Source List/Meersman

1. Growers associations: corn growers, soybean growers, milk producers, etc. Just about every commodity has an association, and most have someone in communications who can help put you in touch with “real farmers” who are on their boards or are simply happy to cooperate with media requests.
2. University sources. Land-grant universities in particular have deep expertise in a wide variety of topics. It may be a university extension service, with offices around the state, or a college of agriculture with sub-specialties in agronomy, farm management, and other departments. At U. of Minnesota, [www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/crops](http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/crops) or [www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/livestock](http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/livestock)
3. USDA, and especially its National Agricultural Statistics Service. Both have email lists that you can customize for topics of interest. They also have Twitter and Facebook pages that are easy to subscribe to. Very active parts of USDA also include the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).
4. State Department of Agriculture. Get on its main email lists for announcements, commissioner columns, food safety bulletins, etc.
5. Major newspapers that cover agriculture, such as the Wall Street Journal.
6. Online newsletters. Many growers’ associations have them, as do university extension offices. <http://www.extension.umn.edu/source>
7. Aggregate online services. In Minnesota, the Minnesota Environmental Partnership posts an email every couple of days called MEP News Watch that links directly to stories that have been published in various state media, by topic. [www.mepartnership.org](http://www.mepartnership.org)

A blogger and p-r consultant named Blois Olson publishes a free email service on different topics. One called Ag Take collects news stories and tidbits about agriculture and ag politics, mainly in Minnesota.

1. Other online ag-related sources:

Red River Farm Network News, [www.rrfn.com/news](http://www.rrfn.com/news)

Politico’s Pro Agriculture. [www.politico.com/agriculture](http://www.politico.com/agriculture) daily briefing on agriculture and food policy

Ag-Week, [www.agweek.com](http://www.agweek.com)

AgWeb, [www.agweb.com](http://www.agweb.com)

Farmland Forecast, [www.farmlandforecast.com](http://www.farmlandforecast.com)

Modern farmer, [www.modernfarmer.com](http://www.modernfarmer.com)

Mother Jones, [www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott](http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott)