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MACA NewsUpdate

June 2011

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June - Looks like June will be a busy month with many things going on! First, there is the Mini-Bulk Summit - Part 2 starting on June 2. As I write this more than 90 people have registered for the program. Following the Summit, MACA's quarterly meetings will be held beginning with lunch on June 8. Steve Drake, President & CEO of Drake and Company, will provide an update on the U.S. **Farmers & Ranchers Alliance.** The committees will swing into action after lunch and then the board will meet on Thursday morning. It will be a couple of intense, but productive days. May ended with President Flakne and me making personal visits to member companies. What a great experience for both of us. We also mailed out the registration form for the 2011 MACA Annual Meeting. So for the latest, check out the details below.

Let's hope the weather calms down so the farmers can get their fields planted to ensure a safe and abundant food supply. We've had rough weather in Missouri and many other Midwestern

states. It's time for some fun in the sun!

Mini-Bulk Summit - Part 2 - Have you made plans to attend the Mini-Bulk Summit - Part 2?

There are more than 90 people registered, but if you need information, this is the place to be as the new US EPA Rules and Regulations regarding mini-bulk containers go into effect August 16, 2011. The Summit begins Tuesday afternoon, June 7, with registration opening at 1:00 p.m. and the program at 2:00 p.m. It ends at noon on Wednesday, June 8, 2011. It will be held at the Airport Marriott Hotel, 10700 Pear Tree Lane, St. Louis, MO.

MACA President David Flakne says, "Participants will hear about industry initiatives to handle these unwanted tanks in an environmentally responsible manner and learn about the repack authorization agreements."

For a complete updated schedule go to www.maca.org/education/mini-bulk-containers/. To reserve your place at the meeting, please call the MACA office at 1-800-625-2767 or contact Jean Jochum at info@maca.org by ASAP.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: MACA President Dave Flakne and I were on the road meeting with MACA members and allied industry as part of the industry outreach. The meetings included meeting with Lynn Henderson, Publisher for AgriMarketing; **Bryan Gran and Mike Kamrath, Tri-Rinse; GfK Kynetec** where we met with **Jim Herman, Co-President, Greg Roggenkamp, Project VP, Greg Malcom, Project VP, Dan Wirth and Denise Coder, Sr. Research Manager** and finally a trip to Columbia where all entities allied together for a meeting with **MFA**. The MFA meeting which was coordinated by **Jason Paris** included **Craig Childs, Steve Taylor, MO-AG Executive Director, and MO-AG chairman Don Houston who works at MFA, plus Doug Mertens, Monsanto**, joined the meeting. Doug currently serves as

Tri-Rinse visit: Bryan Gran, David Flakne & Mike Kamrath

MFA visit: Steve Taylor, Doug Mertens, Jason Paris, Don Houston, and David Flakne

the industry communications chairman and had previously worked for MFA. At each stop President Flakne and I provided an update on MACA initiatives and then asked for their input to engage them in the conversation. It was a productive time for everyone!

MACA QUARTERLY MEETINGS: The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) committees will follow the Mini-Bulk Summit-Part 2 on **Wednesday, June 8, 2011**, beginning with lunch and a short program, then the committee meetings will start at 1:30 p.m. The Board of Directors will meet on **Thursday, June 9, 2011,** at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, 10700 Peartree Lane,St. Louis, Missouri.

AGCareers.com

2011 Monthly Article

This is a joint venture with MACA and AgCareers.com to provide additional information on human resource issues. By working together we can strengthen the agriculture industry by sharing this news and information.

This month's tip: There are eight basic things that employers can do to lay the foundation for a successful internship program, from the recruiting process to on-boarding; and selecting a good mentor to providing clear expectations. For the full list of these critical components of a successful internship program click here to read more.....

STATE NEWS:

Minnesota - "The Republican controlled legislature adjourned Monday, May 23 without an agreement with DFL Governor Dayton on the basic spending/taxation issues," says **Bill Bond,**

Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR). A special session and/or state shutdown July 1, 2011 is now a possibility. MCPR earlier report on the ag funding bill which was passed and signed into law is still the only certainty at the time of this report.

Rain/flooding/high winds are all in play across the state...corn is behind last year by a month (last year was an extremely early planting season.)

Nebraska - "The Nebraska Legislature will adjourn at the end of May, and may only come back for possible veto over-ride action the first week of June," reports **Alice Licht, Executive Vice President & Lobbyist, Nebraska Agri-Business Association, Inc**. Most of the business has been accomplished, with legislative, congressional, judicial and board of regent redistricting being discussed in the final days. The Budget passed with little discussion, once again balancing Nebraska's books.

