MID AMERICA CROPLIFE ASSOCIATION

To research public issues relating to crop production and to work together
to improve the crop life cycle
via health, safety and public education.

NewsUpdate

March, 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

Quarterly Meeting - February

AGRIAN

C.A.N.

Water Issues

State News

Membership Matters

Short Notes

QUICK LINKS TO MACA WEBSITE

2012 - 2013 NewsUpdates
members only section-
username and password
necessary

MARCH 2013 - Snow, sleet and rain have provided all sorts of trouble the past week or so in the Midwest. But as I talked with several members this week, most were pleased with the moisture and did not care what form it came in. As a result, the Mississippi river is higher which is good for the entire country. Let's hope the moisture continues! While spring will be here in no time, this is a great time to think about volunteering for the CropLife Ambassador program. School children across the country need to know about the safe and abundant food supply that US farmers provide. Isn't it worth a couple of hours to talk with students about the importance of agriculture and how it impacts their daily life? Look below for the details on how you can get the message out to students!

FEBRUARY QUARTERLY MEETING

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) held its quarterly meeting Thursday, February 7, 2013, at Hotel Lumiere, St. Louis, MO and took the following actions:

More About MACA

QUICK LINK TO C.A.N. WEBSITE

CAN Home Page

Like us on Facebook

CALENDAR

September 3-4-5 - 2013 MACA Annual Meeting at the Omni Interlocken Resort, Broomfield, Colorado

Send to a Colleague

MACA OFFICERS 2012-2013

Jason Paris
President

Greg Reigh
Vice President

Tom Quade
Secretary/Treasurer

Matt Wagner
Immediate Past President

- Approved the November 8, 2012 Secretary's report;
- Accepted the Treasurer's Report as presented.
- Reviewed the financial management guidelines and modified them to allow for investments in stocks.
- Reviewed plans including speakers and topics for the 2013Annual Meeting Committee;:
- Discussed the status of the MACA Young Leader Scholarship Program to recognize a student from each of the 13 land-grant universities in the region to provide a scholarship to them plus attend the MACA Annual Meeting.
- Heard short overview of Agrian label sorting system and what it means to the industry from Jim Thrift, consultant for Agrian;
- Approved three new members -
    - Helm Agro US, Inc. as a basic manufacturer
    - Agrian, Inc. as an allied member.
    - IBC North America/Clean Tide Container as an allied member
- President Paris announced the formation of a Dues Task Force to review the status of MACA dues. Members of the task force include Tom Quade - Chair, Neil Cleveland, Greg Reigh, Al Strohmaier, Matt Wagner, Doug Den Adel and Paris as an ex-official member.
- Water Consultant Steve Taylor provided a brief overview of the issues which he has been working on behalf of MACA and their impact.
- Kellie Bray, CLA, proved an update on the CLA 2013 issues.
- Congratulated **Dan Vest of GROWMARK** on his upcoming retirement on March 31. Vest has been attending MACA meetings for more than 25 years and has served as REI Committee chairs for several years plus as a member of the board of directors. President Paris thanked him for his many years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

- June 5 is the date for the next committee meetings followed by a Cardinal's baseball game;
- The Board of Directors will meet on June 6 beginning at 7:30 am Central Time.

Crop Production Issues Vice Chair Tim Riley welcomes Gunther Kreps, CPS, to the committee meeting.

Agrian consultant Jim Thrift makes a point during his presentation with the Crop Production Issues Committee.

MACA AND AGRIAN TEAM UP TO HOST SUPPLIER LABELS ON THE MACA SITE

Agrian, the nation's most widely adopted cloud-based agridata record keeping and reporting system, has offered the MACA members the ability to access the Agrian label database on the association's website as an added technology benefit to MACA members. The Agrian label database is the largest and most robust label database in the nation and the offer is at *no cost to MACA member companies*. The **Agrian link** is on the **MACA homepage** under **Resources**.

Agrian's label database is backed by over 270 manufacturers with over 6,000 manufacturers approved, indemnified labels. Each label entry features general information, crop specific label information (rate, REI, PHI), state registration, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Department of Transportation (DOT) information. Agrian also features an advanced searching capability enabling users to search by product type, manufacturer, registered state, active ingredient, organic products only, registered crop and registered pest.

The Agrian database is dynamic with new product additions and updates taking place on a daily basis. Each and every label receives careful review and accepted from manufacturers giving those involved in agronomy the assurance that the information provided is accurate and reliable. The system is comprehensive, easy to use, and can be accessed by laptop, notebook or iPhone.

