must have declined in price by at least 5% between mid-January to mid-April 2020. The payments will be coupled to actual production and based on actual losses agricultural producers experienced in response to price declines and supply chain disruptions, i.e., sales of commodities impacted by COVID-19. To ensure the availability of funds, producers will receive 80% of their maximum total payment upon approval of their application. The remaining 20% that does not exceed the payment limit will be paid at a later date.

Eligible commodities include:
- Non-specialty Crops: malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat
- Wool
- Livestock: cattle, hogs, and sheep (lamb and yearlings only)
- Dairy
- Specialty Crops
- Fruits: apples, avocados, blueberries, cantaloupe, grapefruit, kiwifruit, lemons, oranges, papaya, peaches, pears, raspberries, strawberries, tangerines, tomatoes, watermelons
- Vegetables: artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, iceberg lettuce, romaine lettuce, dry onions, green onions, peppers, potatoes, rhubarb, spinach, squash, sweet potatoes, taro
- Nuts: almonds, pecans, walnuts
- Other: beans, mushrooms

USDA’s Farm Service Agency will be accepting applications from farmers through August 28. USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only. Please do not send any personal information to USDA without first initiating contact through a phone call.
COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) released guidance last week requiring all Minnesota farmers to develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. The plan must comply with Center for Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and OSHA Guidelines.

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) has created a preparedness plan template which can be found at dl.mn.gov/uploads. Your farm may use other templates, such as this produce farm-specific plan from the University of Minnesota Extension, if all components outlined in the DLI template are addressed.

All critical businesses, including Minnesota farmers, must have a plan on file by June 29.

For additional information or assistance in developing a plan, business Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) Workplace Safety Consultation at 651-284-5060 or osha.consultation@state.mn.us.

USDA Rural Development Grant Funding Available for Rural Community Infrastructure & Equipment

USDA Rural Development has $150 million - $3 million for Minnesota alone - in grants available through the Community Facilities Program to help rural communities continue their recovery from the devastating effects of natural disasters.

Whether directly affected or located within the list of designated Minnesota counties found at rd.usda.gov/files/MN_Disaster_Declaration_Map.pdf, funds are available for up to $50,000 per application. Grant applications will be accepted on a continual basis until funds are exhausted. Contact your local USDA office for further information or assistance with the application process. Grant assistance will be provided on a graduated scale; smaller communities with the lowest median household income are eligible for a higher proportion of grant funds. For application assistance and additional information, see page 47477 of the Sept. 10 Federal Register.

More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities funding, including new fire/rescue vehicles and related equipment, police vehicles and related equipment, firefighter turnout gear and related equipment, ambulance and related equipment, weather station and much more.

Eligible applicants include municipalities, public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized Native American Tribes. Projects must be in eligible rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural communities. This assistance supports the nation’s infrastructure improvements; development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed Internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit rd.usda.gov.

By definition, a crisis is a turning point, a time when you have to make crucial decisions (often suddenly) that will affect your future. Although smart planning is the key to effectively dealing with periods of crisis, you may find yourself suddenly dealing with an unexpected event that you didn’t prepare for, and you wonder what to do next.

You can take steps to take control of the situation.

Planning for a future crisis — identify and manage risk

What future crises are you likely to face? While you hope that this question is none, that’s an overly optimistic thought. It’s almost inevitable that you will face one crisis or more during your lifetime. While you can’t have a plan to deal with all possible risks, you can plan for events that are likely and for some events that may seem unlikely.

You should, for instance, plan for events such as death, illness and job loss. Knowing that you have some plan will help you deal with a crisis if you ever do confront one.

Plan for contingencies

Any plan you make for dealing with a future crisis should be flexible. Part of the stress you feel when confronting a crisis is because crises are unexpected and unpredictable. You won’t know what’s ahead if you’re about to be laid off or if you’ll have to find a new job. One good approach is to plan for a worst-case scenario. For instance, if you plan for a period of unemployment that lasts for two months, what will you do if it stretches for six months? If you plan around a six-month period of unemployment you’ll know what to do if it only lasts for two months.

Organize your records

A key component of planning for a crisis is organizing your records and personal papers. This is particularly true if you become sick, incapacitated or die and your loved ones have to assume responsibility for your finances. You will also be able to readily access vital information instead of wasting time and energy trying to find it. At the very least, you want to set up a filing system and give a list of your important documents and advisors to a trusted friend for safekeeping.

Plan your finances

Unless you have significant liquid assets, planning for a crisis means planning your finances. Many financial professionals advise their clients to keep an emergency fund equal to at least three months worth of expenses, just in case your income flow or your expenses increase. This emergency fund can make a big difference because many things can change in three months. If you don’t have the emergency fund, you may have to make rash decisions regarding your future, such as taking a new job if you don’t really want, selling prized personal possessions, or dipping into your college or retirement fund. You should also work up a bare-bones budget that reflects only your basic living expenses. Cut out all luxuries and determine the least amount of income you need to survive.

Quantify your plan

When you plan for a future crisis, don’t be too general. Instead, as specific as possible and write down your options. This way, you’ll be less tempted to avoid decisions by thinking you’ll deal with that when the time comes, and you’ll have something concrete to refer to when you need to be making crisis decisions.

You’ll feel calmer, too, when you’re facing the crisis. People who live in areas prone to natural disasters often keep emergency kits in their cars or homes in case they need to evacuate in a hurry—a good example of this principle.

Dealing with an immediate crisis—act, don’t react

If you’re in an immediate crisis, you want to do something, just about anything to solve the crisis, or you want to run away. While both responses are natural, neither is helpful. While you definitely need to do something in a crisis situation besides hide your head in the sand, you shouldn’t just anything. In fact, it may even be preferable to take no action for a few days to let your emotions cool a bit. Then, act, but don’t react. To the extent possible, collect information and advice and formulate a plan. You may have only one chance to do this, but some plan is better than none. If you feel that you can’t keep your emotions separate from your actions, ask a friend, relative or professional to help you sort through your options.

Make a list of things that you need to do

When you have to plan in a hurry, the easiest way is to make a simple list of things you have to do. List as many items as possible. Then, as you do them, you can check them off. This is important because when you’re under stress, you may forget to do important tasks. In addition, a list will help you remember to focus on action, not reaction.

