MID AMERICA CROPLIFE ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATE

June 2012

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June - Have you ever wanted to see Busch Stadium behind the scenes, and learn how they keep the grass looking so green and in such good shape? Then make plans to join MACA for the MACA Quarterly Meetings June 6 and 7. Read below for the special evening of fellowship that is planned for June 6 and reserve your place today.
June

In the meantime, the Distribution & Environment (D&E) Committee has been busy developing a "Seed Warehouse & Distribution Center Audit." The document is designed to (i) provide assistance in evaluating public (3rd party) warehouses' qualifications to receive, store, inventory and ship Seed products and (ii) identify any areas for improving procedures and safety at any such public warehouses. The Committee will be making its final review of the document at the meeting on June 6 and presenting it to the board for their approval on June 7.

We're also in the midst of plans for the 2012 MACA Annual Meeting. Look for the registration brochure which was mailed out June 1.

Until next month, have a great spring!

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The **Mid America CropLife Association (MACA)** quarterly meetings will be held on **Wednesday, June 6,**

2012 MACA MEETING DATES

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
1001 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68102

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

2012, and **Thursday, June 7, 2012**, at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, 10700 Peartree Lane,St. Louis, Missouri.

Please plan to join the officers Matt Wagner, Jason Paris, Greg Reigh and David Flakne for an evening of fellowship at Busch Stadium on Wednesday, June 6. We'll be touring the stadium and learning about the care and maintenance of the grass.

To register for the meeting and to reserve a place for the Busch Stadium tour, please register at www.maca.org ASAP!

MACA 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting Committee has finalized plans for the 2012 MACA Annual Meeting set for September 4-6, 2012, at the Hilton Omaha, 1001 Cass Street, Omaha, Nebraska. This year's theme is ***"High Stakes in Omaha."***

What is the future of agriculture? The high stakes include land prices, land owner trends, rental terms and trends, politics with a Presidential election in November. The high stakes continue with Wall Street's perspective and questions about who will be the next generation of farmers, the type of personality needed to be successful and the role of educational institutions to help young people prepare for 2050.

The program kicks off on **Tuesday, September 4** with Jim Farrell, AFM, President/CEO of Farmers National Company and Chuck Conner, President & CEO, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives during *"Politics & Agriculture."*

Wednesday, September 5 is the day reserved for private business meetings or a personal development seminar in the morning. In the afternoon golf or tour are available for those who have completed their meetings. Golf this year will be at the Dodge Riverside Golf Club, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Those taking in the tour will visit Upstream Brewing Company for a tour of the microbrewery process, lunch and then a game of pool.

On **Thursday morning, September 6,** Ed Lopez, Director of Marketing for Van Eck Global will present *"A Wall Street Perspective of Agriculture"* The conference concludes with Mark Pearson, Host of "Market to Market" and "The Big Show" who will discuss *"The Future of Agriculture."*

The meeting will also include award presentations, receptions on Tuesday and Wednesday evening as well as the MACA Annual Business Meeting on Thursday morning.

STATE NEWS

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

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

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

June 17 - Happy Father's Day!

July 4 - MACA Office Closed

August 3 - MACA Board of Directors Conference Call

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

November 14-15 - Kansas Agri Business Expo, Wichita, KS

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

Kansas - On Sunday, May 20, around 7:00 pm, the Kansas legislature completed work for the 2012 session, reports **Randy E. Stookey, KARA's VP and General Counsel**. The session went 99 days, 9 more that the statutory 90 days of funding. Despite the extended length, the legislature failed to approve a redistricting map. They did approve a massive, but controversial, tax reform bill and approved a $14.6 billion dollar state budget that includes a 3% reduction in spending from last year's budget

Governor Brownback signed into law a bill that dramatically alters Kansas tax policy. The Governor and House Republican leadership tout the plan as a bold new direction in Kansas tax policy giving small businesses a badly needed shot of "adrenaline. Kansas Legislative Research Department estimates show a $2.5 billion budget shortfall by 2018 if the plan is left unaltered. The bill takes the current three bracket structure for individual income taxes (3.5, 6.25, and 6.45%) and collapse it into a two-bracket system using rates of 3.0 and 4.9 %. The bill exempts certain non-wage business income that under current law is subject to individual income tax (income reported by LLC's, Subchapter-S Corporations, and sole proprietorships). Other language increases the standard deduction amount for single head-of-household filers from $4,500 to $9,000; and for married taxpayers filing jointly from $6,000 to $9,000. Additional sections repeal tax credits currently allowed to individuals (but not to corporations) for food sales tax rebates; abandoned well plugging; adoption expenses; agri-tourism; alternative fuel equipment expenditures; assistive technology; child and dependent care expenses; child day care expenses; disabled access expenditures; environmental compliance expenditures; individual development account contributions; law enforcement training center contributions; small employer health benefit plan contributions; swine facility improvement expenditures; port authority contributions; small employer health benefit plan contributions; swine facility improvement expenditures; telecommunications property tax payments; venture capital contributions; and certain temporary assistance to family contributors.

