# SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2017

Company: Farmers Mutual Telephone Company

Address: <u>301 Second Street South</u>

Bellingham, MN 56212

Telephone number: (320) 568-2105

Company contact: Donna Eul

Study Area Code: 361389

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

<u>X</u>	Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)
_X	Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up.* (See attached letter.)
<u> </u>	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. ( <u>www.farmerstel.net</u> )
<u> </u>	Company's information posted on USAC website.
<u> </u>	Other (describe): Distributed in our newsletter.
	Lifeline application included in new customer application packet.

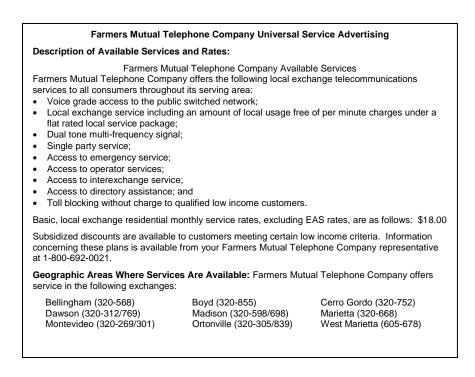
\*Required



Date: January 18, 2017

From: Donna Eul Marketing/Customer Service Manager 320-568-2105

- To: Attention Editor of Appleton Press, Dawson Sentinel, Madison Western Guard, and Ortonville Independent.
- RE: Enclosed are two annual advertisement requirements. Both need to be published (1) time in your next edition. Each advertisement should not exceed 4 ½ wide by 3 ½ long. Please provide tear sheet along with affidavit of publication.
  - Universal Service Advertising.
  - Lifeline / Link-Up Advertising.



# **Do You Qualify for Telephone Assistance?**

LIFELINE

If your income level falls below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if you are currently receiving benefits under one or more of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing assistance or the Low-Income Home Energy assistance, you may be eligible for telephone payment assistance.



Proud to be Powering Acira!

Contact Farmers Mutual to the answer any questions or determine if you qualify for assistance.

320-568-2105 • www.aciracoop.net





Bill To:

Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. Donna Eul PO Box 156 Chokio, MN 56221

02/24/17	Date
\$66.00	Amount Due
)	Enclosed

Make any changes needed above and return top portion with your payment. Please disregard if payment has been made.

Date	Description		Amount	Balance
01/26/17 02/01/17	Balance forward 6" Legal – Lifeline		33.00	0.00 33.00
02/01/17	6" Legal – Universal Service		33.00	66.00
v No No - Martin	FMTR OKde 3-1-M		1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	Nega (a −ng
Current	1-30 Days 31-60 Days Past Due Past Due	61-90 Days Past Due	OVER 90 Days Past Due	Amount Due
\$66.00	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$66.00

The Appleton Press | 241 W Snelling Ave | Appleton, MN 56208 | 320-289-1323 Account due and payable 10th of month following purchase. Finance charge of 1.5% per month on past due accounts. Mimimum service charge of \$1.00

### WESTERN GUARD

### 216 SIXTH AVENUE MADISON, MN 56256

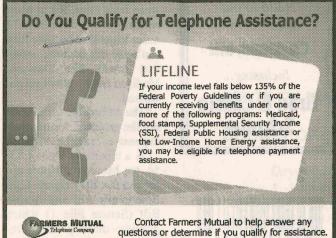
# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
1/25/2017	64994

Bill To

FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO. P. O. BOX 156 CHOK10, MN 56221

Description		Amount
2 Column Boxed Guard Ad - LIFELINE Sales Tax		37.13 0.00
	Total	\$37.13



Proud to be Powering Aciral

# FFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

NESOTA) ) SS. C QUI PARLE )

y, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows: publisher of the newspaper known as the Dawson Sentinel. I have of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota

320-568-2105 • www.aciracoop.net newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

> 3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows: The printed Farmers Mutual Telephone Company 'Do You Qualify for Telephone Assistance?'/ Lifeline ad which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for one successive week; it was published on Wednesday. the 25th day of January, 2017; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice: \*abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

