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

November 2013

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November - Baseball has been front and center in St. Louis for most of October. The Cardinals have certainly provided a change of pace and some entertainment. So no matter where you are, I hope you have watched a game or two and enjoyed it. While at Busch Stadium in early October for a game, I smiled to myself as I realized MACA had been on the field thanks to a tour. So as you can tell, the days of summer are passing quickly as each day as I walk after work, it keeps getting darker a little bit earlier each day. As the seasons cycle, so does the work at MACA. So now is the perfect time to step up and get involved as we're planning for programs for 2014. Please join the new officers and board of directors next week at the committee and board meeting November 6-7 in St. Louis. Don't let the weather get you down, remember your ideas and suggestions are welcome!

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CALENDAR

November 5 - Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Annual Meeting and Speakers Conference, Minneapolis Convention Center

November 20-21 - *Kansas Agri Business Expo,* Wichita, Kansas

November 28-29 - Happy Thanksgiving! MACA Office Closed

December 3 & 4 - North Dakota Ag Expo, Fargo Dome, Fargo, ND

December 3-5 - Ag Retailer Association Annual Conference, Miami, FL

December 10-12 - 2013 CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show, Minneapolis Convention Center and Minneapolis Hilton Hotel.

2014

January 13-16 - MABA Winter Conference &Trade Show, Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

January 14-16 - Wisconsin Crop Management Conference & Agri-Industry Showcase, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wisconsin

January 15-16 - AG EXPO, Sioux Falls

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) quarterly meetings will be held on **Wednesday, November 6, 2013, and Thursday, November 7, 2013, at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, 10700 Peartree Lane,St. Louis, Missouri.**

Please plan to join President Greg Reigh, Vice President Tom Quade, Secretary-Treasurer Phil Harms and Immediate Past President Jason Paris for a visit to Cabela's followed by dinner. Be sure to reserve your spot for the tour and dinner.

The committee meetings are on Wednesday.

The board meeting will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday morning and will be concluded by 11:00. Please plan your departures after that time.

STATE NEWS

ILLINOIS - "Harvest is moving very well," reports **Kevin "KJ" Johnson, Director of Government & Industry Relations, Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association (FCA)**. "I would say we are 3/4 done with everything. Another good week and everyone will be rapping everything up."

Yields for corn are running 240 to 140 with most in the 190 bushel range. Beans are running 70 to 40 but mostly 55 range.

As for legislation IFCA is trying to kill GMO labeling. Three hearing were held this summer on the issue.

WISCONSIN - "The harvest is going pretty much full speed in the southern part of the state, just getting

Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD

January 14-16 - 2014 *Winter Conference, Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association*

January 20-22 - IFCA Convention, **Peoria Civic Center**, Peoria, IL

January 27-29 - Nebraska Agri-Business Exposition, CenturyLink Center and Hilton Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska

February 11-12 - Agribusiness Association of Iowa and Agribusiness Showcase, Varied Industries Building on the Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, IA

MACA OFFICERS

2013-2014

President

Greg Reigh

Vice President

Tom Quade

Secretary/Treasurer

Phil Harms

Immediate Past President

Jason Paris

going in the north," says **Tom Bressner, Executive Director, Wisconsin Agri-Business Association.** Northern Wisconsin had its first freeze last week while Southern Wisconsin got its first frost October 22, at 26 degrees.

Bressner doesn't have any corn yields, but general word on the street is that it is better than expected. In soybeans, the UW Extension harvested all their soybeans in their research station test plots last week. Yields ranged from 15 to 82, with most in the upper 50's.

As for legislation, we have a bill that we wrote that we hope will go in November, but will most likely get pushed back to January. It is to restore a sales tax exemption on certain manufacturing equipment (fertilizer blending, feed milling, grain drying) that the Department of Revenue has begun using a new interpretation on in the last two years. We are also watching closely on proposed legislation to regulate road use of implements of husbandry (mainly weight and width issues).

Finally, the Governor signed a bill lowering property taxes. That is always a good thing.

MINNESOTA - **"**Harvest is going well as the weather has been generally favorable," says **Bill Bond, Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers Association**, " and the yields are better than anticipated.