After 99 days of political bickering and posturing, any and all attempts for both chambers to approve such maps failed. The tasks of redistricting maps now falls to a panel of three federal judges who will review maps approved by different chambers and hear from intervening parties who have a vested interest in the reapportionment. Kansas is the only state in the union to not adopt reapportionment

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another. - Erma Brombeck

News and Events are posted on the MACA Facebook page.

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maps.

The Governor approved the following water-related bills:

HB 2451, legislation which amends the appropriation act to eliminate "use it or lose it" for groundwater rights in areas closed to new water right development in order to protect those rights from unintentional forfeiture.

SB 310, a bill to provide for proactive conservation plans called Local Enhancement Management Plans, or LEMAs. LEMA plans are approved by the Chief Engineer, can include corrective measures that address conservation needs, and can require mandatory reductions if supported by the local Groundwater Management District.

HB 2516, legislation allowing for additional groundwater water banks and for a market-based program to relocate water use and provide conservation in water short areas.

SB 272, a bill amending the multi-year flex accounts to give irrigators expanded capabilities to manage their crop water use over a five-year period. This should prove to be a useful tool when water is limited.

HB 2517, a bill making permanent the water right transition assistance program which was designed to permanently retire all or portions of irrigation water rights. The pilot program was set to expire on June 30, 2012.

The House approved, but the Senate leadership refused to allow debate legislation amending the Kansas tax code to define commercial and industrial machinery and equipment (CIME) as personal property, rather than real property. Despite a heavy lobbying effort, Senate leadership was skittish to allow debate on the bill's merits and adhered to will of county appraisers. Instead, the Senate leadership has said they will ask that an interim study be conducted this summer and fall. The legislation is needed to avoid a potential massive impact on Kansas businesses. In Kansas, commercial and industrial machinery and equipment was historically defined as personal property until a recent decision by the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals (COTA) reversed that definition. The decision has proven extremely costly to businesses that have been affected, and has opened the door to county appraisers across the state to be able to assess and tax commercial and industrial machinery and equipment as real property rather than as personal property. The bills would amend K.S.A. 79-102 of the tax code to ensure that commercial and industrial machinery and equipment continue to be assessed and taxed as personal property rather than as real property.

KARA is still working with the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the and State Chief Boiler Inspector regarding newly revised inspection criteria for bulk anhydrous ammonia storage tanks.

Wheat harvest has begun in warmer, drier portions of

the state. A few weeks ago the Wheat Quality Council tour estimated a 2012 wheat crop of 403.8 million bushels. Due to lack of moisture, however, estimates have been reduced to 365 million bushels. Corn, soybeans and milo continue to be planted or have already emerged, and canola seems to be competing with sunflowers as a rotation crop.

Minnesota - "The legislature adjourned in May with the major achievements including a Vikings stadium," says **Bill Bond, Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR)**, a bonding bill, an Ag Omnibus bill with Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) requested policy language on pesticide fees and grain warehousing policy and bonding changes but little of significance for MCPR members.

We are involved in TMDL battles with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the MDA Nitrogen BMP Advisory Committee is revising the BMPs with some suspecting that some MDA staff are leaning toward mandatory rules rather than voluntary BMPs, and the Ag Certification initiative advisory committee will soon be announced with real action starting in June.

As for the crops, extreme SE Minnesota crops are emerging and soil conditions are good, SW and West Central MN experienced 5" to 7 " downpours recently making replanting corn a discussion item, and dry conditions in NW MN but all crops in.

Look for a summer contest to recruit new ambassadors coming soon!

CropLife AMBASSADOR Network

As school gets out, swimming pools open and we find the summer heat upon us, the 2011-2012 school year quickly fades. This school year we had 59 ambassadors giving 78 presentations. Which is great but, we did have over 60 requests that we were unable to fill. Most unfilled request were due to lack of ambassadors. So..... I am asking for help from all of you. If you have fellow employees that you think would be interested in our program, please either talk to them or forward their contact information to me and I will give them a call. We get such positive feedback from students and teachers (see below) I would love to be able

to fill every request. Not to mention, so many of you have shared how much you enjoy the classroom opportunity once you get there. Finding the time to head out to the classroom is a challenge; however it is important and has so many benefits to our industry.