> 4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows:

- (1) Lowest classified rate paid commercial 9 point \$7.90/inch, 1.00/line users for comparable space
- (2) Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter 8 point \$7.90/inch, 1.00/line
- (3) Rate actually charged for the above matter8 point \$7.80/inch, 1.00/line

5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Lac qui Parle County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

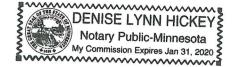
### FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

day of Jan. 301

Notary Public



# Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) and Federal Lifeline Application



**Telephone and Broadband Internet Discounts**, 2017

If your application is not complete with your personance household income, and authorized signatures, you	onal details, proof of either program participation or ur discounts will be delayed.
1) Social Security Number or Tribal ID Number:	
Name	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):
Street:	CityState: MN Zip code
Check here if the address is temporary.	
Check here if more than one family lives at this	address.
Mailing Address (if different from home):	
Street:	City:State: MN Zip code:
Telephone or broadband company where you wan	t discount:
Telephone number where you can be reached:	
Telephone or broadband account number if you ha	ve service now:
2) A (Name) of person in my household who	3) I do not participate in the programs detailed
participates in the following program(s). Check all	in #2. Instead, my income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (attached).
that apply, and attach copies of proof.	Attach one of the documents below if you did
Federal Public Housing Assistance	not check any boxes in #2.
Medicaid/Medical Assistance	<ul> <li>Child support award/Divorce decree</li> </ul>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	<ul> <li>Current pay stubs or other official documentation of income for the last three</li> </ul>
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	months
Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit	<ul> <li>Last year's State, Federal, or Tribal tax return</li> </ul>
B.	Retirement/Pension benefits statement
(Name) of person in my household who lives on	<ul> <li>Social Security benefits statement</li> </ul>
Tribal lands and participates in the following program(s). Check all that apply, and attach	<ul> <li>Unemployment/Workers compensation statement</li> </ul>
<b>copies of proof.</b> Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance	<ul> <li>Veterans Administration benefits statement</li> </ul>
	Number of people living in household:
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	I certify the number of people living in the
Tribally Administered Head Start (for those meeting income-qualifying standards)	household to be true.
Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)	myself and members of my household.

### 4) You must sign your initials on each line below under penalty of perjury:

I understand TAP is a state discount and is non-transferable; Lifeline is a federal discount and is non-transferable.

I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving TAP/Lifeline.

I will notify the carrier within 30 days if for any reason I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving TAP/Lifeline including, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based criteria for received support, if I am receiving more than one benefit, or if another member of my household is receiving a benefit.



I will provide the new address to my carrier within 30 days if I move.

My household will only receive one TAP/Lifeline service, and to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a TAP/Lifeline service. For TAP/Lifeline purposes, a household is defined as any group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses.



The information contained in my certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge that providing any false or fraudulent information to receive TAP/Lifeline benefits is punishable by law.

I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for TAP/ Lifeline at any time, and my failure to certify as to my continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my TAP/Lifeline benefits.

\*If seeking to qualify as an eligible resident of Tribal Lands, please initial below.

I certify that I am seeking to qualify for TAP/Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands and live on Tribal lands.

I consent to have my name, number, and address provided to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and/or its agency and to any state or federal agency, for the purpose of verifying that I qualify for the TAP/Lifeline program and that I do not receive more than one TAP/ Lifeline discount.

Applicant Signature

Date

[OPTIONAL] I designate the name and telephone number of an Authorized Representative for this application. This person has completed this form on my behalf and is willing to assist me in seeking telephone service discounts.

Print Authorized Representative Name Date

Authorized Representative's Daytime Phone Number:

5) Questions? Please contact us at 1-800-692-0021 or 320-568-2105.

- ✓ Complete application.
- ✓ Attach program participation or proof of income.
- ✓ Before submitting application, contact the company where you want the discount.
- ✓ Mail application and income documents.

### FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE • 301 2<sup>ND</sup> ST SOUTH • BELLINGHAM, MN 56212



# 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines – 135%

Household Size	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$16,281	\$20,331	\$18,711
2	\$21,924	\$27,392	\$25,205
3	\$27,567	\$34,452	\$31,698
4	\$33,210	\$41,513	\$38,192
5	\$38 <i>,</i> 853	\$48,573	\$44,685
6	\$44,496	\$55,634	\$51,179
7	50,139	\$62 <i>,</i> 694	\$57,672
8	\$55,782	\$69,755	\$64,166
For each additional person, add	\$5,643	\$7,061	\$6,494

Please Note:

- <u>Source</u>: Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 19, January 31, 2017, pp. 8831-8832.
- The federal poverty guidelines are typically updated at the end of January.

Minnesota Relay is a free service providing full telephone accessibility to persons who are deaf, deaf/blind, hardof-hearing, or speech-disabled. A specially trained communication assistant (CA) facilitates the telephone conversation between a person who has hearing loss or a speech disability and a hearing person. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world (long distance charges apply), 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with no restrictions on the number, length or type of calls. All calls are strictly confidential and no records of any conversations are maintained.

Minnesota Relay is administered by the Telecommunication Access Minnesota (TAM) program within the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The Minnesota Relay center is located in Moorhead, MN. Minnesota Relay and associated

# Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan

The Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) may provide eligible persons with a credit of up to \$3.50 per month on their phone bills. You are eligible for the assistance if participating in one or more of the following programs:

- \* Medical Assistance (MA)
- \* Food Support (food stamps)
- \* Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- \* Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- \* Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- \* Federal Public Housing Assistance
- \* National School Free Lunch Program
- \* Under 135% of Federal Poverty level

If you do not qualify under the above criteria, but live on a federally recognized reservation, you can also qualify if you participate in one of the following:

- \* Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- \* Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- \* Head Start (only for those meeting the income qualifying standard)
- \* National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

If you are participating in one or more of these programs, you may certify eligibility by completing an application, providing proof of eligibility for benefit, and submitting it to our business office. Please contact our business office for an application. outreach services are provided to the state under contract with Communication Service for the Deaf.

Minnesota Relay is funded through a monthly surcharge on each wired and wireless telephone access line in the state.

For specific instructions on placing or receiving a Minnesota Relay call, please see the instructions on page 9 of this directory or visit the Minnesota Relay website at www.mnrelay.org.



### **Federal Lifeline Plan**

You may qualify for a monthly federal Lifeline credit on your telephone bill if you are receiving benefits under one or more of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or the National School Free Lunch Program.

If you are participating in one or more of these programs, you may certify eligibility by completing an application, providing proof of eligibility for benefit, and submitting it to our business office. Please contact our business office for an application.

For Lifeline Information and applications:

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company Customers Call 1-800-692-0021

Federated Telephone Customers Call 1-800-374-7133

Valley Telephone Company Customers Call 1-866-290-1729



PRESORTED **STANDARD** U.S. POSTAGE PAID CHOKIO, MN PERMIT NO. 4

Issue **APRIL 2017** 







# The Home Page

**Current Topics** 

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth at our recent events and to the winners of

**Dave Falness** 

**Big Stone Sports & Leisure Show** 

	Calendar
April 14:	Good Friday Offices Closed
April 16:	Easter
April 26:	Administrative Professional's Day
June 6:	Farmers Mutual Annual Meeting
June 8:	Federated Annual Meeting

**Event Winners!** 

an Echo Dot!

Dawson Ag Days

### Kennedy Hill Morris Spring Expo

Kathy Morrill

Our phone system also allows our CSR's in any office to have the ability to answer incoming phone calls from all service territories. For example, if a member calls the Chokio office number they may get a CSR in Bellingham or Morris. This has been a great benefit for our members! Previously, if the office a member was trying to contact was busy or short staffed, they would have to leave a message and wait for a callback from the CSR.

The Customer Service Department consists of Donna Eul (Marketing & Customer Service Manager), Shelley Evink and Tammy Marquart in the Morris Office; Tammy Dierks and Jeri Erickson in the Chokio office; Jackie Jessen and Andrea Lewis in the Bellingham office.