Find help

No one should have to weather a crisis alone. Even if you’re alone in the world or if you don’t want to burden your loved ones with details, there are community resources and individuals (paid and unpaid) who can give you general and specific advice.

Plan for the future

Planning for the future is vital. When you’re sick, you suddenly realize the limitations on your own mortality and your priorities may become clearer. It’s a good idea at this point to set new priorities and goals for the future. If you’re terminally ill, this step is critical. You may also need to quickly revise your financial and estate plans. Even if you expect to recover from your illness, you’ll benefit from reviewing your insurance coverage and your financial plans and by applying lessons learned from your illness to planning for the future.

Find support

If you’re married, you may be tempted to rely upon your spouse for support, and he or she is probably happy to give it to you. Remember, though, the most loving spouse in the world can’t solve all your problems and is probably more anxious over your job loss than you. Realize your burden with your friends, a support group, a career counselor or a financial professional.

Find a new job

One of the first things on your mind when you lose your job is finding another one. You may be surprised at how difficult this can be, particularly if you’ve worked at the same job for a long time. If you’ve dealt with unemployment before, you probably know the drill: update your resume, check the want ads, begin to network, etc. Even if you’re an experienced worker, there are resources that can help you.

Dealing with the death of a family member

When your spouse or a family member has died, you may need to plan the funeral, organize your finances and deal with life insurance benefits. You may need to serve as executor of your loved one’s estate, and you may need to be familiar with the estate settlement procedures.

If you’re facing a struggle financially, contact a Farm Bureau financial advisor to determine a plan that may work for you.

Source: Farm Bureau Financial Services
MINNESOTA FARM BUREAU
2x2 ad – same ad copy all issues
March, May, July, Sept & Nov

St. Peter Woolen Mill
101 W. Broadway
St. Peter, MN 56082
Hours: M-F • 9am-5pm
spwoolen@hickorytech.net
www.woolenmill.com
(507) 934-3734
For all your wool
processing needs
Mattress pads, pillows, comforters
"Weather it’s warm or cold, we’ve got you covered!"

855.368.9595 Toll Free
www.powerliftdoors.com

JEFFBELZER.COM

952.469.4444 | Cedar & 50 in Lakeville

HYDRAULIC DOORS
By the most trusted name in the industry

BETTER BUILDING. BETTER VALUE.

HYDRAULIC OPENING DOORS

JEFFBELZER.COM

Hydraulic Doors

• 20-year warranty
• Clear-span space
• Hot-dipped galvanized steel
• Local knowledge and support
• Quick installations
• Service and re-cover any brand building
• Natural light
• Made in U.S.A.

Brent Strahm, Project Manager
Elgin, IA
563-380-4787
www.greenfield-contractors.com

HYDRAULIC DOORS

Jeff Belzer’s

Call for your local
Northland Sales Consultant
1-800-736-4510
northlandbuildings.com

CONTACT US

Sleep tight with PowerLift’s

PowerLift

707 North Broadway
St. Peter, MN 56376
Hours: M-F • 9am-5pm
855.368.9595 toll free
www.powerliftdoors.com

Wool Processing by the leading name in the industry

SMASH BURGERS

1 pound ground beef
Seasoning of choice
1-2 Tablespoons butter

• Prepare hamburger by forming it into four round balls.
• Prepare skillet at high heat.
• Melt butter across entire skillet.
• Quickly drop the ball onto the skillet & use back of spatula to smash burger down to desired thickness.
• Add seasoning of choice after smashing burger down.
• Cook to preferred doneness.
• Serve on hamburger buns with your favorite condiments.

MARK AND SARA HEWITT
STATE YF&R COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hometown: Kilkenny
Children: Harper-5 and McCoy-9 months

Eduational Background: Sara has a bachelor of science and a bachelor of arts from Minnesota State University – Mankato and is currently completing a masters degree from Kansas State. Sara is also a graduate of Connecting Nicollet County and Minnesota Agricultural and Rural Leadership Class 8.

Mark received his associates of applied science degree in agribusiness service technician and farm business management from South Central College. He is a licensed emergency medical technician, firefighter and pilot. Mark is also a certified crop advisor. In addition, Mark is a Connecting Nicollet County graduate.

Farm Description: We farm corn, soybeans and hay, custom beef, custom pork, raise honeybees (Sweet Cheeks Honey) and own and operate a precision agriculture business, Hewitt Precision Insights selling Beck’s Hybrids. Sara also works for Ag Management Solutions as the manager of brand development and events, and Mark works as the service manager for Environmental Tillage Systems.

Innovative Farming Methods: We utilize no-till and strip-till methods. We have diversified our soybean crop by planting both food-grade and seed soybeans.

Hobbies: As a family we enjoy reading, camping, riding bike and spending time outdoors.

Why did you get involved with YF&R? We value the networks and relationships Farm Bureau has helped create for us, and we wanted to give back to an organization that has given so much to us. We believe that younger farmers need to become more active in all of the farm organizations because our voice has strength in numbers, so helping create programs and events that get younger farmers involved and sharing information is important.

The only thing constant is change. How many times have you heard that phrase? Maybe because it still holds true. We encourage young farmers to be active in being the change they want to see.

Minnesota Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization driven by the policies set forth by their members. We encourage you to be active at your county and state level when it comes to shaping Farm Bureau policy. Take a good look at the current policy book – is there anything you are questioning? Anything that needs to be removed or changed? Is there an issue that affected your farm that potentially needs to be in the policy book? Join in the discussion with your county and talk with other county organizations as well. What experiences are other farmers having that you feel Farm Bureau can help with? If you haven’t considered serving as a voting delegate for your county, we recommend you throw your hat in the ring this year.

Maybe change for you means taking on an increased leadership role with your county board. Maybe you’re considering a run in the future for a state board seat. Maybe you want to apply for the Prominent & Educator or Young Farmers & Ranchers Committees – take a chance to help make change on behalf of the farmers and members you represent.

Perhaps change for you means inviting more diverse voices to be present as part of Minnesota Farm Bureau. Maybe you want to invite your neighbor who runs a CSA to become a member or the urban farm selling micro greens to join you at LEAP. Maybe it is asking someone who works in agriculture but didn’t grow up on a farm to help you judge the FFA discussion meet or join you volunteering at an event. Change might mean reaching beyond the traditional farmers we know to strengthen the voice of Farm Bureau.

