



For further information: MFU Outreach Director Bruce Miller, 651-470-5438, or [bruce@mfu.org](mailto:bruce@mfu.org)

**MFU Calls for Action In New Rural Issues Discussion Report:  
*What Do Rural People Think?***

On Wednesday, April 26, Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) issued a report based on 14 listening sessions conducted throughout the State of Minnesota. Lt. Governor Tina Smith, Human Services Commissioner Emily Piper, and Deputy Agriculture Commissioner Matt Wohlman joined MFU at the State Capitol to receive the report on behalf of the Dayton Administration. It is being released to the media Statewide, to Legislators, and others interested in learning what Minnesotans think about important legislative and policy issues.

Minnesota Farmers Union President Gary Wertish stated, **"After frequently hearing the question posed about what rural Minnesotans think, Minnesota Farmers Union set out to find out the answer to that question. We learned above all that if you come to rural Minnesota and ask people what they think, they will tell you."**

Wertish continued, **"This report captures that rural voice, and serves up a menu of items the Administration and the Legislature need to address."**

**"As I travel around Minnesota, I have learned that Minnesota farmers, small business owners, and local leaders often come up with the best ideas to make our state better,"** said Lt. Governor Smith. **"This new report from the Minnesota Farmers Union outlines some of the major challenges we face in securing greater opportunities for everyone in our state, including better healthcare, strong infrastructure, and a growing economy. As we work to build a state that works better for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota, we can learn a lot outside the Capitol, and outside the cities. I hope Minnesota leaders take this report and its findings to heart, and then take action. It's time to get it done."**

Wertish added, **"Issues like health care costs are the most urgent, but we must also get answers on transportation funding for roads and bridges, create the reality of high speed Broadband internet services, adopt property tax relief, solutions to rural hunger, solve agriculture and farm issues for farmers of all sizes, and work on rural and farm labor issues. Above all, we heard a call for policymakers to come out to rural Minnesota to hold regular listening sessions where people can speak up."**

Over the course of two weeks, Minnesota Farmers Union hosted 14 Rural Issue Discussions around the state, involving over 450 people attending and speaking up, and which included the Lieutenant Governor, and Administration Commissioners as listeners. A copy of the report is available at: <http://mfu.org/files/2106.pdf>