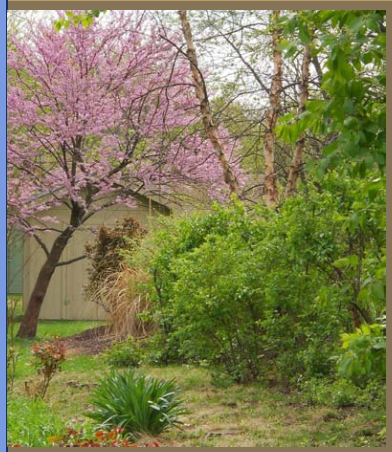
MID AMERICA CROPLIFE ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATE

April 2012



Really Really Spring

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C.A.N.

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April - What happened to spring? It seems as if summer has arrived and everyone is anxious to get outside and enjoy the warmer temps after a mild winter for most of the Midwest. Just as the seasons change, MACA is changing and trying to reach out to more members and the agriculture industry. We have an intern working on social media and a group has also been created on "LinkedIn" so check the details below on what you can do. As for many of you it is a new learning curve - but we're up for the challenge. We want to hear from you! While we're trying new things, we are also continuing with the tried and true things - in-person meetings with MACA President Matt Wagner. Read on for the rest of the news!

STATE NEWS:

Kansas - "The Kansas legislature passed bills allowing a more liberal use of ground water in areas closed to new appropriation during drought seasons, and removed certain historical "use it or lose it" provisions for water rights under limited conditions," says **Randy E. Stookey, KARA's Vice President and General Counsel**. Also, legislation is being

2012 MACA MEETING DATES

April 5-6 - CropLife America & RISE Spring Conferences, Washington, D.C.

June 6, 2012
Committee Meetings
St. Louis, MO

June 7, 2012
Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO

August 3, 2012
Conference call with Board

September 4-5-6, 2012
MACA Annual Meeting
Hilton Hotel

worked to streamline the requirements for corporate swine production facilities to be able to operate in Kansas. In addition, the legislature is working on legislation that would codify the current state of landowner liability laws regarding trespassers.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture has raised concerns regarding poultry litter fertilizer in SE Kansas. In recent years Kansas has become a net importer of poultry litter and there is little regulation regarding application rates and storage. Kansas Farm Bureau held a farmer stakeholder meeting in SE Kansas and producers strongly encouraged voluntary compliance options. Creating a regulatory framework that is reasonable, that works with current production practices, and does not impact other species will be a challenge. The concern seems to be a top priority for the Secretary of Agriculture.

With the mild winter, several acres have been covered much earlier than normal. Reports from NC Kansas indicate that winter wheat is jointing and predictions of one of the earliest wheat harvest are being made (the earliest in NC Kansas would be June 11, with mid to late June as typical). Early plantings of corn are also taking place in areas. Needless to say, with the hearty wheat growth and early planting- a hard freeze in Kansas could be devastating.

Michigan - "It's very quiet agriculturally, which in our opinion is good!" commented **Jim Byrum, President Michigan Agri-Business Association.** As for regulations, everyone is focused on spring...which evidently is here

Field work has begun. Sugar beets are being planted, early, short season corn is going in the ground, especially some livestock producers, but it will be another few days before corn planting starts in earnest.

Minnesota - "The agricultural 'certainty' movement was launched January 17," says **Bill Bond, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers Association (MCPRA)** executive director, "when EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and USDA Secretary Vilsack joined Minnesota Governor Dayton and MN Department of Ag (MDA) Commissioner Dave Frederickson to sign a Memo of Understanding (M.O.U.) to develop a voluntary agriculture certification program to be administered by the MDA."

The MDA is seeking committee members who will provide recommendations to MDA Commissioner Dave Frederickson regarding the development of the Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification, as well as its particular features and focus. The committee will be convened and staffed by MDA, and will serve at Commissioner Frederickson's discretion. The Minnesota

1001 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68102

September 6, 2012
7:30 a.m.
MACA Annual Business Meeting - Omaha, NE

November 7, 2012
Committee Meetings
St. Louis, MO

November 8, 2012 Board Meeting
St. Louis, MO

Please note the Board of Directors meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. and concludes by noon.