Change is necessary for growth, improvement and a way to strengthen your courage. Be the change you want to see.

Innovative Farming Methods: We utilize no-till and strip-till methods. We have diversified our soybean crop by planting both food-grade and seed soybeans.

Hobbies: As a family we enjoy reading, camping, riding bike and spending time outdoors.

Why did you get involved with YF&R? We value the networks and relationships Farm Bureau has helped create for us, and we wanted to give back to an organization that has given so much to us. We believe that younger farmers need to become more active in all of the farm organizations because our voice has strength in numbers, so helping create programs and events that get younger farmers involved and sharing information is important.

The only thing constant is change. How many times have you heard that phrase? Maybe because it still holds true. We encourage young farmers to be active in being the change they want to see.

Minnesota Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization driven by the policies set forth by their members. We encourage you to be active at your county and state level when it comes to shaping Farm Bureau policy. Take a good look at the current policy book – is there anything you are questioning? Anything that needs to be removed or changed? Is there an issue that affected your farm that potentially needs to be in the policy book? Join in the discussion with your county and talk with other county organizations as well. What experiences are other farmers having that you feel Farm Bureau can help with? If you haven’t considered serving as a voting delegate for your county, we recommend you throw your hat in the ring this year.

Maybe change for you means taking on an increased leadership role with your county board. Maybe you’re considering a run in the future for a state board seat. Maybe you want to apply for the Prominent & Educator or Young Farmers & Ranchers Committees – take a chance to help make change on behalf of the farmers and members you represent.

Perhaps change for you means inviting more diverse voices to be present as part of Minnesota Farm Bureau. Maybe you want to invite your neighbor who runs a CSA to become a member or the urban farm selling micro greens to join you at LEAP. Maybe it is asking someone who works in agriculture but didn’t grow up on a farm to help you judge the FFA discussion meet or join you volunteering at an event. Change might mean reaching beyond the traditional farmers we know to strengthen the voice of Farm Bureau.

Change is necessary for growth, improvement and a way to strengthen your courage. Be the change you want to see.
Important Three Words… How are you?

How are you? Can I help? I can listen! Starting a conversation is that easy, what more could anyone ask for on a bad day or a good day and certainly every day during this pandemic. If you find yourself overwhelmed, please know that we all need support and encouragement, you aren’t alone.

Make the call. Helplines are for everyone. They are easy to access and private. We urge you to use your resources! The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation has six helplines and quick connects to answer questions and get support at fbfm.org/wellness-education.

The MOST important three words… I need help. Ask for help. Use words to put together, and trust me when I admit, it took me a long time to formulate that sentence myself. The power of connection is strong, connect with your resources.

When overwhelmed, I do not always know where to start or even what I need. I “look for the helpers”—Fred Rogers. Find your helpers; a neighbor, a family member or friend, a pastor or other professional counselor. Phone a friend.

Having had countless precious calls with my Mom as a caregiver for my Father, who’s journey with Alzheimer’s came to an end after years of unexpected turns, I learned how powerful three words can be.

A call or text saying “can you chat, call me tonight, I miss you, need to talk” —three words can brighten the day, lighten a burden and bring a smile to you both. I learned many lessons watching my parents. Being the role of caregiver can be taken up for a brief or long-term period of time. Ask for help. Whether you are caring for a spouse, parent, child, the land, the livestock, etc, do not forget to take care of yourself! Prioritize your physical and emotional health.

Three words can be powerful. You are enough! You aren’t alone. We need you!

INGREDIENTS
- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 1 Tablespoon cream cheese
- 1/4 cup fresh minced garlic, chopped
- 1/4 cup onion (sweet), chopped
- 4 teaspoons all-purpose flour (add just enough water to make in sealed jar until smooth liquid)
- 1/4 cup chicken/vegetable stock
- 1/2 cup milk
- Salt and pepper (to taste)

DIRECTIONS
In a large skillet over medium low heat, melt butter and cream cheese. Sautee onions and peppers until tender. Shake flour and water in sealed jar until smooth then slowly add to skillet. Slowly whisk in chicken/vegetable stock and cook until thickened. Slowly stir in cream, fold in turkey and peas (optional). Heat mixture to low, and cook until thickened. Season with salt and pepper.

Use a muffin pan, butter bread slices and push into muffin tin to make a cup like shape out of the bread slices or use a bun cut in half (buttered); put under broiler and lightly toast. The bread/bun crisp up and hold the cup shape. Spoon the creamy turkey into the cups and serve. Cheese of your choice as a topping is always nice. Suggestions: Pepper jack, gouda or a shredded hard cheese. Adding the veggies gives this dish color and makes for an all in one pan meal.

Farm Bureau Seeks Entrepreneurs Addressing Farm and Rural Challenges

Farm Bureau Seeks Entrepreneurs Addressing Farm and Rural Challenges
$145K in Start-up Funds Available - Apply by July 31

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), in partnership with Farm Credit, has opened online applications for the 2021 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. This national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies that are addressing challenges faced by America’s farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Farm Bureau will award $145,000 in start-up funds provided by sponsors Farm Credit, John Deere Life Insurance, Ceres Financial, Farm Bureau Financial Services and Farm Bureau Bank.

Launched in 2015 as the first national competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs, the Challenge continues to identify the next ag entrepreneurs to watch and supports innovation essential to Farm Bureau member businesses and communities. For this seventh year of the competition, Farm Bureau is seeking entrepreneurs who are addressing both traditional and emerging needs for farmers and rural communities—like the 2020 Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year, Dana Mohr with HydroSide Systems, who developed an automated irrigation system—as well as business owners tackling new challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Unemployment of the impacts Farm Bureau members are experiencing from COVID-19, solutions from entrepreneurs are needed more than ever to help farmers, ranchers and rural communities,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “I am very interested to see how entrepreneurs will use start-up funds provided by the Challenge to help support farms and ranches and grow the rural economy.”

