



**Saturday, March 5**

2:00 p.m.	Registration Opens ( <i>closes at 5:30 p.m.</i> ) .....	Graffiti Coatroom & Skybridge
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silent auction items received</li> </ul>	
3:30 p.m.	Membership Directors' Meeting ( <i>by invitation only</i> ) .....	Cedar Room
4:30 p.m.	Opening Reception .....	Skybridge & Lakes Ballroom Foyer
	VIP Reception ( <i>by invitation only</i> ).....	Noted on invitation
5:30 p.m.	Opening Banquet featuring Minnesota Walleye .....	Lakes Ballroom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remarks from Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton (<i>invited</i>)</li> <li>• Presentation of Milt Hakel Award to Dale Hildebrant</li> <li>• Remarks on Food, Faith, and the Environment</li> <li>• Remarks on Feeding America</li> <li>• Presentation of Meritorious Service Award to Claudia Svarstad</li> </ul>	
8:30 p.m.	Social Hour.....	FireLake Cocktail Bar

**Sunday, March 6**

*Opening Session of the convention has been moved later in the morning to give attendees an opportunity to visit a church of their choice.*

9:00 a.m.	Registration, Exhibits and Silent Auction Open .....	Graffiti Coatroom, Skybridge & Lakes Ballroom
9:00 a.m.	Video Room Open ( <i>closes at 1:00 p.m.</i> ) .....	Minnetonka Room A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emmy-winning Minnesota Cooks programs featured on PBS</li> <li>• New NFU Farm Safety videos</li> <li>• Farmers Union state videos</li> </ul>	
11:00 a.m.	Opening Session .....	Lakes Ballroom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports from NFU Secretary and Treasurer</li> <li>• Reports from Bylaws Committee and Rules, Credentials, and Elections Committee</li> <li>• Posthumous Presentation of Meritorious Service Award to Brother David Andrews</li> <li>• Nominations for NFU President and Vice President</li> </ul>	
12:30 p.m.	Break for Lunch on Own	
2:00 p.m.	Breakout Session 1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minnesota Cooks.....</li> <li>• Farm Safety .....</li> <li>• Social Media/Marketing on Your Farm .....</li> <li>• Are You Ready for Retirement? (<i>Part 1</i>) .....</li> </ul>	Minnetonka Room B Minnetonka Room A Minnetonka Room C Lakes Ballroom
2:50 p.m.	Afternoon break .....	Minnetonka Foyer
3:00 p.m.	Breakout Session 2	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minnesota Cooks.....</li> <li>• Value Added Grains—Transitioning to Organic .....</li> <li>• Food Safety Regulation on the Farm.....</li> <li>• Are You Ready for Retirement? (<i>Part 2</i>) .....</li> </ul>	Minnetonka Room B Minnetonka Room A Minnetonka Room C Lakes Ballroom
3:00 p.m.	Co-op Education Meeting with William Nelson ( <i>by invitation only</i> ).....	Cedar Room
4:00 p.m.	General Session .....	Lakes Ballroom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of the Farmers Union Address from NFU President Roger Johnson</li> <li>• Panel of Minnesota Congressional Delegation (<i>invited</i>)</li> </ul>	
6:00 p.m.	Minnesota Reception .....	Skybridge & Lakes Ballroom Foyer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For all convention attendees, hosted by Minnesota Farmers Union and President Doug Peterson</li> </ul>	

## Sunday, March 6, continued

- 7:00 p.m. NATFARMPAC Fundraiser ..... Hard Rock Cafe, Mall of America
- Suggested \$100 contribution to NATFARMPAC
  - Featuring Rep. Collin Peterson
- 9:00 p.m. Social Hour..... FireLake Cocktail Bar

## Monday, March 7

- 7:30 a.m. Registration, Exhibits and Silent Auction Open ..... Graffiti Coatroom, Skybridge & Lakes Ballroom
- 8:00 a.m. General Session ..... Lakes Ballroom
- Presentation of Farmers Union Leadership and Membership Awards
  - Remarks from Jim Korin, President of QBE NAU Country Insurance
  - Remarks from U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
- 9:30 a.m. Silent Auction Closes
- 9:30 a.m. Video Room Open (*closes at 1:30 p.m.*) ..... Minnetonka Room A
- Emmy-winning Minnesota Cooks programs featured on PBS
  - New NFU Farm Safety videos
  - Farmers Union state videos
- 9:30 a.m. Tours Depart (*Ticketed Event*) ..... Radisson Blu Lobby & Driveway
- 9:30 a.m. Insurance Roundtable (*by invitation only, ends by 2:00 p.m.*)..... Cedar Room
- 2:00 p.m. Final Report of Rules, Credentials and Elections Committee & Election of NFU President and Vice President ..... Lakes Ballroom
- 2:30 p.m. General Session ..... Lakes Ballroom
- Remarks from General Wesley Clark
- 3:10 p.m. Breakout Session 3
- Minnesota Cooks.....Minnetonka Room B
  - NFU History, presented by NFU Honorary Historian Tom Giessel .....Minnetonka Room A
  - Staying Engaged: Grassroots Advocacy.....Minnetonka Room C
- 4:00 p.m. Afternoon Break ..... Lakes Ballroom Foyer
- 4:15 p.m. General Session ..... Lakes Ballroom
- Bylaw Amendments Consideration & Adoption
  - NFU Policy Consideration & Adoption
- 6:30 p.m. National Farmers Union Foundation Fundraiser (*Ticketed Event*)..... Minnetonka Rooms
- Live Auction, Minnesota Farmers Union President Doug Peterson, Auctioneer
- 9:00 p.m. Social Hour..... FireLake Cocktail Bar

