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MACA NewsUpdate

November 2011

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November - What a fall it has been with the warm temperatures, sunny skies and the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series! For my family in Minnesota, this year's harvest was completed in record time. They just need some rain to recharge the ground and make it possible to complete the fall tillage without damaging the equipment. As for the Cardinals, you have to believe that all things are possible after becoming World Champions.

November is also the time for the MACA committees and board to meet and make plans for the year ahead. Won't you plan to attend the meetings November 9 and 10th?

Finally, this is the month to give thanks. While we may wish for some things, we have much to be grateful for as we live in the U.S. where we have a safe and abundant food supply which is made possible because of people like you. So from the MACA staff to you, we wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and

friends.

MACA QUARTERLY MEETINGS: The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) committees will meet on **Wednesday, November 9, 2011.** D&E Committee and Executive Committee will begin at 9:30 a.m. while all other committee meetings start at 1:30 p.m. **Lunch for all begins at noon** and includes a short program. The Board of Directors will meet on **Thursday, November 10, 2011,** at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, 10700 Peartree Lane,St. Louis, Missouri.

STATE NEWS:

Kansas - "The Kansas Legislature is still in mid-session break," reports **Tom Tunnell, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA) President & CEO**, "and will reconvene the second week in January 2012. We expect a very contentious session as Governor Brownback begins his second year and wants to pursue business tax cuts as well as more cuts to what he sees as non essential government services. We also expect issues such as illegal immigration, water usage, tort reform, elimination of the State Fire Marshal's office and implementation of the new pest plant act. The legislature will also be in the redistricting mode which will no doubt add to rancor.

As for regulatory issues, there is a review of the "use it or lose it" current water policy and to implement more local control with regard to water conservation and amending the flex water right program.

The corn, soybean and milo harvest is still going on in the northern parts of the state. The southwestern portion of the state suffered a serious drought this summer and yields are down. The rest of the state has had a very good harvest.

Our Kansas Agri Business Expo is in Overland Park, Kansas November 15-17. At this writing, the tradeshow is sold out and registrations are coming in at a good clip. We expect a great event!

Michigan - "There are various social issues, right to work and cutting more programs being discussed by the **Michigan Legislature," says Jim Byrum, President, Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA).**

Harvest is underway with soybeans, probably 60% harvested and yields near record levels. The corn, under 10%, and again, yields better than expected, but below trend yield...

South Dakota - "The South Dakota Legislature met for a special session Monday, October 24, to set new boundary lines for its 35 districts based on the latest census figures," reports **Kathy Zander, Executive Director, South Dakota Agri-Business Association.** The new alignment will be used for the 2012 through 2020 elections.

South Dakota is continuing to work towards compliance to meet the new EPA minibulks rules.

Row crop harvest is nearly complete with 97percent of the soybean crop harvested, ahead of last year at 94 percent and ahead of the 5-year average of 76 percent. Sixty-seven percent of corn has been harvested, well ahead of the 5-year average of 33 percent. Fifty-six percent of sunflowers are now harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 27 percent. Sorghum harvest is now at 85 percent complete, also ahead of the 5-year average of 55 percent. Winter wheat seeding is now 95 percent complete, just 2 percentage points behind last year and the 5-year average of 97 percent. Eighty-six percent of winter wheat has emerged, even with last year's progress and now 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average.

Soybean yields are average to below and corn is average to above average. Both sunflowers and sorghum are yielding well above average.

Ag Expo 2012 will be held January 18-19 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. The theme is "Survive, Thrive and Revive" with speakers Cody Lundin from the TV show Dual Survivor on the Discovery Channel and South Dakota native Holly Hoffman who was a finalist on Survivor Nicaragua.

Minnesota - "The focus is on a potential legislative session to fund a new MN Vikings stadium." says **Bill Bond, Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR)**. The Vikes contract at the Minneapolis Metrodome expires in 2012. Governor Dayton wants to call a special session but the votes for the stadium are not there yet. Stadium site is in Arden Hills north of I - 494 and east of I 35 W...Minneapolis is attempting an alternative proposal but the Vikes owners are not interested (at this time).