For example, 2020 Ag Innovation Challenge semi-finalist AgButler recently partnered with Missouri Farm Bureau to launch and support AgConnection. The business connects farmers with high school and college students who may be able to provide the extra hands needed to keep farms and ranches running smoothly. Rantizo, another 2020 semi-finalist business, is testing the use of autonomous drone sprayers to sanitize large-scale venues, such as MLB stadiums and other spectator events. Farm Bureau and Farm Credit will select 10 start-up companies to compete at the AFBF Annual Convention in January 2021 as semi-finalists. The 10 semi-finalist teams will be announced on October 5 and awarded seven $500 each. The 10 teams will compete to advance to the final round where four teams will receive an additional $7,500 and compete live on stage in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives.

The final four teams will compete to win:
- Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year, for a total of $50,000
- People’s Choice award, for a total of $20,000

The top 10 semi-finalist teams will participate in pitch training and mentorship from Cornell University’s Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management faculty prior to competing at AFBF’s Convention. In addition, the top 10 semi-finalist teams will have the opportunity to network with agriculture leaders and venture capital representatives from the Agriculture Department’s Rural Business Investment Companies. Entrepreneurs must be Farm Bureau members to qualify as top 10 semi-finalists. Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can join a state Farm Bureau of their choice. Visit mn.fbfm.org/join to learn about becoming a member. Detailed eligibility guidelines, the competition timeline, video and photos of past winners are available at fb.org/challenge.

Applications must be received by midnight Eastern Daylight Time on July 31.

---

HOMETOWN: Originally from North Bradley Michigan, now Bemidji.

FAMILY: Moved to Bemidji from Mid-Michigan in 1991. Two daughters, Taylor Elizabeth a student at the University of Minnesota and Miranda Lilja, Bemidji High School.

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Associates of science in legal studies and a bachelor’s degree in mass communication and business. My career path has been that of an advocate/educator. My work in youth development began in Michigan and expanded in Minnesota as I worked for Lakeland PBS as the educational consultant and then with University of Minnesota Extension as the Beltrami County 4-H program coordinator. In the Fall of 2019, I accepted the opportunity to take both my passion for agriculture and education and work with the amazing team that makes up Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, as the executive director of the Foundation.

ADVOCATE FOR AGRICULTURE: Growing up in Mid-Michigan we raised some chickens and chickens. In addition to working on a neighboring hog farm and being “farmed out” to other family farms for planting, baling and harvest season, I grew up loving every day I got to be outside “farming”. The desire and passion of my first born was to have chickens the color of her hair, which lead us to the world of poultry. Breeding chickens, yes even artifically inseminating, in addition to raising pigs, and turkeys. The years have produced countless 4-H research projects and experiments focused on breeding, genetics, space management, nutrition, food science, citizenship and finance.

Why did you get involved in P&EE? Growing up I learned through family that Farm Bureau was a great source for information, advocacy and friendships. Each morning at the end of our driveway, I waited for the bus by a sign that said “stop” on one side and Proud Farm Bureau member on the other. As an adult, I reflect on where and who my parents and family members turned to for support and who they turned to. Farm Bureau is a connection of great strength and value, that holds true today. The resources, the leadership skills gained, events and opportunities to share and educate in addition to the friendships gained is why I engage in Farm Bureau and the Promotion and Education work.
Special financing available for a limited-time.

*Purchase of DeltaForce, SpeedTube, and vDrive are required for the $200 per row rebate. Purchase of 2 of these 3 products is required for the $150 per row rebate. Purchase of 1 of these 3 products is required for the $50 per row rebate. Purchase of Gen3 20|20 required for $1000 off rebate. There is a minimum row purchase required of 6 rows to receive the rebates. Make The Precision Decision rebate program officially ends 9/30/20. See additional terms and conditions at maketheprecisiondecision.com. Products must be registered within 30 days of purchase to receive rebate. 20|20®, DeltaForce®, SpeedTube®, vDrive®, and Precision Planting® are registered trademarks of Precision Planting LLC ©2020 Precision Planting LLC.

To take advantage of this offer. Visit maketheprecisiondecision.com

Limited-time savings available on 20|20®, DeltaForce®, SpeedTube®, and vDrive®.

Don’t roll the dice with car repairs.

With a Farm Bureau Preferred Auto Repair Shop, the claims process is simple:

- only one estimate needed
- guaranteed workmanship for as long as you own your vehicle
- expedited service — the shop has authority to order parts and schedule repairs immediately
- simplified billing — we pay the repair shop directly

Call one of the Preferred Auto Repair Shops below or visit fbfs.com/AutoRepairShops for a complete list in your area.

**MORGAN**

CHAD HOFFBECK AG SERVICES

507-829-7333

www.chadhoffbeckagservices.com

**WYCOFF**

PRO PLANTER LLC

507-259-5585

**HECTOR**

CARLSON’S COLLISION AND GLASS

320-848-2020

www.carlsonscollision.com

NEW ULM

NEW ULM BODY SHOP, INC.

507-354-8311

JULY 2020 • VOICE OF AGRICULTURE • fbmn.org • 15

Your Input Needed! Communications Survey

**MARK ANSWERS WITH AN X**

- What is your association to Farm Bureau?
  - Voting Member
  - Associate Member
  - Agent
  - Other

- Does your household derive any income from farming or ranching?
  - Yes
  - No

- Choose up to 3 ways that you prefer to receive information:
  - Print
  - Radio
  - Video
  - Social Media
  - Email
  - Blogs

- How interested would you be in reading articles about the following subjects if they were regularly carried in The Voice of Agriculture? (Note interest level number beside topic areas)
  - Very interested
  - Somewhat interested
  - Not interested
  - Don’t know

- Which of the following content items do you read? (Select all that apply)
  - The Front Page
  - Capitol Corner – State and National Issues Updates
  - Young Farmers & Ranchers Column
  - Promote & Education Column
  - Yard and Garden Tips
  - Benefits Page
  - Health & Wellness Column
  - Family Security Column
  - Safety Column
  - Food and Fiber
  - Discover Minnesota
  - AgBytes
  - PB News Notes

- Would you be willing to pay an additional $5 in addition to your dues to receive The Voice of Agriculture hard copy?
  - Yes
  - No

- Would you read The Voice of Agriculture online at fmn.org/pages/voice-of-ag?
  - Yes
  - No

- Would you miss The Voice of Agriculture if it were discontinued?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don’t know

- Would you like to receive a magazine focused on Minnesota food and farm in addition to the current newspaper from the Minnesota Farm Bureau?
  - Very interested
  - Somewhat interested
  - Not interested
  - Don’t know

- What social media platforms do you use? (Select all that apply)
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Youtube
  - Instagram
  - SnapChat
  - Pinterest
  - LinkedIn
  - Other
  - None

- Which Minnesota Farm Bureau Social Media platforms do you follow? (circle all that apply)
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Instagram
  - YouTube
  - SnapChat
  - Pinterest

- Which Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation e-letters do you read? (Select all that apply)
  - Impact (public policy updates)
  - Events (general Farm Bureau leader news)
  - For Resources
  - Monthly
  - Never

- Provide your name and email to be entered into a drawing for a $25 gift card.