The massive adoption by western agronomists, food processors, retailers, distributors, growers, applicators and manufactures is a true testament to the usability and benefits of this system.

The goal is to provide an added benefit to MACA membership while driving more traffic to the MACA site. For questions call the MACA office or Andriana Majarian @ Andriana@agrian.com or via phone at 559-492-5510. Agrian was founded in 2004 in Fresno, California and now has 60 employees serving the agricultural industry. The system is widely used by a broad base of agricultural customers.

CropLife Ambassador Network

CropLife AMBASSADOR Network
we CAN: connecting youth with agriculture

Baby it might be cold outside, but CAN is warming up for a busy spring. Our mailer went out last week and the new requests are pouring in. So check the website for a

JOKE OF THE MONTH:

"What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover?

A rash of good luck." ~ Author Unknown

school near you that is looking for some ag education.

It has come to my attention that when checking the website you don't see what I see. I have a column where I add the name of the ambassador that has filled a request. However, that column is unavailable to all of you. So if a request has been filled, I will post **"FILLED"** in the middle green column where the grade level and number of students are listed. If you don't see **"FILLED"** in the green column, the presentation is up for grabs. So grab it!! I have updated the website so you can see which posts are still available. But here is the most recent list:

- Des Plaines, IL (Cook County)
- Kings, IL (Fowler Ogle County)
- O'Fallon, IL (St. Clair County)
- Connersville, IN (Fayette County)
- Holly, MI (Oakland County)
- Amazonia, MO (Andrew County)
- Old Monroe, MO (Lincoln County)
- Cleveland, OH (Cuyahoga County)
- Parma, OH (Amherst County)
- Perrysburg, OH (Wood County)
- Barneveld, WI (Iowa County)
- Milwaukee, WI (Milwaukee County)
- Racine, WI (Racine County)
- Wauwatosa, WI (Milwaukee County)

WELCOME!
I would like to welcome some new ambassadors! We are happy to have you joining our team! Welcome to **Greg Clifton, Terry Drottz, Jodi Heath, Joe Olson, and Dr. Randy Simonson** all from **Helena Chemical Company**.

THANK YOU!

A big thanks goes to **Greg Reigh, BASF; Sam Germer, RCI; and Monsanto Company** for their recent donations to the CAN program. Your generosity is very much appreciated!!

Diane Orf - Program Manager
314-849-9446
Diane@MACA.org

Like us on Facebook

CropLife Ambassador Network
Mission: To provide scientifically based, accurate information to the public regarding the safety and value of American agricultural food production

WATER ISSUES

"In past updates, I've discussed the issues we are facing regarding the Great Lakes," says **MACA's Water Consultant Steve Taylor**. Of particular note, there is a significant, new effort to reduce "chemicals of mutual concern (CMCs)" into the Great Lakes. The goal is to create a process for identifying CMCs and requiring virtual elimination and zero discharge. At the same time, various groups are advocating for chemical substitution and regulatory agendas to promote newer, "SAFER" chemistry. Some chemical assessment tools of unknown scientific validity are being used to advance substitution agendas. Because of these concerns, MACA supported a workshop which was held in Washington D.C. on February 12th at the American Chemistry Council. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to respond to this situation. The meeting was well attended and action items are being developed. Please expect to see more on this in future updates.

As a member of the Agricultural Nutrient Policy Council (ANPC), MACA provided comments this month to that group's steering committee regarding ANPC's future work plan. Amongst its comments, MACA applauded ANPC's proposal to help individual states go on the offensive and expand their ability to operate under the Clean Water Act's 'Federalism model'. The CWA actually supports each state's right to chart its own course which is a fact that seems to be sometimes forgotten. Regarding issues of water quality within the borders of the state, the CWA recognizes the states authority to addressing these issues as the state sees fit. ANPC could also help states focus more on non-regulatory programs and create a framework that puts emphases on agronomic sound, practical and economic approaches to addressing water quality concerns.

MACA also expressed concern to ANPC regarding proposals that would result in a significant loss of highly productive agricultural land. Recently in Iowa for example, a nutrient reduction plan has been put forth which could result in more than 500,000 acres of highly productive agricultural land being turned into wetlands and wildlife habitat. Regarding "Certainty" programs that are being developed in Minnesota and other states, MACA commended ANPC's recent work and urged ANPC to continue to monitor federal/state certainty efforts to

insure these programs do not become regulatory in nature or that the federal government does not assume authority over these programs.