The MN Pollution Control Agency is moving forward with the NPDES rules in lock step with the EPA regional office.

Much of the corn and beans are harvested and NH3 will start going down as soon as the soil temps are right. Everything coming out dry...very little drying will happen.

Bean field fires were common in Southwest Minnesota.

The ***CropLife Ambassador Network*** has speaking requests in the following cities across our member states:

COLORADO
Northglenn

ILLINOIS
Chillicothe
Glenwood (Cook Co.)
Kankakee
Lexington
Park Ridge (Cook Co.)
Springville
South Holland (Cook Co.)
Tiskilwa

INDIANA
Michigan City
Indianapolis
Lake Station

MICHIGAN
Macomb

MISSOURI
Lee's Summit

NORTH DAKOTA
Jamestown

SOUTH DAKOTA
Faulkton

WISCONSIN
Cudahy (Milwaukee)
Kenosha
Wauwatosa (Milwaukee)

Rochester Hills (Detroit)
Troy (Detroit)

Getting involved is as easy as contacting our program coordinator, **Janet Braun**, at 314-849-9446 or sending an **email.** CAN is a benefit of MACA membership so let your employee's know about our free services. Our goal is to do the prep work of out reach education to minimize the amount of time an ambassador needs to spend on it. New requests are posted on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can view them on our website under the **Active School Request Tab** **.**

Have you been asked to speak with a group recently? Did you know you are welcome to use our presentations? Visit our **website** to see the seven different presentations we have available. These can be used with adult audiences too. You can just add more detail about some of the concepts.

Thank you to all the ambassadors already active this fall. These people are the core to our success. If you know them, thank them for their efforts.

Iowa
Jeff Anderson, Stine Seed

Keith Campbell, Stine Seed

Illinois
Cheryl Day, Cultivating Solutions, IL Agri-Women
Sarah Miller, Successful Farming
Tom Rutherford, Oil-Dri, Corp.
Tim Thompson, Bayer CropScience
Jeremy Wilson, Crop IMS, LLC

Ambassador Jeff Anderson, Stine Seed, with class Fall, 2011.

Indiana

Jack Hamilton, Helena Chemical
Elisha Kemp, Dow AgroSciences
Bill Kessinger, Stine Seed
Kyle Ross, Stine Seed
Ryan Sanders, Alliance Agra
Ray Sullivan, Retired

Emily Swartz, Monsanto

Minnesota
Jason Manz, Bayer CropScience

Missouri
Wendy Flatt, University of MO Extension
Brian Hartman, Stine Seed
Doug Mertens, Monsanto

Nebraska
Todd Reichardt, Aurora Cooperative

Ohio
Kayla Alexander, Pilot Knob Enterprises
Dave Case, Bayer CropScience
Bill Klein, Helena Chemical
Diane Sand, Crawford SWCD

South Dakota
Kathy Zander, SD Agri-Business Assoc

Stay connected to CAN through social media. **Our Social Media Intern, Keri Bickel**, is sharing ambassador experiences through our Blog.

WATER ISSUES - "As we all know, Washington, DC is in gridlock," says **Water Consultant Mary Jane Stankiewicz.** There are a number of bills that are focused on the overreaching of EPA and reflects the frustration of various industries and regulated entities. The following is a quick overview of these bills:

- HR 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011, which would have allowed pesticide spraying if the spraying is done pursuant to FIFRA. This bill was passed by the House on March 31, 2011 and was reported by the Senate

Ag committee on June 21. This bill would have taken care of the NPDES ruling that will take effect on October 31st but it is doubtful it will get passed in time, if at all. Further frustration is based on the fact that while EPA understands the will of Congress is to not enact the NPDES rule they did not ask for an extension of the deadline for compliance and thus we now have a train wreck waiting to happen.