All meetings are open to MACA members.
MACA QUARTERLY MEETINGS

CALENDAR

2012

April 5-6 - CropLife America & RISE Spring Conferences, Washington, DC

June 6 - MACA Committee Meetings, St. Louis, MO

June 7- MACA Board of Director Meeting, St. Louis, MO

September 4-5-6 - MACA Annual Meeting, Hilton Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska

Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program has the stated goal of enhancing Minnesota's water quality by accelerating adoption of on-farm water quality practices. This was suggested as a "model" for other states once it is established in Minnesota. Almost everyone in Agriculture and the Environmental movement is nervous about this program. The "certainty" is the suggestion that a farmer who adopts this yet to be determined certification of BMPs will be given a pass on TMDLs and other requirements coming forward for the term of the "voluntary contract" **IF** the farmer's certified practices can be verified by a "third party"...which makes CCA's nervous...or is it an opportunity? Only in Minnesota.

As for field work in south and central Minnesota farmers and retailers are going strong. It will be a couple of weeks for the northern part of the state.

Nebraska - "The Nebraska Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on April 12 with only ten working days left before the end of the Session," reports Alice Licht, **Alice Licht, Executive Vice President & Lobbyist Nebraska Agri-Business Association (NABA).** Attempts to reduce the tax burden for corporations and individuals in the state by the Governor was greatly trimmed with very insignificant tax decreases for individuals with no relief for corporations. Nebraska continues to live within a balanced budget but costs for medicaid, health and human services and other government entities continue to increase.

The agri-business sector had very little in the form of legislation this year. Some of this I attribute to term limits. Nebraska's one-house unicameral senators are now limited to two, four-year terms, which has reduced perennial legislation which used to show up every year.

Ag retailers are out in the field and have been very busy putting down fertilizer and ag lime. Lime is very short due to flooding of mines along the Missouri River. Unless things change, planting corn will begin the day after Easter. Hauling seed corn is also at a hectic pace. It appears it will be a quick planting season again this year.

South Dakota - "The South Dakota Legislature came back on March 19 to consider vetoes after a two week recess," stated **Kathy Zander, Executive Director, South Dakota Agri-Business Association (SDABA.)** The following bills were re-considered:

- HB1058 was a line-item veto for a $1 funding for the Unified Judicial System court automation fund. The veto was overridden.
- HB1228 provided tax refunds for wind energy projects. Veto was sustained.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

"The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails." - John Maxwell

- HB1248 was the bill to allow a drivers license to double as a concealed weapon permit. Veto was sustained
- SB157 deals with billboards, and an issue currently in court over a Rapid City initiated measure. Veto was sustained
- SB194 was a style and form veto dealing with tax refunds for elderly and disabled people. Style/form recommendation was agreed to.

We've been fielding a few questions about the EPA min-bulk regulations and sold more IBC Inspection Decals that we purchased through Asmark Institute. We've sold over 5,000 decals and the information to order the decals is on our website and we've received orders and questions from other states. Our Department of Ag tells us that they will randomly select 40 bulk repackaging sites and complete a container inspection. The inspection will consist of visual inspections of the record keeping requirements for refillable containers which would include pressure testing and repackaging requirements, inspection of container design and proper labeling of the container.

With record breaking warm temperatures, some farmers are busy planting small grains, with anticipation to start planting corn. Moisture is still needed in most areas of the state to help with the progress and condition of the winter wheat, alfalfa and pastures. Winter wheat condition is rated at 3 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 32 percent fair, and 49 percent in good to excellent condition; compared to only 29 percent in good to excellent condition last month.

"I have been promoting agriculture to schools in southern Nebraska for many years," reports ***Todd Reichardt, Director of Internships and Recruiting for Aurora Cooperative, Aurora, Nebraska.*** ***"***I used the CropLife Ambassador Network's *"Today's Agriculture, Careers Across the Spectrum" Power Point presentation to 8th graders. The presentation was well put together and the students were very response. Thank you for your support."* That's the message received from one of CAN's ambassadors!