MACA will continue to engage in this issue and keep you informed.

STATE NEWS

OHIO - "The Ohio biennial budget process has begun," says **Christopher Henney, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ohio AgriBusiness Association.** Early February saw Governor John Kasich introduce his proposal followed by the House's version (HB 59) last week. Gov. Kasich is proposing sweeping changes to Ohio's sales tax with increases on many services that were not previously subject to sales tax. This increase is intended to offset a planned decrease in the state's income tax over the next three years. Both parties have proponents and opponents of the plan. The governor has also introduced a new school funding plan with mixed support. Agriculture fares relatively well at this point with custom ag work still exempt from the proposed sales tax expansion. We are monitoring the budget process and pressing for adequate funding for our department of agriculture and funding of agricultural research and development within our land grant school.

There are no new regulations at this time, but a lot of discussion regarding the licensing of fertilizer applicators. This is in response to increased algal blooms in Western Lake Erie and a number of other lakes in Ohio. The Ohio agricultural community, including OABA, has been very proactive on the water quality front. The 4R Nutrient Stewardship principles serve as the base of all conversations and activities in Ohio. Our Department of Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture have both publicly embraced the 4Rs and have incorporated them into their activities.

Winter 2013 has been much colder and snowier in Ohio than 2012. The OABA staff has been very busy with a multitude of winter meetings, as I say to many of our members this is our planting and harvest season combined!

NEBRASKA - "The Nebraska Legislature has presented us with one of the most busy years that we can remember," reports **Alice Licht, Executive Vice President & Legislative Director, Nebraska Agri-Business Association**. The utilities have had a bill introduced that would resurrect the One Call Digger's Hot Line requirement for all soil samples and moisture testing. The Governor had two bills introduced which would have removed sales tax exemptions on all products, which would have included ag chemicals, fertilizer and seed. Luckily, he has asked to have

them withdrawn after a massive lobbying and grass roots effort by all businesses and agriculture in Nebraska. Pesticide label fees for agriculture will be reduced from $200 to $160 dollars under a bill introduced by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The grape vineyards have introduced legislation to require buffer zones of one mile for ground and four miles for aerial applications of 2,4-D and other phenoxy products.

We hosted a meeting of all ag groups dealing with the 2,4-D issue and hopefully we can send it to a summer study. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture indicates Drift Watch is something that may be helpful in this situation.

There are several other bills still in abeyance, but hopefully we'll keep the problems under control. We have a great membership who have been attending meetings, testifying and helping us with their contacts to our elected officials.

We desperately need moisture in Nebraska. We'll take it in the form of snow, sleet, water or even a monsoon at this point. Our retail community remains strong with crop insurance helping out our producers in non-irrigated areas.

MINNESOTA - "On February 20, 20 Rep. Rick Hansen amended his own bill, H. F. 151, a bill for an act relating to agriculture that increased the pesticide gross sales fees for agriculture by .1% for five years and dedicating the proceeds to updating pesticide applicator education and certification and requiring MDA progress reports," says **Bill Bond, Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers Association**. The amendment eliminated the pesticide fee increase but maintained the requirement that the MN Department of Agriculture (MDA) update the pesticide training manuals and make reports to the legislature in 2015 and 2017. Rep. Hansen indicated that the MDA had agreed to make the manual improvements within their current budget and so he would not seek additional revenue from the pesticide fee increase. The amendment was added to address questions that were raised last week in the Agriculture Policy hearing on this bill. In a related development, a companion bill, S.F. 550, containing identical language to the H.F. 151 was introduced in the Senate. The Senate version of the bill is authored by Senator John Marti. MCPR will be working to get the same amendment to H.F. 151 eliminating the pesticide fee increase to be added to S.F. 550.

In addition, Gov. Mark Dayton's sales tax expansion includes ag consulting services but not ag products.
During Governor Dayton's State of the State address he announced his recommendation to adjust the sales tax base to "better align it with the 21st century economy" such that the state sales tax rate would be reduced by 20 percent to 5.5 percent and the sales tax base would be expanded in FY2014-15. Revenues from the base expansion would be used in his proposal to reduce the existing sales tax rate on all items. He further indicated that broadening the sales tax base will help stabilize the state budget by providing a more reliable revenue source for funding public services. His adjustments to the sales

tax base include applying the sales tax to:

1) affiliate nexus sales, digital goods, parallel taxation of direct satellite services and remote access software for an increase in General Fund revenue of $31.2 million in FY 2014-15;
2) selected goods and consumer services, including clothing on items over $100, admissions and memberships, over-the-counter drugs, personal care services and instruction, legal, accounting, and auto and other repair services for an increase in General Fund revenue of $1.06 billion in FY 2014-15; and
3) business services, such as legal, accounting, architecture, specialized design, computer, management consulting, advertising, employment, and business support services for an increase in General Fund revenue of $3.2 billion in FY 2014-15.