Name

Email
Farmfest and Dakotafest Canceled for 2020

IDEAg Group LLC, owned by American Farm Bureau Federation, producers of Minnesota Farmfest and Dakotafest, has canceled both farm shows for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We announce this decision with great disappointment but the well-being of our exhibitors, attendees, staff, volunteers and their families is paramount,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “We understand the impact this has on the ag community, but simply put, it is the right decision to make in these unprecedented times.”

Farmfest, scheduled for August 4-6 in Redwood County, Minnesota, has served farmers and the agriculture community for 38 years. Dakotafest, scheduled for Aug. 18-20 in Mitchell, South Dakota, was set to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Virtual Farmfest
IDEAg management confirms that aspects of each show will be made available to attendees virtually this year, including the Farmfest Political Forums.

“The Farmfest Political Forums are a highly anticipated part of our annual event, especially in this important election year,” said Melissa Sanders Carroll, executive director, IDEAg. “Providing people a virtual opportunity to learn about and participate in the issues that directly impact their farms, lives and families is essential to us.”

Farmfest 2021
Next year’s show dates have been set. Farmfest will be August 3-5, 2021, and Dakotafest is slated for August 17-19, 2021.

Visit Farmfest.com and Dakotafest.com for more information about 2020 virtual event activities as well as information about the 2021 shows.

Farmfest Woman Farmer of the Year

The Farmfest Woman Farmer of the Year Award honors the hard-working female farmers all across Minnesota who selflessly give their time to producing the crops and raising the livestock needed to feed the world. So many times, women on the farm wear multiple hats, tirelessly contributing to the farm but also participating in community, raising children or working outside the home. For that commitment, we want to say thank you.

If you or someone you know meets the criteria below, fill out the application so we can recognize all of the amazing contributions at farmfest.com.

Eligibility & Criteria
The entrant or nominee(s):
• Must farm or ranch as a sole proprietor or one part of a couple, family or partnership.
• Farm must be located entirely within the state of Minnesota.
• May work outside the home or farm but must contribute to the farm/ranch in addition to the duties outside the farm.
• Has a high level of commitment to the farm/ranch in terms of hours dedicated to her work.
• Has a positive impact on the farm in terms of income, yield, diversification and/or overcoming challenges.
• Nominee demonstrates not only impact on the farm but also positive impact on her community.

Must be available to attend an online recognition ceremony on August 6.
• Must agree to be featured in Farmfest advertising, news stories and social media.
• Must provide at least one photo or video with their application.
• Must be a legal resident of the United States and 18 years of age or older.

Woman Farmer of the Year Selection
A committee of representatives will review the qualifying applications and select five finalists. Finalists will be notified on or about July 27 and the winner will be announced on a live-streamed online recognition ceremony on August 6.
Each of the finalists will be recognized in honor of their efforts in farming at the online Women in Ag Event, in news and social media.

The Woman of the Year will receive a $500 cash prize along with recognition of all her hard work and accomplishments.

Farmfest 2020 Virtual Forums

While this year’s Farmfest as we know it has been canceled. There are virtual opportunities.

Farmfest has announced that the annual political debates, listening sessions and public forums with political leaders and candidates are going virtual so you can learn about and participate in the issues that directly impact Minnesota farms and farm families, especially in this political year.

Log onto Farmfest.com for more information about Virtual Farmfest Forums and sign-up for updates. Everything is subject to change. Invited candidates include.

• August 4
  Time TBD
  US Senate Forum
  Sen. Tina Smith (D) and Jason Lewis (R)

• Time TBD
  Economic Outlook Panel

• August 5
  10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
  2 Congressional Forums including candidates from Districts 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8
  Cong. Dist. 1 - Cong. Jim Hagedorn (R) and Dan Feehan (D)
  Cong. Dist. 2 - Cong. Angie Craig (D) and Tyler Kizzner (R)
  Cong. Dist. 6 - Cong. Tom Emmer (D) and Tomasz Zabukoski (R)

  Cong. Dist. 7 - Cong. Collin Peterson (D), Michelle Fischbach (R), Dave Hughes (R), Noel Collis (R)
  Cong. Dist. 8 - Cong. Pete Stauber (R) and Quinn Nystrom (D)

  August 6
  10:30 a.m.
  Women in ag event & Farmfest Women of the Year Award

  1 p.m.
  Farm Family of the Year Recognition Program

All forums will be available on Farmfest.com.

UMASH Online Expo: A 20/20 Look at Ag Health, Safety and Wellness

August 11-13, 2020

Visit our FREE ONLINE expo, watch live safety demos, hear from health experts and gather resources from our exhibitors.

Participate in our online activities
SAFETY FIRST
Keeping Children Safe on the Farm

With open space to run, buildings to explore and adventure to be had, what’s not to love about spending time on the farm or ranch? While a farm or ranch can be a great place for kids to burn off energy and learn new skills, it’s important to practice safety precautions and educate them regularly to keep everyone safe. Implementing the right farm safety rules can help teach them how to safely build skills they’ll use for years to come. If you plan to have children out and about on your farm, keep these seven safety tips in mind.

1. Utilize Online Safety Resources
   Kids love to learn, and teaching them about safe practices while on the farm provides them with vital skills and knowledge. Online resources are available to help talk with kids about an array of safe practices like tractor, animal, grain and ATV safety. Explore online and see what other resources like interactive farm safety games are available to help teach your kids (while making it a bit more fun).

2. Store Pesticides Out of Reach
   Keep pesticides and other hazardous materials out of sight and if possible locked in storage. Talk with children about not opening or playing around pesticides. In addition to storing pesticides in a safe place, helping kids to understand why they can be dangerous if not handled properly is key. At a young age, it’s important to teach them to never ingest anything they don’t have permission to eat or drink.