> Wendy was perfect! She did a great job of relating her own personal experiences to agriculture. She was well prepared and kept my students engaged throughout the presentation. I could download the powerpoint to use myself but the message was much more powerful coming from Wendy! Thank you. Midway Heights Elementary, Columbia, MO 4th grade.

We are working on compiling feedback received from teachers and ambassadors about the current power point presentations. If there is something you feel is missing or needs updating to one or more of the presentations, please let me know. If you have information or pictures you add to your presentation that can be shared please contact me at diane@maca.org.

The CropLife Ambassador Network Facebook page has been updated - Please

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WATER ISSUES

"During this past month, there has been a great deal of activity regarding the lawsuit that the environmental groups filed against EPA which intends to force EPA to establish numeric nutrient criteria for states within the Mississippi River Basin," reports **MACA's Water Consultant Steve Taylor,** "First, the court has granted the Federal Water Quality Coalition (FWQC) the right to intervene in the lawsuit. **MACA** is a member of the FWQC and is joining other FWQC members in the intervention effort. The court has also granted another motion to intervene filed by various agricultural groups. Also in the past month, the EPA filed court papers that deny that the environmental group's request should be granted. However, EPA did admit the group's allegations that nutrient pollution contributes to a "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico.

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), which represents point source dischargers, has also filed a motion to intervene. Unfortunately, NACWA appears to be using this court action to also advance its agenda to place more regulatory burdens upon non-point

sources of nutrient runoff and specifically targets agricultural sources. In their legal filing, NACWA stated "Moreover, NACWA has long been an active advocate for a fair and balanced program to control nutrients in the nation's waters. By far the greatest contribution to those nutrient loadings is runoff from so-called "non-point" sources, including agriculture, that typically are not regulated under NPDES permits."

Finally, there are on-going discussions amongst several Mississippi River basin states as to whether the states themselves will intervene. The idea is to avoid massive expenditures of state resources such as the State of Florida has been forced to do as it responds to EPA's numeric criteria. Speaking of Florida, EPA has proposed to extend the effective date for implementing numeric criteria. This is seen as generally positive as it will allow Florida time to establish its own standards.

Moving on to Great Lakes issues, we still expect a major announcement on an updated Great Lakes Agreement at any time. Meanwhile, the International Joint Commission of Canada and the U.S. recently announced its priorities for 2012-2015 which include removing nutrients from Lake Erie, assessing progress on restoring the Great Lakes, and improving access to data. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will be awarding approximately $20 million to restoration projects which include projects to reduce polluted runoff from agriculture. It is expected that EPA will announce in July the specific projects that are receiving funding.

SHORT NOTES

- We're up and running on LinkedIn with a MACA group. Please join us by clicking here https://www.linkedin.com/uas/login. LinkedIn operates the world's largest professional network on the Internet.
- Dr. John M. Bonner, who has served as the Executive Vice President and CEO of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) since July 2005, will be retiring effective January 31, 2013 to pursue other interests and spend more time with family.
- ***"High Stakes in Omaha"*** is the theme for the **2012 MACA Annual Meeting.** The **Registration Brochure** was mailed out this week - look for the details on the program speakers, private meetings, golf tournament, industry tour, and hotel details. Hope to see you in Omaha!
- If you are interested in serving as an officer or as a member of the MACA Board of Directors, please

contact one of the members of the **Nominating Committee - Dave Flakne, Chairman; John McKinney, Duane Mol or Tim Stoehr**. The elections are held at the MACA Annual Meeting set for September 6, 2012 at the Omaha Hilton, Omaha, NE.

- This year at the MACA annual meeting, 20 minute private consultations with the personal financial seminar speakers - **Matt Gulseth, Channel Financial, and Kelly Olson Pedersen, Channel Financial Wealth** - will be available to those who reserve a slot. Contact the MACA office to reserve your time slot on Wednesday, September 5!
- **Syngenta** has taken an important step to end the uncertainty and expense resulting from the lawsuits filed nearly eight years ago by a number of community water systems concerning our critical crop protection product atrazine. Syngenta has made the business decision to settle the case. If approved by the Court, this settlement will allow Syngenta to focus on serving its customers' needs, and farmers will be able to continue to realize the benefits of atrazine to agriculture, the economy and the environment. Syngenta acknowledges no liability. And, despite almost eight years of litigation, the water systems involved were never able to come up with any new scientific studies relating to the safety of atrazine. The scientific facts have always been clear. No one ever has or ever could be exposed to enough atrazine in water to affect their health. The settlement does not change the regulatory status of atrazine or its current labeled uses. Growers will still be able to use the product as they always have.
- The MACA membership and staff express their condolences this week to Bonnie McCarvel and her family on the death of her mother.

Bonnie McCarvel, Executive Director
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