Based upon a recent hearing, the Committee chair suggested a November committee meeting but no date has yet been announced. Take a look at what we are seeing in Minnesota:

Minnesota House of Representatives Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Hearing Goes After Farmers Polluting Minnesota Water - MPCA Announces a Plan to Reduce Ag Surface Water Pollution by 45%! The Minnesota House of Representatives Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee hearing on Monday, October 7, taking testimony about the dangers of nitrogen in Minnesota water and also announced a plan to reduce nitrates draining from MN ag fields into surface waters by 45%. Click here to view the 4 ½ hour hearing. To read the plan, click here. On Tuesday, October 8, 2013 this committee discussed converting forested land into crop land, updates from DNR on shoreline grants, carp, water management areas and new designs for boat launches. Near the end you will

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"This is a game to be savored, not gulped. There's time to discuss everything between pitches or between innings."

~Bill Veeck

hear in the public testimony, the last speaker, Keith McGovern, an executive with R.D. Offutt Company, provides testimony providing insight into modern potato farming practices, in direct contrast to many others at the hearing. Click here.

KANSAS - "In Kansas, temperatures were cooler than normal, with precipitation hindering harvest progress across most of the State," stated **Ron Seeber, Senior VP of Government Affairs, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA).** Rain this week in the eastern half of Kansas has slowed harvest, while several inches of snow in northwest Kansas late in the week affected some unharvested sorghum and prevented farmers from harvesting their crops.

Winter wheat planted was 87 percent, ninety-eight percent of the corn crop was mature with corn harvest 68 percent completed. Sorghum coloring was 99 percent with 36 percent harvested. Soybeans dropping leaves were 95 percent and 60 percent. Cotton with open bolls was 81 percent with three percent of the crop harvested. Ninety-nine percent of the sunflower acreage was in the ray flower dried stage and 34 percent harvested.

As for the yields, corn was an estimated 525 millions of bushels (mb,) no estimate for soybeans and sorghum was at 195mb.

Legislatively, the Agriculture Interim Committee will be looking at water issues in November. We are anticipating release of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's legislative agenda and budget requests.

We are anticipating learning more regarding the Food Safety Modernization Act regulations from the FDA.

MICHIGAN - "The harvest is progressing pretty well," according to **Jim Byrum, Michigan, President, Agri-Business Association.** "The dry beans are done, sugar beets just getting under way, soybeans well over 50%, but need a killing frost to help with green foliage and corn is also off to a good start.

The yields for dry beans are average to a bit above, but generally excellent quality, sugar beets off about 15% from last year's record yields; soybeans average and corn better than expected...pretty good yields.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

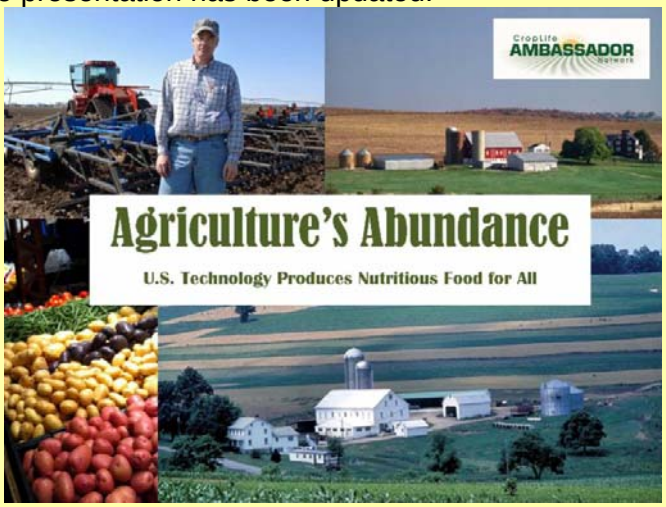
The 2014 membership invoice was mailed this week. Be sure and look for it!

CROPLIFE AMBASSADOR NETWORK

Baseball and Halloween have past and for schools the first quarter has ended or has almost ended, depending on when school started.

Teachers are getting into meatier topics and looking for new, interesting ways to present their curriculum. One of the ways they are doing that is by taking advantage of our CAN program. Please check out the website, there are lots of new posts for requests and some may be in your area or areas you travel. If there aren't any requests near you and you really enjoy presenting, feel free to share our program with family, friends or neighbors. Or share with me the names of area schools and I will be happy to market to those schools near your work or home.

Be sure and check out **"Agriculture's Abundance"** as the presentation has been updated.