3. Set Boundaries
   For young children, supervision is important at all times but for older age children they may have more freedom to explore. While you may have acres upon acres and woods for exploring, discuss where it’s okay to roam and what areas are off limits (or out of bounds). Grain bins, silos and ponds/rivers are areas that present safety risks on your farm.

4. Identify and Discuss Possible Safety Hazards
   If you have barbed wire or electric fencing on your farm, be sure to discuss with your kids about staying away so they don’t inadvertently get hurt.
   To a kid, grain bins and grain carts may look like fun places to play. But, if they’re full of grain, they quickly become hazardous. Grain can act like quicksand. Entrapments can happen quickly. Don’t let kids play in or around grain bins or carts. Be sure to talk with children about the dangers of playing in grain bins and on carts. Store tools and ladders away to prevent injuries on the farm. Even common tools like rakes and shovels can be dangerous if they aren’t kept in a safe place.

5. Safe Farm Machinery Practices
   There’s probably nothing more exciting to a kid than getting to ride in a tractor or a combine. These large pieces of farm machinery are impressive to people of all ages. But they quickly become farm hazards. Be sure to lock equipment like tractors, trucks, combines, etc., when they aren’t in use. Keep the keys in a safe place that’s out of reach from small hands. It’s also important to teach kids to stay back when large farm equipment is in operation and where safety vests or bright clothes to be visible. Teach them to make eye contact with the driver to be sure they aren’t in blind spots.

6. Farm Emergency Preparedness
   From discussing farm emergency plans for tornadoes, fires, earthquakes, etc., to showing how to use fire extinguishers, emergency preparedness is a topic that can be taught to all ages.

7. Animal Safety
   Livestock can be unpredictable. Be sure to always supervise young children when they’re around livestock. Teach them how to safely interact with livestock.

Encourage Safety for All Ages
Promoting farm safety habits is important for everyone’s well-being. Making safety a top priority is key. Talk regularly with your children about safe practices on your farm. A local Farm Bureau agent can help to ensure your farm has the protection it needs. Reach out today.

Source: FBFS

Dicamba Update
MINNESOTA FARM BUREAU Federation (MFBF) President Kevin Paap discussed dicamba registrations on RFD TV on June 9, MFBF will continue to work closely with Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), members of Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the uncertainty as to the future of Dicamba products.
As any farmer or rancher can tell you, farm life can be demanding and stressful. It’s reaching a critical stage with coronavirus impacts on top of trade wars, natural disasters, depressed commodity prices, labor shortages and other factors. Given these ongoing challenges, it’s no surprise that more farmers and farm families are experiencing stress and mental health issues.

If you, or someone you know, are struggling with anxiety, depression or another mental health challenge, you are not alone. Check out the following resources and follow #FarmStateofMind on social media to show your support. A healthy farm is nothing without a healthy you.

**Rural Resilience Training**
Recognizing the high levels of stress affecting America’s farmers, Farm Credit, American Farm Bureau Federation and others partnered on a program to train individuals who interact with farmers and ranchers, providing them with the skills to:

- Understand the sources of stress.
- Identify effective communication strategies.
- Reduce stigma related to mental health, and
- Learn the warning signs of stress and suicide.

Any Farm Bureau member can register for this free online training at can.msu.edu/managing_farm_stress/rural-resilency-online-course-abf.

**Know the Warning Signs**
When loved ones, neighbors or others you care about are experiencing mental health challenges, they may not even realize it. Here’s how you can identify someone who may be at risk.

**AFBF’s Farm State of Mind**
**Resources for Taking Care of Your Mental Health**

- Change in routines or social activities
- Decline in the care of domestic animals
- Increase in illness or other chronic conditions
- Increase in farm accidents
- Decline in appearance of the farmstead
- Signs of stress in children including struggles with school
- Decreased interest in activities or events

Learn more about recognizing the signs of chronic stress, depression or suicidal intent and what you can do to help at nyafarmnet.org/farm-stress.

**Start the Conversation**
Although it may feel like it’s out of your comfort zone, you can start a conversation in any number of ways:

- **Acknowledge** what they’re going through. “I know a lot of people have lost their markets this year, which can be devastating. How are you holding up?”
- **Remind** them of something they’ve said and express interest. “I heard you say your meeting with John was a disaster. Can you tell me about it?”
- **Share** a habit you’ve seen change. “I’ve noticed you haven’t come to coffee for a long time. Are you doing OK?”
- **Don’t** wait for them to ask. “You seem to have a lot on your mind. How can I help?”
- **Be there** if they’re willing to reach out, encourage them. “I’ve heard that talking to [a counselor, a doctor, a religious or spiritual leader, etc.] can be really helpful. Have you considered that?”
- **Try** to compare their challenges to someone else’s, or minimize what they’re going through. What matters most is showing genuine care, empathy and listening.

**Five Steps to Help Someone in Emotional Pain**
1. **Ask**
2. **Keep them safe**
3. **Be there**
4. **Help them connect**
5. **Stay connected**

For more information go to fb.org/programs/farm-state-of-mind.

---

**YARD & GARDEN**

The following tips are provided by the University of Minnesota Extension Service Yard & Garden line. For information on gardening, insects and diseases in the home landscape and more visit extension.umn.edu/yardandgarden.

- **Apple maggots** are the most common problem on homegrown apples, showing up as dimples and tan lines running through the fruit. Begin a sprayer program early this month, or trick the ﬂies, hanging fake apples covered with Tangle Trap in your tree.

- **Water garden plants from the bottom,** if at all possible. Overhead watering is more likely to result in disease problems, particularly if you must water in the evening when plants dry slowly.

- **Whenever practical,** “deadhead” or remove large flowers (for instance marigolds, zinnias, geraniums) from annuals and perennials before seeds mature. Flowering often slows once seeds are allowed to ripen.

- Once raspberry canes finish summer fruiting, cut them down to the ground. They’ll never produce another crop on those same canes. Thin new growth to four or five sturdy canes per foot of row.

- After harvesting early maturing vegetables, you could seed cabbage, broccoli or cauliflower that will ripen in fall. Or you could plant a “green manure” such as buckwheat, ryegrass or clover to improve the soil for next year’s garden.