Several bold moves were made in the session, including water funding out the state's lottery trust funds, diverting one quarter of a percent sales tax in 2013 for road construction, and a compromise was reached on a highly volatile issue dealing with the Commission on Industrial Relations, the mediation court for public employee contracts. We finally were able to resolve the soil sampling issue with an exemption for all agricultural sampling and not just those performed by farmers from having to call the one-call digger's hotline. The Attorney General reversed an earlier ruling on the issue, thus saving our industry millions of dollars in time and red tape. We determined that over 114,000 field locations are sampled annually (over 650,000 samples). Having to schedule utilities to come out and mark fields in very short time frames would have been impossible.

We are currently working with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality on regulations surrounding storm water run-off standards for fertilizer and chemical manufacturing facilities. We also met with Nebraska's new Colonel and Lt. Colonel of the State Patrol to discuss federal motor carrier regulations.

As of May 20, over 90 percent of planting is completed in Western Nebraska. Eastern Nebraska, due to late snows and spring rains are 99 percent completed on corn and 75 percent on soy beans. Some areas reported some germination problems due to the wet weather.

Illinois - "The new redistricting maps are coming out and that along with the budget is the main focus of the legislature," reports **Jean Payne, Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association (IFCA President**). The democrats control both chambers and the Governor's office so the maps are written to favor the reelection

of democrats. Adjournment is scheduled for May 31 although some believe it may happen on May 27th. We have yet to see a budget proposal for our state, which is $8 billion in the red, and hope for worker's comp reform, pension reform, etc. wanes as each day passes. We are still working to pass SB 2010, which is supported by all the ag groups and environmental groups, to privatize our nutrient research funds to protect them from being swept.

We continue to be very involved in the nutrient stakeholders meetings going on to address N and P contributions to Illinois waters. IEPA is moving forward with the development of more specific narrative standards for nutrient impairments rather than numeric standards. Illinois agriculture has formulated an enhanced nutrient strategy for the agricultural sector that we call "Keep it For the Crop (KIC) b 2025" which we have presented to the group. IFCA is also planning a minibulk recycling program for fall 2011.

As for the crops, a green haze of emerging corn has finally appeared in the fields, thank goodness!

CAN: Schools are on summer break while agriculture begins the important growing season with all its challenges. Document what you do for the ***CropLife Ambassador Network.*** We will use the videos in classrooms across the Midwest. Join us in inspiring and educating the future decision makers about the benefits of modern agriculture by creating a compelling video up to 5 minutes in length that may be used by the CropLife Ambassador Network for educational purposes. Contestants may submit a video in one or more of the following categories:

Modern Agriculture is...

1. Important to Everyone. Depict how modern agriculture affects our daily lives.
2. Cutting Edge. Highlight agricultural technology used on your farm.
3. Sustainable. Highlight actual modern practices used on your farm to ensure sustainability.
4. A Way of Life. Show off your way of life! What is your farm's history, how has farming changed over the generations of your family, what crops you grow, how much land you farm, yields, daily activities, etc. Be creative!

For complete rules visit our website. There are two entry periods. The first one ends July 31st and the second one ends

November 1st. Enter both for the opportunity to win Cash prizes in both! For questions email Janet Braun.

As always, stay connected with this summer.

WATER ISSUES - "Once again there are a number of issues that continue to involve water and the agricultural chemical industry," says **Water Consultant Mary Jane Stankiewicz**. Here is a brief overview of those issues.

- Waters of the United States - The EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers has proposed guidance regarding the identification of waters protected by the Clean Water Act. This document will be used to interpret the term "waters of the US" thus this document has the potential to impact NPDES permits, water quality standards, and total maximum daily load standards in the various states. EPA and the Corps have estimated the annual cost of implementing this guidance is between $87-171 million. A number of groups are requesting an additional 90 days comment period so that they can have adequate time to analyze the scientific and economic impact of this proposed guidance document.
- NPDES permit - The US House passed HR 872, which would seek to address the 6th Circuit's court decision to require NPDES permits if applying pesticides "to, over or near waters of the US" so that the law clearly states that regulation of pesticides should remain under FIFRA and not the Clean Water Act. The bill has been referred to the Senate Agriculture committee will now take up the bill.
- Numeric Criteria - There is great concern and confusion as to whether EPA will require other states to adopt numeric water quality standards like Florida for nitrogen and phosphorous. Some correspondence from EPA has stated that states will be allowed to develop their own nutrient control programs while other correspondence appears to still call for each state to utilize numeric standards.
- Last week in Kansas City, Karl Brooks, EPA Region VII Administrator, stated that EPA had no intention of promoting numeric criteria throughout the nation and that state based nutrient reduction plans at the watershed level will be acceptable. While we are pleased with Brooks' comments, it appears clarification on the issue is needed from EPA headquarters so that all regions are working from the same playbook.
- EPA review of Regulations - Pursuant to an Executive

Order, the EPA reviewed and assessed which of their regulations should possibly be revised. EPA has sent the list to the Office of Management and Budget and to the White House but have not released this document to the public.