Below are the cities where we have unfilled requests. If there are requests in your area that you can't help out with, please consider recruiting a coworker.

Illinois	**Kansas**	**Ohio**
Roselle	McPherson	Cincinnati
	Rilev	

Lafayette
Terre Haute

Minnesota
Lafayette

Iowa
Muscatine
Wilton

Missouri
St. Louis (2)

Thanks to all our wonderful ambassadors for all their hard work so far this school year. I hope everyone is having a great harvest and Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Diane Orf - Program Manager
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Contact Diane Orf at the MACA office on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday if you have any questions.

WATER ISSUES

"The Federal Water Quality Standards regulations are not exactly light, bedtime reading," says **Steve Taylor, MACA's Water Consultant**., "however, they are important as they are the foundation by which EPA implements the Federal Clean Water Law and assumes authority to conduct actions related to water issues.Thus, any proposed changes to these regulations are very important to MACA members.

EPA has issued proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register to change these standards and I'll highlight here just a few points of possible concern.

The current standards talk in terms of 'uses' such as 'fishable' and 'swimmable' and that water bodies must be of high enough quality to support these uses. The proposed rule states that in situations where a use is found to not be attainable, the State must specify the next highest attainable use that will apply instead. What qualifies as the "highest attainable use" is subjective and could require states to provide significant amounts of technical and scientific data to refute an EPA determination that a use is feasible.

The proposed rule would require states to examine their current water quality criteria whenever EPA issues new recommended criteria. The burden would be put on states to justify a decision to not modify criteria when

create lawsuits, such as the numeric nutrient criteria lawsuit which MACA is currently involved, to compel states to adopt criteria.

In the current law, antidegradation is broadly defined as a concept of keeping pristine waters in their current condition and broadly outlines the concept of authorizing a lowering of high water quality. The proposed rule makes state antidegradation policies expressly subject to EPA review and approval. The proposed rule establishes minimum criteria for antidegradation implementation methods that a state must meet and contains language which will make it much easier for environmental groups to file a lawsuit challenging any attempt to lower high water quality. It is easy to predict that lawsuits will be used to regulate agricultural nonpoint sources because new or increased discharges could be denied unless BMPs are implemented for agricultural nonpoint sources.

What I listed here are just some of the highlights of a very complicated rule. Many groups are considering comments and I expect MACA will be given the opportunity to sign onto comment letters. Comments are due December 3rd.

SHORT NOTES

- In early October, **Monsanto** purchased The Climate Corporation for a cash purchase price of approximately $930 million. The acquisition will combine The Climate Corporation's expertise in agriculture analytics and risk-management with Monsanto's R&D capabilities, and will provide farmers access to more information about the many factors that affect the success of their crops.
- **Jim Jenkins, Syngenta Crop Protection and Past MACA President** is the new ACRC Chairman of the Board. October 17 I met with the ACRC Board and members during their annual meeting in St. Louis to provide an update on MACA programs. It was good to meet the group and see several familiar faces - **Greg Mulhall, Albaugh; Kip Landwehr, Winfield, and Doug Hudson, Cheminova.**
- **SipcamAdvan**, announced the appointment of **Stefano della Torre** as its new Chief Executive Officer and is effective immediately. **Adam Burnhams** and **Andrew Bodane** will continue to serve as joint Chief Operating Officers.
- Congratulations to **Valent USA** on their 25th

- I had lunch with **Tom Schaefer**, **Monsanto,** recently to provide an update on MACA as he is a new board member.
- **Monsanto** began construction on a $400 million research center October 22. The Chesterfield expansion project is expected to add 675 research and development jobs to the regional economy. Construction will be completed in 2017. The research facility will add 36 greenhouses, 250 laboratories and 13 Controlled Environment Agriculture rooms to the Chesterfield.
- Brett Begemann, **Monsanto,** has been named to serve as the company's President and Chief Operating Officer. Hugh Grant will continue to serve as Chairman and CEO.
- **MFA**, one of the oldest regional farm supply cooperatives in the U.S., is celebrating 100 years in business this month. MFA has provided MACA with two presidents **Ron Utterback and Jason Paris**.

Sincerely,

Bonnie McCarvel

Executive Director

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2014 MACA Annual Meeting
September 2-3-4, 2014
The Alexander, Indianapolis, Indiana