---

**Taking Minnesota State Fair Virtual**

**WHILE THE MINNESOTA State Fair as we know it has been canceled for 2020, the passion our Farm Bureau members have for sharing their farm stories will still resonate. Look for virtual experiences about the display and from a variety of Farm Bureau volunteers. Follow Farm Bureau on our social media channels on Facebook – Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation and Minnesota Farmers CARE; Instagram and Twitter.**

---

**Blair’s Disc Sharpening**
**- Ross Soms -**
309-264-8910 • 701-549-3663
**Disc Rolling & Sharpening**
Also doing IH Turbo Tills
No dismantling • Service on your farm
Over 40 years experience
Serving 9 states
701-549-3663
Walhalla, ND
Email: blairbs@utma.com
www.dicsharpening.com

---

**Kimmes-Bauer Irrigation**
32100 Lillehei Ave. • Hastings, MN 55033
(651)437-1973 Office • (651)442-2143 Cell
www.kimmesbauerirrigation.com • dbkb75@gmail.com

---

**Reinke Irrigation**
We’re proud to be a Reinke dealer and represent a company that calls rural America home. Reinke is an independent company that cares more about building great irrigation systems than returning dividends to stockholders. Just like us, Reinke values honesty, trust, common sense and tradition. If those things are important to you too, come see us to learn more about high-performance Reinke irrigation systems.

---

**OUR HOME IS IN RURAL AMERICA**

---

**Blair’s Disc Sharpening**
**- Ross & Sons -**
309-264-8910 • 701-549-3663
**Disc Rolling & Sharpening**
Also doing IH Turbo Tills
No dismantling • Service on your farm
Over 40 years experience
Serving 9 states
701-549-3663
Walhalla, ND
Email: blairbs@utma.com
www.dicsharpening.com
After a billion feedings, we’ve enhanced countless lives. Now, with your help, we can save some.

Give back with every bag.

Since 1991, Strategy® feeds have been trusted to provide the best nutrition to horses across America. In fact, horses have been fed more than a billion meals of Strategy® GX and Growth® Healthy Edge® “horse feed.” But we can always feed more, so we’re sending a portion of the profits from every bag sold to A Home For Every Horse®, a coalition dedicated to finding homes for horses in need. Because a billion feedings means even more when you’re feeding change.

To find out more, visit us at www.FoodForStrategy.com

*For every bag of Purina® Strategy® horse feed sold, a portion of the profits (up to $125,000) will be donated to A Home For Every Horse® and the Unwanted Horse Coalition.

WHITESTONE ESTATE, A HOME FOR EVERY HORSE®
MEMBERSHIP HAS BENEFITS!

■ Farm Bureau Office/Office Max
Farm Bureau members in Minnesota receive a 20% discount off farm bureau office supplies when using the Farm Bureau office Max card.

■ Caterpillar Inc.
Save up to 50% off the purchase or lease of eligible Cat® wheel loaders, small and medium dozers, wheeled loaders, track loaders, multi terrain loaders, skid steer loaders, telehandlers, mini hydraulic excavators and volvo excavators. Members also receive an additional $250 credit on work tool attachments purchased with new Cat machines.

■ Business Succession
While it may be years before you plan to pass the family farm or ranch to the next generation, well designed succession strategy takes careful planning and teamwork - without it most family-owned and ranches will wind up at 4488 or survive beyond the current generation. It's essential to have a team of resources who can advise you on best practices and help pull out the paperwork in place to ensure a smooth transfer. Your Farm Bureau agent can help you understand your options, work with your team of advisors and implement a strategy that works best for you and your successor(s).

In the state of Minnesota, we are fortunate to have Jon Lourieghy, FBFI Regional Consultant, as a resource for Farm Bureau members on farm succession and estate planning. Please call Jon at 612-550-1450 or Jon.lourieghy@fbifi.org. To learn more, contact Jon or your local Farm Bureau agent.

For tickets and information on benefits call 651-768-2114 or visit fbfin.org. Select Membership Benefits under First Time users will need to create a login.

■ Minnesota Sea Life Aquarium, Mall of America
Check out the re-designed aquarium. Members receive a 10% discount on tickets. Online at mnonll.org.

■ Nickelodeon Universe®, Mall of America
One of the country’s leading family theme parks with 27 rides and attractions for all ages, adventure golf and the highest Sky Trail rope course in the world. Discount of $5/weekday tickets may be redeemed online.

■ Minnesota Zoo, Apple Valley
Discounted zoo admission tickets—offering $2 adult and $1 children and seniors. Can be ordered at online zoo.org.

■ Valleyfair, Shakopee
Members receive a savings off gate price tickets and parking for most Sea Salt season. Order online at online.rar.

■ Key West, Florida
Enjoy discounts to events at seaclergycenter.com/MNfarm. The site is updated in new events on frequent basis.

■ Great Wolf Lodge
Up to 30% savings at 18 locations. Visit gwolflodge.com or call 800-985-9553 to make reservations. Use code “MN201A1”.

■ SculptSave/Well RX
A prescription drug savings card. Save on brand name and generic prescription purchases at local pharmacies and online retailers. Group Number: 4451. Visit sculptsave.com and click on “Get Card” and create your profile to receive the savings. Card is valid for 180 days only. Save on the go with the Well RX mobile app.

■ Life Line Screening
Receive the following four screenings for $135 and an additional comprehensive screening at no extra cost: stroke/heart attack, rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysm and peripheral arterial disease. If there are any issues after screenings, in most cases there are many treatment options available. These decisions are easy to make and can be clearly and faithfully discussed with your doctor. For more information call 677-364-7283 or visit lifelinescreening.com/mribbon.

■ Anytime Fitness, LLC
Farm bureau members in Minnesota and their immediate family members are eligible to enjoy the following at participating Anytime Fitness locations: off standard monthly fees; 50% off standard membership, off any monthly fees. Qualifying members are required to members who bring proof of their membership to an Anytime Fitness club (one per person). Anytime Fitness reserves the right to end this program. 

At participating locations. For a complete list of club locations, visit anytimefitness.com.

■ QualSight LASIK
Offers a 40% - 50% off the national average price savings on LASIK vision correction at over 70 locations. QualSight LASIK is FDA approved and uses state-of-the-art technology, includes FREE vision assessment, FREE annual testing, 100% guaranteed custom fit, and much more. Call 888-497-7447 or visit clearwavevision.com for more information.