While Janet is out on medical leave, please continue to contact the office. **Diane Orf** is filling in to assist in coordinating the school visits. Diane comes to us with 17 years of classroom teaching experience with degrees in

Early Childhood & Elementary Education and a master's degree in School Administration. For more information visit our website or email Janet Braun, CAN Program Coordinator.

Spring is in full bloom; everything is growing and so is our list of teacher's requesting classroom visits. We have so many wonderful opportunities to get ambassadors into the classroom. Earth Day, April 20, is always a popular time for requests but there are many more dates listed. Please check the website and seize this fabulous opportunity to get out of the office and into classrooms full of inquisitive children.

So far in 2012 we have had 34 presentations reaching more than 1,975 students. The presentations have ranged from single class to large group fair type opportunities. Teachers love ambassadors coming in to reinforce or introduce their units. Students love the change of pace and the information the ambassadors have to share. Here is a sample of the cards of appreciation students sent to **Bill Kessinger, Stine Seed** after his presentation.

Ambassador Opportunities:

Illinois:

Berkley- April 20
Burbank-end of April
Chicago Ridge-any Thursday in April
Glenwood-flexible
Joliet-April 10,12, 17 or 19
Lockport-April or May
Marion-April 16-27
North Aurora-April or May
Northlake-Friday, April 13 12-3 p.m.
Oak Lawn-April 19, 20, 26, 27 or May 3, 4, 10, 11
Rochester-flexible
Sherman-April
Tinley Park-April 23, 27 or May 7,9

Indiana:

Highland-first two weeks in May
LaPorte-April 9-27

Kansas:
Springhill-May10

Michigan:
Detroit-April 25
Lincoln Park-May 21-25 or June 4-5
Macomb-flexible
Pontiac-May 8, 9, 15, 17, 22, 23
Port Huron-April 27 or 28
Rochester Hills-flexible

Minnesota:
Columbia Heights-April 4-20
Maple Grove-May

Missouri:
Clayton-April 19
Columbia-April 16-May 24
Kansas City-May 2
Tipton-May 11
Troy-April 16-18, 24, or 30

Nebraska:
Clarkson-end of April
Omaha-flexible

Ohio:
Grove City-April 2-6,17,23-26,30 or May
Westerville-April 2-30 or May 1-22

Wisconsin:
Cudahy-May
Milwaukee-April or May

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WATER ISSUES

"Last month, in my first update as MACA's water consultant, I briefly discussed the lawsuits in Florida which focus on numeric nutrient water quality standards" reports **MACA's Water Consultant Steve Taylor**. Today, the battle is on

our doorstep in the heart of the MACA region.

On March 13th, several environmental groups filed two lawsuits against the EPA. One lawsuit seeks to require EPA to force municipal wastewater treatment plants to make very costly renovations to reduce the amount of nutrients in wastewater. This lawsuit is intended to drive a wedge between our city neighbors and agriculture. And, unfortunately, it is working as they planned. The National Association for Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) released a press release in response to the litigation stating that "NACWA calls on these organizations to abandon this litigation and join with us to focus our efforts where the impact will be the greatest: on agricultural operations that account for up to 90 percent of the nutrient pollution problem in the Gulf of Mexico." The other lawsuit is to require EPA to force states in the Mississippi River basin to adopt numeric nutrient water quality standards. This is very similar to the initial lawsuit that was filed in Florida.

On the national policy level, MACA continues to engage these issues through its affiliation with the Agricultural Nutrients Policy Council (ANPC) and the Federal Water Quality Coalition (FWQC). In my discussions with both these groups, I know there is consideration of intervening in this Midwest lawsuit as was done in the Florida lawsuit. On a more 'on-the-ground' level, MACA is engaging this issue in a pro-active manner looking at real steps that can be taken as far as reducing nutrient runoff from agricultural fields. Recently, I attended a 'Nutrient Summit" that was hosted by The Fertilizer Institute, the Agricultural Retailers Association, and others. The Summit focused on the '4R' program as a way to reduce nutrient runoff while keeping agriculture profitable. More information on the '4R' program can be found at http://www.nutrientstewardship.com/. The Summit also provided case studies of programs in states within the MACA region such as Ohio, Illinois, and Minnesota. For the latest on what is happening on this issue in Minnesota, see the update provided in this newsletter by Bill Bond of the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers.