Acira Administrative Professionals also include Karin Jahnke (Administrative Assistant), Julie Evink (Service Coordinator), and Pat Knutson (Accountant).

We would like to thank all of our Administrative Professionals for all they do for the members of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company and Federated Telephone Cooperative.

Inside This Issue

- Administrative Professionals
- MTA Day on the Hill
- Call Completion
- Important Numbers
- Lifeline Program
- Call Before You Dig
- Can You Hear Me Now?
- Directory Additions

Local Commitment, Global Solutions,

**Farmers Mutual** 

320-568-2105

Main Office:

320-324-7111 emailftc@fedtel.net

www.fedtel.net

Satellite Office: PO Box 107

508 Atlantic Ave. Morris, MN 56267

morrisftc@fedtel.net

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

320-585-4875

www.fedtel.net

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday

PO Box 156

301 2nd Street South

Bellingham, MN 56212

farmers@farmerstel.net

www.farmerstel.net

405 2nd Street East

Chokio, MN 56221

**Federated Telephone** 

# Directory additions

Donald F. Andrews	748-7683
Lonny & Becky Arnold	589-3752
D. Diekmann	
D.C. Diekmann	265-8025
Dawson Bowl	769-2771
Douglas Diekmann	657-1925
Jean Firchau	748-7979
Theressa Hengtgen	585-3668
David Hills	265-8022
Ed & Twila Homan	
Paul Johnson	589-1646
Tracy Kellen	
Helen Kill	589-3064
Kelsie Leikvold	568-2393

James & Carla Lonneman 392-5598
Anthony & Jean Menden 265-8023
Nathan & Jennifer Nordly 657-1025
Richard Quist585-5479
John M. & Wanda Schmitt 598-3799
Christina Shelstad849-1025
Logan Sletten324-7756
L. Stone 568-2589
Gary & Debbie Wentland265-6208
Brady Wersinger567-2215
Wittnebel Robert Truck Equip. LLC
Fern Zimmerman 585-4239

200 5500

Lawrence O. Cawla I. aww.awa.aw





# **Acira Administrative Professionals**

Acira - powered by Farmers Mutual Telephone Company and Federated Telephone Cooperative, has employees in three office locations. These offices are located throughout our service areas in Bellingham, Chokio and Morris. Two customer service representatives (CSRs) are located in each office and are always working hard to make sure our members receive the best customer service experience possible.



# **MTA DAY ON THE HILL**

On February 22, 2017, representatives from Farmers Mutual and Federated Telephone, joined other Minnesota Telecom Alliance members in St. Paul to educate lawmakers on issues affecting rural telcos. This event gives lawmakers the opportunity to learn from the experts how their decisions impact the telecommunications industry.

The event started on Tuesday afternoon with an issues briefing for members. The MTA Staff focused on Sales Tax exemption on Telecom Equipment and Education Tax Credit for Broadband. On Wednesday, they met with lawmakers to discuss these issues that our rural telcos are facing.

Pictured on the right, are some visits that our FMTC & FTC representatives had the privilege of meeting with during their day. (*Representatives Pictured: L-R*)

12A Representative: Jeff Backer 16 Senator: Gary Dahms 16A Representative: Chris Swendzinski



# Call Completion Issues Continue for Rural America

For the last couple years, Rural America has been plagued with call completion issues. Several state and national telecommunication associations across the nation have gathered information on the scope of the issues and concluded this is an epidemic affecting the routing of calls to customers in rural areas nationwide.

### Call completion issues include, but are not limited to:

- The called party hears ringing but only hears dead air when the called party answers.
- The calling party hears ringing but the called party hears nothing.
- · Unusually long call set-up times, sometimes as long as 50 seconds.
- · Poor call quality, garbled voice on completed calls.
- · Inability to receive faxes.
- · Missing or altered Caller ID.

The problem occurs on calls originated using a variety of telephone technologies including land-line, wireless, cable and VoIP (voice over Internet protocol). The rural telephone company has no control over these issues - the problems occur before the call ever reaches their network, it the call reaches the network at all.

