



2017
ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

National Farmers Union Foundation has an unrivaled history and long-standing commitment to rural America. Farmers Union began offering educational programs more than 80 years ago in order to counter limited opportunities for rural youth during the Depression. Our commitment to educational programs is just as strong today as it was in its founding. Education is part of National Farmers Union's core; it's the foundation upon which our early leaders built a successful organization.

In order to further our educational goals, National Farmers Union established the National Farmers Union Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, in 1998. The Foundation's mission is to empower and educate youth, our neighbors, media and policymakers of the social, economic, and cooperative contributions of family agriculture. We strive to inform family farmers of market, regulatory and environmental changes that affect their operations and communities.



National Farmers Union Foundation strives to help farmers navigate changes in politics, regulations, USDA programs and markets, helping them thrive in changing farm and food policy landscapes.

Through our Foundation, we support educational programs that provide leadership camps for young people all around the country. We also support scholarships and conferences on cooperatives for college students. We empower people to better live their lives, contribute to their communities, and develop their leadership abilities.

We are also creating online learning and discussion groups, like our Climate Leaders and Beginning Farmer Forum programs, so that our farmers can share knowledge and advice remotely. The more informed farmers and ranchers are, the more empowered they are to make positive changes in their lives, on their farms, and with their communities.

We educate regarding, and support, cooperatives

and the cooperative business model in every sector of the economy, not just agriculture. Cooperation is a way of life for our organization and for our members.

Our education efforts are focused on growing community leaders who value rural America and farming. Our reach is constantly growing and connects more individuals and farm families. We plan to increase enrollment in the College Conference on Cooperatives, strengthen beginning producer education, bring more people together online and empower women, veteran and socially disadvantaged producers.

Sincerely,



Roger Johnson, Chair

National Farmers Union Foundation

NFU FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chris Holman, Wisconsin

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NFU FOUNDATION STAFF MEMBERS