- HR 3018, the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act, was passed by the House but is sitting in the Senate with no action. The bill would have stated that once EPA approved a states water quality standards then authority shifts back to the state to determine if the standards have been met.
- HR 2401, the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation, creates a special committee to oversee EPA's rules and regulations and requires EPA to consider economic impacts when it set standards. Once again, the bill has passed the House but is just sitting in the Senate.
- S.1538, is the Regulatory Time-Out Act, and would place a one-year moratorium on regulations that "discourage job creation and hurt our economy". Believe it or not, there has been no action on this bill! On the House side there is HR 2898, which is known as the Regulation and Moratorium and Jobs Preservation Act.

The Administration has responded to these bills which focus on reigning in EPA by pulling back various air and storm water rules. Both the House and the Senate have held hearings about nutrients and at each of these hearings EPA has publicly stated that they are not focused on setting numeric criteria which will make it more difficult for EPA to backtrack and try to enforce the numeric nutrient criteria as they did in Florida, but there is still a lot of work to do before all of the staff at EPA adopts or even accepts this position, therefore, the controversy will continue.

AGCareers.com 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: **Conduct employee surveys** that ask why people stay at the organization, and what they would like to see changed. This information is priceless when it comes to keeping valuable talent. Keep doing the things that are making employees stay with your business, and improve or change those

things that might make them consider leaving. For more employee engagement ideas, click here.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: The invoices for 2012 have been mailed out to the company contacts. Please look for the invoice and discuss with the decision makers in your company the benefits of MACA membership. A summary of the **MACA Initiatives & Achievements for 2010-2011** was included in the letter. If you would like to review it, please click here.

SHORT NOTES:

- A bit on newly elected **MACA Vice President Jason Paris.**

Jason is a graduate of the University of Missouri (MIZZOU) with a degree in Ag-Econ. He's been with MFA for 13 years where he serves as the Manager of Crop Protection for Northern Markets. He and his wife Kami, have two sons Avery is 7 and Colby is 4. It's a busy house as Kami is a School Psychologist with the Columbia Public Schools. When he's not working he's busy hunting, fishing, with sports, and trying to figure out what conference MIZZOU will be in next year!

- Congratulations and best wishes to **Mary Jane Stankiewicz**! Mary Jane has been serving as MACA's water consultant since 2008 and been with KARA for about 11 years. She left the end of October and begins her new job with the Kansas Board of Regents as their Government Affairs person.

- Congratulations to **Dan Ulrich**! He has been promoted to become Business Director of Cotton International, another Meister Media Group.
- The **Crop Production Issues (CPI) Committee** is asking for your help and input. Specifically, are their any goals or projects that you would suggest the CPI Committee pursue that are related to crop production? The CPI committee needs your input. If you have any ideas or suggestions - email Inci.Dannenberg@bayer.com or PAHarms@dow.com or bonnie@maca.org by November 8.
- **MACA** is once again partnering with the state associations to identify people for the award. The **"Extra STEP" award** is designed to recognize an entity that goes above and beyond the requirements of the respective 13 states. The nominee is already meeting the state and federal laws, but takes the extra step to ensure good stewardship in their

community. Be sure and look for the nomination form that was emailed to the state offices.

- MACA is now on **Facebook**. Please **Like** the site to get connected.

CALENDAR

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
November 15-17- Kansas Agri Business Expo is in Overland Park, KS
November 16 - MN Agri Growth Annual Meeting at the Minneapolis Convention Center
November 24 - Happy Thanksgiving! (MACA Office Closed)
November 25 - MACA Office Closed
December 13-15 - CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show, Minneapolis Convention Center and Minneapolis Hilton Hotel
December 23 - MACA Office Closed for Christmas
December 26 - MACA Office Closed for Christmas

2012
January 9-11 - MABA's Winter Conference.
January 10-12 - Wisconsin Crop Management Conference, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI.
January 18-19 - Ag Expo 2012, Sioux Falls Convention Center
January 31-February 2 - Nebraska Agri-Business Exposition, Qwest Center, Omaha, NE
February 7-8 - 2012 Agribusiness Showcase & Conference, Varied Industries building, Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, IA
February 15 - MCA's Policy Conference ...tentative date!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: "Thanksgiving is possible only for those who take time to remember; no one can give thanks who has a short memory." ~Author Unknown

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