



Rep. Tom Emmer on Emmer Celebrates Minnesota's Farmers

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****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hi there, Congressman Tom Emmer here. Wednesday was National Farmers Day, so I want to dedicate this week's Ask Tom video to recognizing the vital role our farmers play in our economy and the importance of agriculture to our national success. I am of the strong belief that we must invest in and work to better the agriculture industry as it is one of the primary drivers of both our state's economy and the nation's economy. This industry is not just important to our economy, but also to the health and livelihood of all Americans. That's why, over the past two years, I've met and worked with so many in the agriculture industry, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Farm Bureau and Farmers Union, as well as amazing groups like the Turkey and Corn Growers, just to name a few. While it's a pleasure meeting with all these groups, there's one that absolutely stands out as far as groups that I love meeting with, and that's the Future Farmers of America. In fact, just this week I joined the USDA's Fall Forum to discuss the future generations in farming. It's inspiring to meet with these bright young individuals, to see the passion they have for farming in America, as well as their interest in pursuing all different paths in agriculture. They give me faith that the younger generation is not only ready to carry on the agriculture industry, but that it will be healthy and successful for years to come. However, there are some concerning studies that have shown that interest in agricultural careers has actually been declining. In fact, between 2007 and 2012, there was a 20 percent decrease in the number of new farmers in this country. What's even more disturbing to me is that today only 6 percent of our nation's farmers are under the age of 35. In order for our state and nation to have a successful future, it's crucial that we keep young Americans interested in pursuing careers in agriculture, and frankly, that we attract more young Americans to this wonderful life. To accomplish this, we must work to promote policies that help farmers today and every day. That's why, for as long as I'm in Congress, I promise to do right by our farmers, and I will continue to work with them and for them in promoting these ag-friendly policies. I want to applaud those dedicated to achieving agricultural success in Minnesota and across this nation. By doing so, you're not only ensuring the success of today's farmers, but you're making sure that tomorrow's generation will also experience the same success. So in conclusion, Happy National Farmers Day to all current and future farmers. Thanks for listening.

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