Calling parties should open a trouble ticket with their own originating service provider when they determine they cannot reach the called party or they experience poor call quality.

### When reporting the problem to the originating service provider, the calling party should include the following details:

- 1. Date and time of the call. 2. The number that was used to place the call. 3. The number that was called.
- 4. Description of the problem (examples: dead air, ringing with no answer, missing Caller ID, etc.)

Consumers who do not receive reliable service or a satisfactory response from their originating service provider should consider filing a complaint with their state utility commission and/or the FCC. To contact the FCC, email them at fccinfo@fcc.gov, call them at 1-888-225-5322 or go online at www.fcc.gov/complaints to file an online complaint.

# **Important Phone Numbers:**

Farmers Mutual Telephone	. 320-568-2105
<b>Federated Telephone</b> Chokio Office Morris Office	
Minnesota Attorney General's Office	. 1-800-657-3787

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission1-800-657-3782
Minnesota Department of Commerce Telecommunications Division1-651-539-1883
Better Business Bureau1-800-646-6222
Federal Communications Commission1-888-225-5322

# **Phone Discount for Low Income**



There are several programs that provide assistance with paying your phone or broadband Internet bill. The Lifeline Program is federally funded and will provide a credit each month on your phone or broadband Internet bill. To be eligible, you must be enrolled in one of the following public assistance programs or have an income at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines to be eligible:

- Medical Assistance (MA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

If you qualify for a Lifeline credit, you will also qualify for the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP). This program offers a monthly discount on your phone or broadband Internet bill, as well.

For more information or an application, please contact our office by dialing 611 from your home phone or you can find the office numbers on the back page of this newsletter.



# FEDERAL SURCHARGES **TO INCREASE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2017**

Effective April 1, 2017, the amount of the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) appearing on your bill each month will change as a result of an increase in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) universal service contribution factor from 16.7% to 17.4%. The new FUSC amount is calculated by multiplying the FCC's universal service contribution factor against your interstate access service charges.

The Federal Universal Service Fund program is designed to help keep local telephone service rates affordable for all customers in all areas of the U.S.

## Calls asking "Can you hear me now?" by Alesha Hernandez, Consumer Education Specialist, Federal Trade Commission

SCAM Your phone rings and the caller ID shows a number you don't know. You answer it anyway and hear, "Can you hear me now?" It's a pre-recorded robocall - even though it sounds like a real person - and it's illegal. We've heard from hundreds of people who have gotten calls like this.

"Can vou hear me?":

- to block unwanted calls.
- likely to be crooks.



# 135% of the 2017 Federal **Poverty Income Guidelines**

Income
\$16,281
\$21,924
\$27,567
\$33,210
\$38,853
\$ 5,643

# **Call Before You Dig** "It's the Law"

Simply Dial 811 from your telephone. Remember to call 48 hours before you dig. South Dakota: 1-800-781-7474

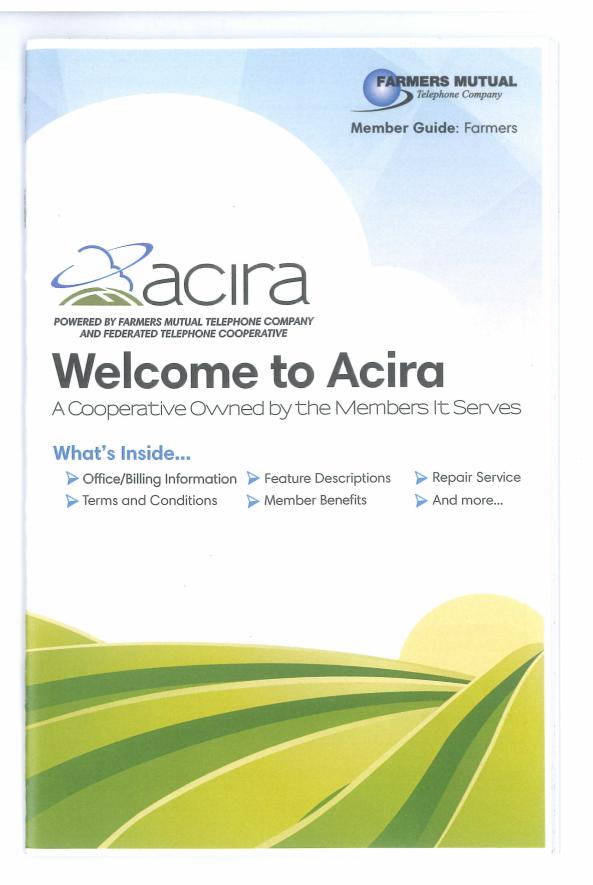
Here's what to do if you get a call from someone you don't recognize asking,

