



Minnesota Farm Bureau®

Farmers • Families • Food

651-768-2100 • fbmn.org



# 2018

## FOCUS AREAS

### STATE FOCUS AREAS

*Voting delegates at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF) 99th Annual Meeting adopted policy positions for 2018. Based on these actions, the MFBF Board of Directors have provided focus for the organization on public policy, image and leadership including rural communities, healthcare, trade, taxes, food, water and infrastructure.*



### ★ RURAL COMMUNITIES

The vitality and resiliency of strong rural communities is a priority for MFBF. This includes a strong workforce, educational opportunities through career and technical programs, and awareness and resources to address financial stress and mental health.

## ★ HEALTH CARE

Affordability and availability of health insurance and the accessibility to healthcare providers is a significant concern for Minnesota farm families and small businesses. MFBF will work towards finding solutions addressing both increases in premiums and lack of availability to individual health insurance options.



## ★ TAXES

Tax reform at the local, state and federal levels that recognizes agriculture's unique financial challenges remains a priority for Farm Bureau. MFBF will continue efforts to work on property tax issues as it relates to providing quality education for Minnesota students. MFBF will partner with county Farm Bureaus to make members aware of how property taxes fund local governments, and encourage them to work with their local governments and school boards to maintain responsible spending limits.

## ★ FOOD

Minnesota farmers and ranchers are committed to providing access to sustainable, safe, healthy food choices. Farmers work to continuously improve production methods and technologies. Farmers are dedicated to caring for their animals, managing and improving the quality of their environment and enhancing the quality and accessibility of food and fiber they produce utilizing different production methods.



## ★ WATER

Water quality and quantity are priorities for Minnesota farm families. Conservation practices need to be based on realistic consideration of variability of options including agronomic, economic impacts and proactive solutions. Agriculture's role in improving water quality can best be fulfilled through voluntary site-specific actions at the local level.



## ★ TRADE

Farm Bureau will continue to be a leader in efforts to protect and expand agricultural market opportunities through new trade agreements and enforcement of existing trade relationships in order to strengthen our economy. Modifying and modernizing NAFTA and normalizing trade relations with Cuba continue to be top priorities, in addition to pursuing other new markets.

## ★ INFRASTRUCTURE

MFBF will continue efforts to address Minnesota transportation infrastructure needs, especially rural roads and bridges so that products are able to be moved efficiently by river, rail and road. Farm Bureau will work to ensure Minnesota's energy needs are met through investing in infrastructure. MFBF will advocate for accessibility and expansion of broadband to all of Minnesota.