■ Hotel Discounts
Choice Hotels: Save up to 20% off rates at 7,000+ hotels worldwide. Affordable Comfort, Comfort, Comfort Inn, Clarion, MainStay Suites, Suburban Extended Stay, Comfort , WoodSpring Suites and Red Roof Inn. Call 800-228-2847 or visit choicehotels.com. ID#00299560.

■ Motel 6
Members receive a 10% discount at participating Motel 6 locations. Reservations can be made by calling 800-666-6350 or online at Motel6.com. Reference code C10752024.

■ Wyndham Hotel Group
Farm bureau members receive a rate up to 20% off at nearly 8,000 participating hotels. Call ahead to 877-WYNDHAM or make reservations at Wyndham, Days Inn, Dazzer, Dole, Esplendar, Howard Johnson, LaQuinta, Microtel, Ramada, Super 8, TRYP, Trademark, Travelodge, Wingate, Wyndham, Wyndham Grand and Wyndham Garden. Refer to group number 8000026203. Visit wyndham.com.

■ IHG Hotels
Members receive an additional 10% off participating IHG Hotels. Brands include some of the best-known and most popular in the world. The nine hotel brands include: InterContinental®, Crowne Plaza®, Hotel Ingold®, Holiday Inn®, Holiday Inn Express®, Holiday Inn Club Vacations®, Holiday Inn Select®, Holiday Inn Club Vacations®, EVEN® and HUALUX® Hotels and Resorts. In order for a member to redeem the Farm Bureau discount, call 877-424-2449 or Wyndham. (877-424-2449) or visit www.IHG.com, click “Promotions” and enter your Wyndham Gold account number into the “Enter Code” box.

■ Ford Lincoln Bonus Cash
Farm Bureau members in Minnesota get $500 Bonus Cash on any new 2023 Ford vehicle or $750 off a new Lincoln vehicle. You must be a Farm Bureau member in Minnesota for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase or lease. To obtain your eCertificate, visit FordLincolnBonusAdvantage.com or LincolnFarmLincolnFarmBureauAdvantage.com to complete the enrollment form and present to your dealer. Contact Judy Pilcher at 651-768-2114.

■ Ford Dealers
* Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. This offer is available for Mustang Shelby GT350, Mustang Shelby GT350R, Mustang Shelby GT500, Ford Fusion Energi, Ford Fusion Hybrid, and Mustang Mach-1. This offer may not be used in conjunction with other dealer sponsored incentive programs or Ford Truck Bonus. Same customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase. When ready to make a new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by 12/31/23, visit FordLincolnBonusAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: GM in VINTAGE using #51408.

■ Lincoln Disclaimer
* Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. This offer is available for Mustang Shelby GT350, Mustang Shelby GT350R, Mustang Shelby GT500, Ford Fusion Energi, Ford Fusion Hybrid, and Mustang Mach-1. This offer may not be used in conjunction with other dealer sponsored incentive programs or Ford Truck Bonus. Same customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase. Visit LincolnFarmLincolnFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Lincoln fingerprints for qualifications and complete details.

■ AAA
Farm Bureau members receive up to a 20% discount off AAA membership, applies to new and renewal. Visit www.aaa.com/member for more. For more information on this exclusive program, contact AAA. You must be a Farm Bureau member to receive the discount. To mention that you are a Farm Bureau member and refer to Group #5765779. Visit AAA.com. For more information call 800-222-4269 or visit www.aaa.com/member for pricing and membership information.

■ Auto Car Rental
Save up to 30% on daily, weekend and weekly rates. For information and reservations, call 800-422-3809 or visit www.aaa.com/carrental. AAA Car Rental member discount number: Minnesota Farm Bureau, A2898213.

■ Budget Rental
Enjoy savings of up to 30% off budget base rates when renting a vehicle from a participating location in the contiguous U.S. and Canada. Visit Budget.com for details. Call 800-527-0700 to shop the lowest rates for your next rental. Visit www.budget.com/mfnl or call 800-527-0700 to make a reservation.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

■ Farm Bureau Financial Services (FBFS)
At Farm Bureau Financial Services, we’re all about you—you, your family, your future. For more than 75 years, local agents have helped members across the state with their insurance and financial needs. Providing customers with a broader way of thinking and algorithms and automation just can’t visit. Visit fbfs.com. Farm Bureau Financial Services. More than insurance. More than Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company and Western Agricultural Insurance Company, West Des Moines, Iowa.

■ Farm Bureau Bank
We proudly serve the members of the Farm Bureau and the local communities with the best products and services. Our banking products include, vehicle, equipment and recreational loans with up to 100% financing, FDIC insured deposit products, personal and business credit cards plus more. For more information visit farmbureaubank.com or call 800-492-3276.

COMMUNICATIONS

■ Fit Benefits Mobile App
Available for free on both Apple and Android devices, the new Fit Benefits Mobile App includes alphabetical and categorical lists of member benefits. A key feature of the new Fit Benefits Mobile App includes a convenient mapping feature to help you identify member benefits near you at any time. You can also find your local Farm Bureau Insurance for agent information. Download the app today and get the most out of your Farm Bureau membership. FB Benefits. You will need your membership number and zip code to get started.

■ Theft & Arson Reward Service
Hazardous device and inactivity threat notification is leading to the arrest and conviction of persons committing theft, arson or vandalism to property belonging to Farm Bureau members. Farm Bureau offers available at local Farm Bureau offices of at 651-768-2114.

■ No-Cost Accidental Death Insurance
Accidental death insurance policy for the member, spouse and unmarried children younger than 22 years and live at home. Coverage under this policy will not pay more than $2,000 for the member and spouse, and $1,000 for the children. For more information call 651-768-2114. See Farm Bureau.

■ Farm Bureau Marketor Farm Fresh Guide
For the farmer who would like to sell their farm fresh items, we have our consumer sign-up list to be outlined in online version found at fbfin.org. To be included contact Judy Pilcher at 651-768-2114.

■ Voice of Agriculture
A FREE subscription to Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Publications. This publication includes legislative updates, feature stories, health and wellness tips and various articles pertaining to agricultural and rural Minnesota. Available as an online offering or as a downloadable PDF at fbfin.org/voice-of-ag. Please send your current email to info@fbfin.org.