## Tuesday, March 8

- 7:30 a.m. Registration and Exhibits Open ..... Graffiti Coatroom, Skybridge & Lakes Ballroom
- 8:00 a.m. NFU Policy Consideration & Adoption ..... Lakes Ballroom
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Break ..... Lakes Ballroom Foyer
- 10:15 a.m. NFU Policy Consideration & Adoption ..... Lakes Ballroom
- 12:00 p.m. Break for Lunch on Own
- 1:30 p.m. NFU Policy Consideration & Adoption ..... Lakes Ballroom
- 3:00 p.m. Afternoon Break ..... Lakes Ballroom Foyer
- 3:15 p.m. NFU Policy Consideration & Adoption (*continues until finished*)..... Lakes Ballroom

### Policy Committee is available for presentations during the following times in the Calhoun Room:

Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

## **Breakout Sessions**

### **Minnesota Cooks**

Gain perspective from a local Minnesota farmer and a chef sourcing the farmer's food. The session will include insight from the farmer, a demonstration by the chef and a question & answer period for participants.

### **Are You Ready For Retirement?**

Planning for retirement involves a variety of tasks, both financial and non-financial. Assessing one's readiness to retire is an important first step for farm and ranch families. This session, presented by a veteran of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will cover key considerations in the retirement planning process by focusing on 10 steps. Participants will get guidance that will help them determine their personal retirement goals and develop a timeline and action plan for achieving financial security in retirement.

### **Dr. Matt Keifer's Staying Alive on The Farm**

Agriculture is the most hazardous industry in the nation. This farm safety workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Matt Keifer of the Marshfield Clinic. Dr. Keifer's interactive session will range from health and safety hazards on small, diversified operations as well as row crop farms. The breakout will incorporate hazards for all types of farms and how to mitigate risk and exposure. Topics will include livestock handling, machinery and equipment, pesticides, as well as how best to improve farm safety.

### **Food Safety Regulation on the Farm**

The Food Safety Modernization Act is the most sweeping food safety regulation in a generation. At the time of NFU's convention, all of the rules will be finalized and implementation will be underway. This workshop will present all of the need-to-know information on how this regulation will impact farms. Resources will be available that provide additional clarity on exemptions, compliance deadlines, and certification.

### **NFU History**

Lifelong Farmers Union member Tom Giessel will host his annual breakout session on NFU's history. Tom is the national expert on the beginnings of National Farmers Union and will present his research on NFU's history as it pertains to cooperatives and the cooperative movement.

### **Social Media From the Farm**

The agriculture sector, like all sectors, has seen increased activity on social media in recent years. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram allow farmers to connect with their customers, elected officials and other farmers, and consequently can have a major impact on a farm's image and bottom line. This workshop will focus on creating and maintaining a strong social media identity that will allow farmers to better tell their story, build better relationships with their community, and become better advocates on policy.

### **Staying Engaged: Grassroots Advocacy**

National Farmers Union and several state organizations have strong leadership and educational development opportunities. This workshop will focus on continuing to enhance the knowledge and skills developed during formal programming like the Beginning Farmer Institute. Participants will gain knowledge in establishing grassroots advocacy skills as well as becoming policy leaders on the local level.

### **Value Added Grains – Transitioning to Organic**

Consumer demand for organic products continues to grow. The transition of grain crops has lagged behind that of other industries. As a result of the low domestic availability of organic grain crops, the U.S. is a major importer of organic crops from other countries to meet the domestic demand. There are many barriers to entry for transitioning to value-added grains. This workshop will help identify barriers as well as public and private incentives and support to aid the transition and allow producers to capture higher price points for organic grains.

## Tour Options

### 1- Co-Op Tour (ages 21+ only) \$25

The tour will explore the rich tradition of cooperatives in Minnesota. Stops will include:

- CHS
- Eastside Co-Op (food)
- Fair State Brewery (beer)
- A Minnesota Cooks lunch is included

### 2- Local Foods Tour \$25

See the real value-added proposition that Minnesota Cooks™ brings to the table. Stops will include:

- Shepherd's Way Farm (cheese)
- The Food Building: Charcuterie & Cheese
- A Minnesota Cooks lunch is included

Please register for tours when registering as a convention attendee. Tours are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and will be capped at 55 participants each.

Information for self-guided tours of Minneapolis will also be available.