Don't respond, just hang up. If you get a call, don't press 1 to speak to a live operator or any other number to be removed from the list. If you respond in any way, it will probably just lead to more robocalls – and they're likely to be scams.

Contact your phone provider. Ask your phone provider what services they provide

Put your phone number on the Do Not Call registry. Access the registry online or by calling 1-888-382-1222. Callers who don't respect the Do Not Call rules are more

File a complaint with the FTC to report the experience online or call 1-877-282e43257.







Farmers Mutual Telephone Company 301 2nd Street South Bellingham, MN 56212 Account #:

If you have telephone service with Farmers Mutual, the account # is your telephone number.

Email Address: @farmerstel.net

Email Password: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Important Numbers:**

Farmers Mutual Telephone Office: 320-568-2105

Local Calls, Remain Local with FMTC!

With Farmers Mutual (FMTC) you **KEEP** the local Calling Scope you have today when you port your number to FMTC and you can call all members in FMTC exchanges at no charge.

# REMEMBER TO DIAL THE NUMBER AS A LOCAL CALL

Calling From:	Calling To:
Bellingham (568)	568, 752, 668, 273, 605-678 FMTC served lines in: 855, 769, 312, 598, 698, 269, 301, 839, 305, 542, 853
Boyd (855)	855, 752, 769, 312 FMTC served lines in: 568, 598, 698, 668, 269, 301, 839, 305, 605-678, 542, 853
Cerro Gordo (752)	752, 568, 855, 769, 312, 668, 605-678 FMTC served lines in 598, 698, 269, 301, 839, 305, 542, 853
Dawson (769,312)	769, 312, 542, 855, 752 FMTC served lines in: 568, 598, 698, 668, 269, 301, 839, 305, 605-678, 853
Madison (598, 698)	598, 698, 853 FMTC served lines in: 568, 769, 752, 312, 668, 855, 269, 301, 839, 305, 605-678, 542
Marietta (668)	668, 568, 752, 605-678 FMTC served lines in: 769, 312, 598, 698, 269, 301, 839, 855, 305, 542, 853
W. Marietta (605-678)	605-678, 568, 752, 668 FMTC served lines in: 855, 769, 312, 598, 698, 269, 301, 839, 305, 542, 853
Montevideo (269,301)	269, 301, 793, 734, 367, 569 FMTC served lines in: 568, 752, 668, 855, 769, 312, 598, 698, 269, 301, 839, 305, 605-678, 542, 853
Ortonville (839,305)	839, 305, 605-862, 325, 273 FMTC served lines in: 568, 752, 668, 855, 769, 312, 598, 698, 269, 301, 605-678, 542, 853

Internet Help Desk: 320-568-4357 (HELP) 24 Hours/7 Days a Week

After Hours Repair: 320-568-2105 or 611 from your FMTC served Phone

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Please see the Area-Wide Telephone Directory or visit www.aciracoop.net for more information about our features and services.

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### LIFELINE & TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PLAN

There are several programs that provide assistance with paying your phone bill. The Lifeline program is federally funded and will provide a credit each month on your phone bill. To be eligible, you must be enrolled in one of the following public assistance programs or have an income at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines to be eligible.

**Eligible Public Assistance Programs:** 

- Medicaid/Medical Assistance
- Food Support (Food Stamps)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

If you qualify for a Lifeline credit, you will also qualify for the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP). This program also offers a monthly discount on your phone bill.

For more information or a Lifeline/TAP Application, please contact our office.