Tom Driscoll, Director of NFU Foundation & Conservation Policy

Melissa Miller, Director of Education

Dave Velde, Chief Counsel

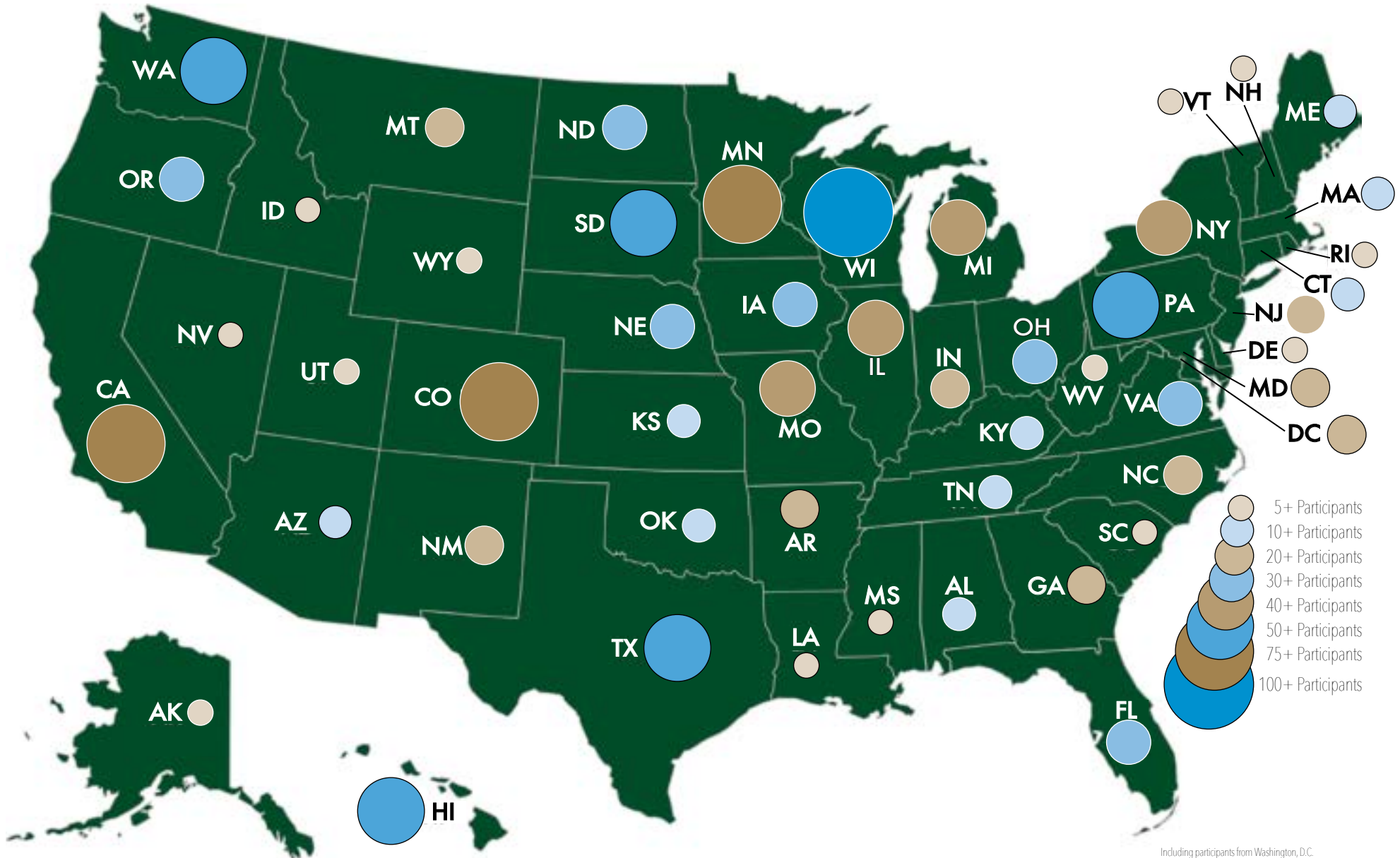
Sue Arends, Recording Secretary

NFUF MISSION

To empower people to educate our youth, neighbors, media and policymakers of the social, economic and cooperative contributions of family agriculture.

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION FOUNDATION
EDUCATION IMPACTS

In 2017 the programs of National Farmers Union Foundation directly engaged 1,469 participants from all 50 states*



Including participants from Washington, D.C.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

BEGINNING FARMER INSTITUTE

NFUF's beginning farmer program leverages the organization's ability to reach producers of all kinds and strives to establish the next generation of American farmers. Beginning farmers get the support, business training and empowerment they need to succeed. NFUF's Beginning Farmer Forum (BFF) and Beginning Farmer Institute (BFI) bring together diverse farmers from all over the country to learn from each other and develop leadership skills.

BFI provides beginning producers with the resources they need to meet our nation's demand for safe and nutritious food. The program gives participants the skills necessary to sustain a successful career in agriculture,

emphasizing business and financial planning and offering small-group exposure to farm support professionals and educators. Participants are also paired with mentors who are leaders within Farmers Union and produce for similar markets, allowing NFUF to keep in touch between sessions and enhance one-on-one learning.

The BFF is an online discussion community where producers can become aware of opportunities for beginning producers to increase access to land, capital, markets and valuable efficiencies. The online format allows producers to ask one another questions, learn from each other and more experienced partners, and seek advice without a scheduling commitment or a trip off the farm.

BFI PARTICIPATION

20

Beginning Farmer Institute Members

908

Beginning Farmer Forum Members

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Women play a critical role in agriculture around the world and in Farmers Union. Every year, NFU's conference for women farmers offers opportunities for them to enhance leadership and business skills.

The 2017 conference was held in March at San Diego, California and included farm tours, networking sessions and breakouts on leadership training, financial planning and Farm Bill programs. Speakers included Lisa Kivirist, author of Soil Sisters; Audra Mulkern, founder of The Female Farmer Project; Kriss Marion,

president of the Wisconsin Farmers Union South Central Chapter; Bridget Holcomb, executive director of the Women, Food and Agriculture Network; Madeline Schultz, manager of the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Women in Ag Program; Dr. Shannon Ferrell, associate professor at Oklahoma State University; Poppy Davis, adjunct professor at University of Arkansas School of Law; Sarah Campbell, stakeholder engagement specialist at USDA Farm Service Agency; and Charlotte Smith, founder of 3CowMarketing.com, owner of Champoeg Creamery and Charlotte Smith Pastured Meats.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

94

Conference Attendees

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

COLLEGE CONFERENCE ON CO-OPS

Every February, students attend the Midwestern College Conference on Cooperatives (CCOC). The event attracts students and presenters from around the country. 82 attendees from 21 universities participated in the 2017 National Farmers Union (NFU) College Conference on Cooperatives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Participants visited several area cooperatives, including Riverton Housing Co-op and REI, and the Mill City Museum, a river-front museum

built into the ruins of what was once the world's largest flour mill.

