

Biographical Sketch

ROBERT CARLSON

President, North Dakota Farmers Union

In January of 1997, Robert Carlson was elected president of North Dakota Farmers Union, the largest farm organization in the state of North Dakota with more than 33,500 members. As president, he leads the Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company and the Farmers Union Service Association, an insurance agency wholly-owned by NDFU.

Prior to his election, Carlson served as vice president of NDFU for 10 years.

In the national arena, Robert Carlson represents North Dakota as a board member for National Farmers Union, Farmers Union Enterprises, and National Farmers Union Insurances. He chairs National Farmers Union's Legislative and Trade Committee, and has participated in World Trade Organization talks in Japan and Geneva. Additionally, he has represented family farm interests at world food summits and International Federation of Ag Producers' gatherings in Rome, Japan and France.

Carlson is a former member of the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee for Grains and Oilseeds as part of USDA's Foreign Ag Service. He recently returned from Cuba on a trade mission trip and has traveled abroad to China and Japan to develop niche markets for North Dakota commodities.

Carlson earned a master's degree in history from the University of North Dakota and has co-authored several works, including *The Legacy of North Dakota's Country Schools*. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Minot State University and is a Vietnam veteran.

He and his wife Mary farm south of Glenburn, ND, where they raise small grains. They have two grown sons, Scott and Christopher.