In addition, under his proposal tax exemptions for selected items will be repealed, such as telecommunications equipment, court reporter documents, advertising materials and publications, for an increase in General Fund revenue of $134.5 million in FY 2014-15. The sales and use tax changes would be effective for purchases made after January 1, 2014. Governor Dayton advocates expanding the sales tax base to make possible a reduction in the sales tax rate. He estimated that Minnesota's sales tax rank among states would decline from 7th highest to 27th and advised that the change would reduce the number and amount of tax expenditures thereby simplifying Minnesota's tax code. While the Governor apparently did not lift the current exemptions on agriculture product sales, he did expand the sales tax to ag consulting services. MCPR will not have more details until the proposed legislation developed based upon the Governor's proposals is submitted to the legislature in bill form. This is scheduled to occur within ten days. MCPR is huddling with other agriculture associations to evaluate the budget details over the next couple of weeks. The obvious consequence of the Governor's proposal will be the awkward dilemma of consulting agronomists/crop consultants/ crop advisors who do not include product sales in their invoices being compelled to start collecting sales tax on their services. One can only envision a real mess if this proposal becomes law. MCPR has for years had a policy of opposing a state sales tax on fertilizer and crop protection products used in agriculture. Click here http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/narratives2013 to read a Minnesota Office of Management and Budget agency level narrative of Gov. Dayton's proposed budget tax proposals and click here http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/doc/budget/narratives/gov13/tax-policy/index.pdf to read the detail on the expansion of the business to business sales tax.

Bill Bond's advice is to stay informed but also stay calm as this proposal has a "long , longgggggg way to go before it

becomes law." Meanwhile, MCPR is rolling up both sleeves to protect member interests.

As for the winter, Bond says, "Its cold, snowy, hey...it's Minnesota. If I don't like snow and cold...I'm living in the wrong state!"

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership renewals for 2013 continue to come in. At this time, 50 members have renewed their membership and applications for membership are in the process of being submitted. Thanks!

SHORT NOTES

- **WeatherPlot™** - Six member companies have signed up for the 2013 year. **BASF, Bayer CropScience ,CPS, FMC, Helena Chemical Company and Monsanto** use the program. If you have an interest in signing up for the 2013 WeatherPlot™ growing season contact bonnie@maca.org. **WeatherPlot™** is a site-specific historical weather database developed to provide nearly field-level assessments of hourly or daily weather conditions to Agribusinesses or other industries affected by weather.
- Remember, The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) recently hosted a webinar **"Mini Bulk / IBC Container Compliance and Recycling - Best Practices from TPSA."** You can view the 60 minute archived webinar by clicking here http://video.webcasts.com/events/meis001/45067/
- **MACA President Jason Paris** - at work in Arkansas. Jason had a great time while his dog just sat back and relaxed!

- **Top Retailers Aren't Just Making a Living. They're Making a Difference. Environmental Respect Awards Entry Deadline is March 16.** Retailers, land management professionals and past winners will have until March 16 to send in their entries for the 2013 Environmental Respect Awards. The ag industry's highest recognition for environmental stewardship, the awards honor ag retail businesses for excellence in site design, in-plant storage and handling, emergency preparedness and industry leadership. Thousands of ag retail businesses have taken the

Environmental Respect Self-Audit, proof that top retailers aren't just making a living. They are making a difference. Your business can enter online at www.environmentalrespect.com or call the Environmental Respect office at 440-602-9131 to have a Self-Audit Booklet mailed.

- **Mike Maranell** has been named Interim Executive Director of the **Agribusiness Association of Iowa** by the Board of Directors. Maranell will oversee the associations operations until the search for a new Chief Executive Officer has been completed.
- Thanks to **RCI** for a $200 contribution to help the CropLife Ambassador Network program reach more students!

Sincerely,

Bonnie McCarvel
Executive Director
Mid America CropLife Association
11327 Gravois Road, Suite 201
St. Louis, MO 63126
Phone: 314-849-9446
Bonnie@maca.org

September 3-4-5 - 2013 MACA Annual Meeting at the Omni Interlocken Resort, Broomfield, Colorado