Presenters and farmers from traditional and value-added agricultural cooperatives, housing and worker-owned co-ops, and consumer cooperatives offered their insight on cooperative development. Students also heard from William Nelson, former president of CHS Foundation, and Doug O'Brien, executive vice president of programs at the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International.

CCOC ATTENDEES

82

CCOC Attendees

21

Participating Universities

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

ALL-STATES LEADERSHIP CAMP

Each summer, National Farmers Union members ages 17-20, who have proven themselves to be leaders in their communities, are given the opportunity to attend NFU's All-States Leadership Camp, in Bailey, Colorado. Campers arrive from all over the United States, and dedicate themselves to developing new skills. Campers are engaged in new activities every day, including: identifying issues important to their generation, discussing their roles in effecting positive change throughout rural America and building effective communication skills.

The 81st NFU All-States Leadership Camp took place at the NFU Education Center in Bailey,

Colorado. 37 participants from 8 states attended the camp.

Campers enjoyed hikes, outdoor games, a talent show, dances, a campfire, and team-building exercises. Campers also took part in cooperative activities and listened to inspirational speakers. This year's camp, themed "Stewardship: Care for the Land, Care for the People," featured a number of notable speakers and presenters. Some of the speakers have been esteemed All-States guests for many years; Olympic Gold Medalist Rulon Gardner, a camp regular, spoke about overcoming the odds to become an unlikely wrestling hero. Retired CHS, Inc. Vice President William Nelson explained the value of cooperatives in agriculture.

The campers also elected six of their peers to NFU's National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC), which represents thousands of Farmers Union youth across the country. NYAC will further hone their leadership skills at a learning session in Washington, D.C., through presentations at NFU's 116th Anniversary Convention, as well as by planning next year's All-States Leadership Camp.

This year's NYAC members: Hunter Cardinal, Minnesota; Marissa Holinka, South Dakota; Jessica Jurcek, Wisconsin; Ben Lehman, Iowa; Shaun Heier, North Dakota; and Kirsten VanDerPol, Minnesota.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

ONLINE CONFERENCE

GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

50

States Represented

1,256

Participants

In December 2017, Growing For The Future, NFU’s online conference, connected over 1,000 beginning farmers with risk management, marketing, USDA program, cooperative organization and other information important to beginning farmers. It included on-demand content, live sessions and lively discussion groups.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

CURRICULUM

The 2017 theme for NFU’s education curriculum was “Stewardship: Care for the Land, Care for the People.” Farmers Union education programs across the country utilized the curriculum. The free lesson plans are designed to engage students using a variety of activities. Lessons are designed for different age groups ranging from first grade through college students and adults.

NFUF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

National Farmers Union Foundation annually distributes scholarships to students furthering their education at a two- or four-year college or university.

3

Stanley Moore \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Caitlyn Becker of North Dakota, Jane Umbriaco of Montana, and Jaclynn Knutson of South Dakota

1

Hubert and JoAnn Seymour \$2,000 scholarship was awarded to Spring Vasey of Delaware.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

INTERNSHIPS

The NFU internship program allows college students with an interest in rural communities and agriculture to gain experience with NFU’s grassroots initiatives. Focus areas include communications, cooperative education, economics, general education, membership, marketing, policy research and political science. Interns worked in the DC office and also participated in projects such as the College Conference on Cooperatives, All-States Leadership Camp, the Beginning Farmer Institute, the NFU Policy Book, fundraising and researching prices for the Farmers Share. Graduate and undergraduate students, and those looking for more extensive work experience, are invited to apply.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

LOCAL FOOD SAFETY

The Local Food Safety Collaborative (LFSC) is a collaboration between National Farmers Union Foundation and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide training, education, and outreach to local producers and processors to enhance the fundamental knowledge of food safety, and to help these local producers and processors comply with applicable Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations. This work began in September 2016 and will run through August 2019.

In year 1 LFSC had 15 subrecipients with funding to help provide this education, outreach, and training on FSMA across the country. 10 of these organizations were Farmers Union state organizations and the remaining included: National Young Farmers Coalition, Cornell University, Deep South Food Alliance, Florida Organic Growers, and Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service. These groups, along with National Farmers Union Foundation, are responsible for the program metrics outlined below.

