

Review Messenger



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Farm Bureau Leaders attend Council of County Presidents



The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) recently held their Council of County Presidents meeting on February 21 at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul with nearly 190 Farm Bureau leaders, elected and appointed officials in attendance. County Farm Bureau presidents heard from state legislators, as well as Minnesota Agriculture Water Resources Center Executive Director Warren Formo, Bruce Kleven – Kleven Law, MFBF President Kevin Paap, MFBF Executive Director Chris Radatz and MFBF Public Policy Director Amber Hanson Glaeser. Attendees discussed MFBF and American Farm Bureau Federation 2018 Focus Areas including 2018 Farm Bill, trade, environmental regulations, mental health, property taxes, pollinators and the effect of recent federal tax laws on Minnesota farmers and ranchers. Pictured left to right are Morrison County Farm Bureau president Roger Smith, Todd County Farm Bureau vice president Delvin Durheim, Senator Paul Gazelka (R-Nisswa), Todd County Farm Bureau president Roger Zastrow, Cass County Farm Bureau president Mike Sams and MFBF District VI Board Director Miles Kuschel.



Pictured at the Council of County Presidents meeting are left to right: MFBF north area program director James Dodds, Representative Sandy Layman (R-Cohasset), Representative Matt Bliss (R-Pennington), Beltrami County Farm Bureau president Stan Kimmes and MFBF District VI Board Director Miles Kuschel.



Pictured at the Council of County Presidents meeting are MFBF north area program director James Dodds, Senator Justin Eichorn (R-Grand Rapids), Beltrami County Farm Bureau president Stan Kimmes and MFBF District VI Board Director Miles Kuschel.

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National Ag Week and Ag Day

By Zippy Duvall

President, American Farm Bureau Federation

Throughout the year, we hear about food recognitions such as National Chocolate Milk Day (September 27) or National Pie Day (January 23), but some celebrate again on National Pi Day, March 14). This week, we recognize the people who make those food recognition days possible: Farmers and ranchers. Next week is National Agriculture Week, and Tuesday, March 20 is National Agriculture Day.

Farmers and ranchers are the ultimate unsung heroes. They quietly go about their business of producing the bounty consumers hardly give a thought to when they stroll down the fully stocked aisles of the grocery store – not to mention the wood that goes into our homes, the fiber in our clothes and even the fuel in our cars. Farmers and ranchers are so good at what they do, the average consumer has no idea how much goes into it. National Ag Week and Ag Day are about educating consumers about where their food, fiber and fuel come from, so maybe they'll give it a thought the next time they walk down that grocery aisle.

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It's also a time for farmers and ranchers to share our passion for what we do. We love the land. We love knowing that we are doing important work – feeding Americans and making sure our country is secure because we don't have to depend on unfriendly nations for our most basic need. We enjoy working to be more productive and sustainable. We love saving our rural communities by helping them stay economically vibrant. We are downright addicted to the hope that springs up in our chests at this time every year as many of us put new crops in the ground. We love carrying on farms and traditions that were handed down to us by our parents or going back even further. All of those things make farming and ranching so much more than “a job.” Go to a hog producer's home and you might notice a pig motif in the décor. The same goes for corn, wheat, apples, strawberries, whatever. We identify with what we produce, and we are proud to know that we produce the best!

While those rewards are enough, it is good to take a moment to raise our glass of chocolate milk and toast the people who provide our everyday necessities. So happy Ag Day and Ag Week to all my fellow farmers and ranchers. I wish you a productive and profitable farm year!

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