Minnesota Farm Advocate Program
FARMERS HELPING FARMERS

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Minnesota Farm Advocates.indd   5.10.22

1 Bruce Lubitz
   Field Manager
   Perham
   Ph: 218-346-4866

2 Connie Dykes
   Lake City
   Ph: 651-345-5149

3 David Hesse
   Comfrey
   Ph: 507-877-3012

4 Dan Hunz
   Waverly
   Ph: 763-772-6687

5 Ruth Ann Karty
   Clarkfield
   Ph: 320-669-7135

6 George Bosselman
   Fosston
   Ph: 218-200-9432

7 Steve Zenk
   Danube
   Ph: 320-894-2517

8 Wayne Pike
   Rochester
   Ph: 507-251-1937
   Fx: 888-255-9735

9 Robert Stommes
   Saint Cloud
   Ph: 320-443-5355

10 George Bosselman
    Fosston
    Ph: 218-200-9432
What is the Minnesota Farm Advocate Program?

Farm Advocates provide one-on-one assistance for Minnesota farmers who face crisis caused by either a natural disaster or financial problems. Farm Advocates understand the needs of our agricultural families and communities. They are trained and experienced in agricultural lending practices, mediation, lender negotiation, farm programs, crisis counseling, disaster programs and to recognize the need for legal and/or social services.

The Farm Advocate Program has been supported by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture since 1984. There is no charge or fee for Farm Advocate assistance.

Farm Advocates receive continuing education in the changing and complex issues of lender policies, bankruptcy laws, mediation, tax laws, USDA’s Farm Service Agency’s loan programs, Farm Credit Services and all other government programs affecting agriculture.

The Farm Advocates have a network of attorneys, accountants, human service professionals, educators and other sources of information and services.

When should you contact a Farm Advocate?

- When you are going into mediation.
- When you negotiate with lenders.
- When you are liquidating assets of the farm operation.
- When you need financial information.
- When you suffer a devastating loss, i.e., fire, disease or natural disaster.
- When you receive an adverse decision from a state or federal agency.
- When your open accounts have substantially increased over 12 months.
- When there is a major drop in your equity over 12 months.
- When you are entering into or dissolving a partnership.

Equipped with all these resources, the Farm Advocates share their expertise with others, enabling them to make informed decisions.