NFUF is involved with this work because the FDA estimates that 26,737 small and very small businesses will be covered by the Produce Safety Rule. And while this regulation has positive consumer end goals it does pose an additional barrier to these growers trying to comply with requirements. By providing outreach and education at little to no cost it is our hope to keep farmers in business producing safe food for our country.

In the last year LFSC has conducted 23 trainings, trained 53 trainers and 546 growers, attended 174 conferences, engaged 5,917 stakeholders through various outreach activities, created 98 pieces of original outreach materials, and distributed 91,536 pieces of outreach materials to growers.

WE THANK OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

\$175,000+

Farmers Union Marketing & Processing Foundation, Inc.

\$75,000+

CHS Foundation
Farm Credit Council

\$20,000+

CoBank

\$7,500+

Farm Aid

\$2,500+

North Dakota Farmers Union
Roger & Anita Johnson
National Farmers Union
Oklahoma Farmers Union
Farmers Union Insurance Agency

North Dakota Farmers Union Insurance

\$1,000+

Minnesota Farmers Union
Montana Farmers Union
South Dakota Farmers Union Insurances

Wisconsin Farmers Union
South Dakota Farmers Union
Donn Teske
The Cooperative Foundation

\$500+

Federated Youth Foundation, Inc.
Kent Bushman
Harley Danielson
Lucy Bardell
Wayne & Vicki Soren
Darin Von Ruden
Mark Anderson
Scott Udby

Gary Wertish
Scott Magnuson
Mike Oldham
SPIRE Federal Credit Union
Dennis Stromme

\$250+

Brian Rohrenbach
Alan Merrill
George Davis
Minnesota Cooperative Education Foundation
Jeff Willer
Zack Clark
Alex Schmelzer

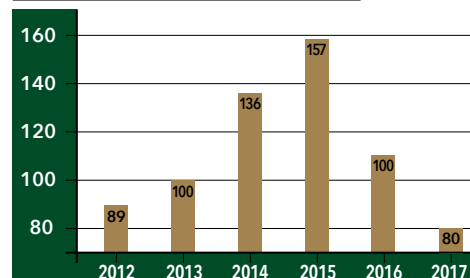
\$100+

Mason Mungle
Doug Peterson
Patty Edelburg

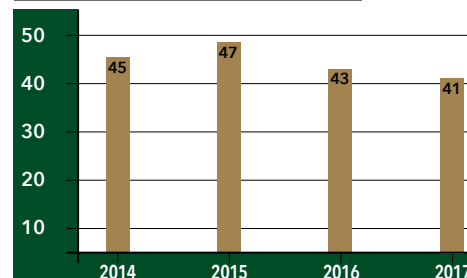
Craig Myhre
Pamela Burkhardt
Bob Kuylen
Dan Mazier
Nicholas Levendofsky
Mary Schlosser
Barb Marty
California Farmers Union
Rodney Allebach
John Ellis
Linda Larson
Jana Linderman
Mark McAfee
Larry & Sharon Stroschein
Robert Thompson
Karen & Paul Wagner
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Lacy Ethen
Ellen Linderman
Wesley Niederman
James Teigen

NFUF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

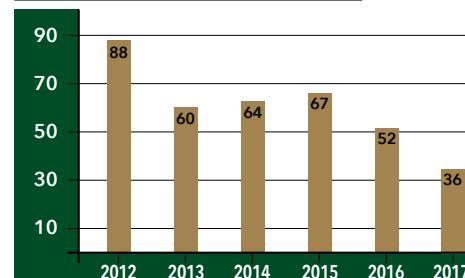
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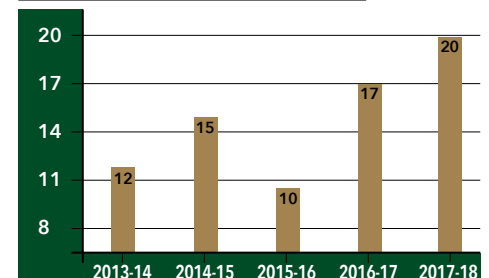
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



ALL-STATES CAMP



BFI



COME

FARM

Volunteer with our city farmer program or at our community work days!

Turn your food scraps into soil in our compost cooperative

COME

EAT

Buy our seasonal produce from the Market at LeDroit Park every Wednesday 3-6 pm

Produce Plus, SNAP, WIC, SFMNP accepted

COME

LEARN

LEAF Youth Program: WED + SAT 4:30-5:30 pm

MON 10-11am

Little Farmers: (toddler program)

Seed to Table Workshops

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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