



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin Farmers Union members journey to Washington, D.C.

CHIPPEWA FALLS –Wisconsin Farmers Union members were among 275 farmers and ranchers from across the country who met in Washington, D.C., Sept. 11-14 for the National Farmers Union Fall Legislative Fly-In. The annual event allows Farmers Union members to meet directly with lawmakers, USDA leaders and other administration officials to discuss issues important to family farmers and ranchers.

“As a farmer-led organization, grassroots advocacy and education are a big part of Farmers Union,” said WFU President and Westby dairy farmer Darin Von Ruden. “The fly-in is an opportunity for members to meet with their representatives in Congress and put a face to the issues impacting rural America. Given the state of the farm economy, we need to ensure policies are supporting family farmers and ranchers, and their rural communities.”

Representing WFU on the fly-in were: (as pictured, left to right) front row, Kara O’Connor, Madison; Cathy Statz, Chippewa Falls; Miriam Valley, Sun Prairie; Betty Anderson, Beloit; Kristi Gorell, Eleva; Kriss Marion, Blanchardville; Danielle Endvick, Holcombe; Vicki Dunnum, Westby; back row, Nial Murray, Prairie Farm; Kipp Hinz, Ellsworth; Tommy Enright, Amherst; Killian Harnish, La Crosse; Nick Levendofsky, Madison; Darin Von Ruden, Westby; Max Hart, Black River Falls; Chris Holman, Custer; and Craig Dunnum, Westby.

Farmers Union members met with lawmakers to advocate for legislative priorities that will affect their farms and communities, including Farm Bill programs and the farm safety net, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Renewable Fuel Standard and corporate consolidation in agriculture.

In addition, they attended a briefing at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Secretary Tom Vilsack, Chief Economist Robert Johansson, National Resources Conservation Service Chief Jason Weller and Risk Management Agency Administrator Brandon Willis spoke about farm programs. President Johnson and NFU government relations representatives also provided remarks.

“The annual legislative fly-in is an important part of NFU’s ongoing grassroots advocacy efforts,” said NFU President Roger Johnson. “Family farmers and ranchers are the best advocates we have for agriculture, and the fly-in is a good opportunity for our members to follow up on the conversations they’ve had with their elected officials during the August congressional work period.”

Wisconsin Farmers Union is a member-driven organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. Learn more at www.WisconsinFarmersUnion.com.

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