Again, the issue of nutrient management has the potential to affect all of agriculture and all MACA members throughout the region. For this reason, we'll stay on this issue and keep you abreast of the latest.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership checks are still coming in to the MACA office. Thanks to the 55 members for their continued support! A summary of the **MACA Initiatives & Achievements for 2010-2011** have been posted on the website.

SHORT NOTES

- **MACA President Matt Wagner** and I were on the road last week reaching out to MACA members in the Indianapolis area. We started off with a visit to **Matt's employer - Banjo Corporation**, then met with **Elisha Modiset Kemp** and **Anton Arnoldy** from **Dow AgroSciences**. We headed to Greensburg, IN to visit the headquarters of **KOVA Fertilizer**. While there we talked with **Larry Huff** and **Brad Reed**. On our way back to Indy we stopped and had lunch with **Jim Jay, Cheminova**.

Matt Wagner, Banjo Corporation

President Matt Wagner, Brad Reed and Larry Huff, KOVA Fertilizer.

- **Office Assistant Jean Jochum** and **I** visited **CropLife Ambassador Coordinator Janet Braun** on March 22 as she continues her recovery from a stroke in January 13. She is up, walking around and continues her rehab. Her left side is still numb so she is working on that. Please keep her in your thoughts. Cards can be sent to Janet Braun, 3406 Haliday Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118.
- We're up and running on LinkedIn with a MACA group thanks to **Matt Miner, Junge Control**. Please join us by clicking here https://www.linkedin.com/uas/login. LinkedIn operates the world's largest professional network on the Internet. As of February 9, 2012,

LinkedIn had more than 150 million members in over 200 countries and territories.

- Congratulations to **Kathy Zander, Executive Director, South Dakota Agri-Business Association (SDABA),** on her recent election as the state association rep to the MACA Board of Directors. She replaces **Steve Taylor, MO-AG**, who is now the MACA Water Consultant. Kathy is a SDSU graduate and has worked for the SDABA for the last 16 years and was a sales rep for Velsicol Chemical Company.

- Please welcome **Courtney McBay** to MACA! Courtney is working as a social media intern - helping with the MACA Facebook and tweeting. She's a sophomore at the University of Missouri - Columbia. She grew up in St. Louis and is pursuing agriculture education/leadership. She met with **MACA VP Jason Paris**, a member of the Crop Production Issues Committee and will be working on developing "Best Practices for Social Media Avenues" to build brand awareness. She'll be attending the committee meetings in June. Please check things out on Facebook and Twitter

- Best wishes to **Hylon Kaufmann**, formerly with **GfK Kynetec**! Her position was eliminated in early March. Her personal email is hylon@unwiredbb.com.
- The **Agricultural Field Crops Matrix** has been updated and is posted on the members' only website. It shows and compares the various pesticide fees for the 13 midwestern states. Click here.
- In early March, President Obama announced his intent to appoint Dr. **Sonny Ramaswamy** as director of the Agriculture Department's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. This position is a six-year presidential appointment and does not require Senate confirmation. Dr. Ramaswamy will succeed Dr. **Roger Beachy**, who resigned from the position last year. Dr. Ramaswamy was a former neighbor of **MACA President Matt Wagner**....it's a small world!
- **DuPont** set a new record in 2011 with 910 new U.S. patents granted - an increase of 8 percent over 2010. Their focus is science to meet customers' and market needs in food, energy and protection. The Patent Board ranked DuPont at the No.1 innovator in the chemical industry for the fifth consecutive year in its Patent Scorecard.
- **CropLife America President/CEO Jay Vroom**

stopped by the MACA offices on Friday, March 22 for an update on MACA work. It was good to visit with Jay and share ideas.

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Forward email