- Revision to the Water quality Standard Regulation - EPA has held listening sessions and has received comments regarding what changes to the water quality regulation would be recommended by the public. The Federal Water Quality Coalition (FWQC) submitted comments on this topic however EPA has not taken any subsequent action on the matter. As expected, the environmental community does not like the anti-degredation section or the ability to designate certain waters for certain uses.

With the help of our friends and colleagues at our national associations, the ANPC and FWQC, MACA will continue to update you on these and other relevant issues. If you have any questions about any of these issues, please do not hesitate to contact Mary Jane Stankiewicz, the MACA Water Consultant at maryjane@kansasag.org

SHORT NOTES:

- The **MACA Annual Meeting Committee** has finalized the program speakers, golf tournament details, as well as other things for the meeting. "Navigating the New Normal" is the theme for the meeting. The conference opens September 7 at 3:30 p.m. with President Dave Flakne opening remarks and awards presentation. The conference kick-off speaker at 4:00 p.m. is Dr. Michael Swanson, Ag Economist, Wells Fargo. He's present "What's the New Normal?" The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota. Please look for the registration brochure as it was mailed out on June 1 via the US Postal Service. We'll be posting it on the MACA website where you can review the agenda and register to attend.
- The Environmental Respect Awards were presented to several MACA members including: **Crop Production Services** in Lake Odessa, Michigan, Bernie, Missouri, Washington Court House, Ohio. CPS also had winning facilities in Arkansas, Kentucky, and North Carolina **Wilbur-Ellis** had winners in Texas and Washington while **Helena Chemical Company** had a winner in Tennessee.
- Data released the week of May 9 show that U.S. farm exports reached an all-time high of $75 billion during the first half of fiscal-year 2011. That's 27% higher than the

same period last year. USDA has forecast exports to reach $135.5 billion by the end of the year. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack says this data demonstrates that once again, America's farmers and ranchers are helping lead the way to recovery from the worst economic recession in decades.

- Do you need a refresher course for your crew who work with DOT HAZMAT? If so, check out the **DOT HAZMAT** videos available for purchase. Training videos are specific to hazmat chemicals used in the agricultural arena! They were updated by the MACA Distribution & Environment committee and are now on the MACA website, www.maca.org. MACA members can review them for free - but can not download to a personal computer. (If you do not have the user name or password, please contact the MACA office at info@maca.org.)
- MANA has signed an agreement with a subsidiary of the China National Chemical Corporation to carry out a merger that will result in the company becoming private under joint ownership of ChemChina and Koor. MANA's shares will be purchased at a price that reflects a value of the company $2.4 billion.
- Sano Shimoda, President of BioScience Securities, Inc. has a new agriculture service. AgInnovation Advisors will focus on providing strategic corporate advisory services to the financial community, including investors/money managers, and companies interested in ag-related investments that want to take advantage of an evolving transformational dynamic, the "Metamorphosis of Agriculture." AgInnovation Advisors is a strategic alliance between Shimoda and Terry Jones, a farmer in Eastern Iowa and President of Jones Enterprises LLC.

CALENDAR

June 7 - Mini-Bulk Summit - Part 2, Marriott Airport Hotel, St. Louis, MO
June 8 - Mini-bulk Summit - Part 2, Marriott Airport Hotel, St. Louis, MO
June 8 - MACA Committee Meetings, St. Louis, MO
June 9 - MACA Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO
July 4 - Happy Fourth of July - MACA office will be closed
August 5 - MACA Conference call with Board
August 23-24 - 2011 National Agronomic Environmental Health & Safety School, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington, IL
September 6-7-8 - 2011 MACA Annual Meeting**, Hilton Hotel**, Bloomington, Minnesota
November 9 - MACA Committee meetings, St. Louis, MO
November 10 - MACA Board meeting, St. Louis, MO

November 15 - Midwest Region Issues Summit, sponsored by CropLife America, BIO & RISE, 9 am to 3 pm, Kansas City, MO

2012

January 31-February 2 - Nebraska Agri-Business Exposition, Qwest Center, Omaha, Nebraska

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH: *"When I was a kid, I said to my father one afternoon, 'Daddy, will you take me to the zoo?' He answered, 'If the zoo wants you, let them come and get you.'"*-- Jerry Lewis

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