

Michael Traxinger, Legislative Director, South Dakota Farmers Union

Traxinger is a fifth-generation South Dakota farmer and a native of Claremont, South Dakota. He maintains a small herd of cattle on his family's farm operation, Traxinger Simmentals, near Houghton, South Dakota.

Presently, Traxinger serves as legislative director for the South Dakota Farmers Union and is a member of Class VIII of the South Dakota Agricultural Rural Leadership program. He has previously worked for the United States Department of Agriculture, the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and as a Congressional staffer for U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin.

Traxinger received his J.D. from Drake University Law School with a focus in agricultural law and a B.A. from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Traxinger serves on the New Leaders Council Board of Directors and is a member of the American Agricultural Law Association, American Bar Association, American Simmental Association, Pheasants Forever, South Dakota Farmers Union, South Dakota Bar Association, South Dakota Simmental Association, and the United States Cattlemen's Association. He has previously served on the Drake University Law School Board of Counselors.