



A monthly update from Bonnie McCarvel,
Executive Director of MACA

May 2020

May - It's time to turn the page on April and start work on some new things. Still not quite sure what that means with coronavirus but I know everyone is trying their best to adjust and adapt. But there are a couple of things to share. First, MACA leaders have stepped up and are continuing to work on MACA programs and projects. It's great to see the faces of so many of you as participation is via Zoom. Second, planning continues for the MACA Annual Meeting and the planning committee is moving ahead. While we have had to adjust a few things, work continues on the Young Leader Scholarship Program, and CropLife Ambassador Program with speakers and presentations. Read on for the details...and continue to be safe and take care of yourself.



Bonnie McCarvel
Executive
Director

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ANNUAL MEETING

The planning committee headed by **Chair Michael Lehman, Vice Chair Steve Koziolk** along with committee members **Paul Edsten, Matt Wagner, Lindsey Jackson, Tim Riley** and **Jerry Miller** are at work on the program. They hope 'Vision 2030' will be a chance to bring our industry together following the stay-at-home orders and social distancing that we are all experiencing. So while we are planning for the meeting to be held September 8-10 in St. Louis, a contingency plan is also being developed. Stay tuned for more of the details next month including the keynote and featured speakers.

JUNE QUARTERLY MEETING NOTICE

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) quarterly meetings will be held **June 15-18, 2020 via electronic services. No in person meeting in St. Louis. Meetings will be held via zoom as follows:**

Monday, June 15

- 1:30-3:30 pm: Annual Meeting Committee

Tuesday, June 16

- 10-12:30 pm: Executive Committee
- 1-4 pm: Production & Environmental Stewardship (PES)

Wednesday, June 17

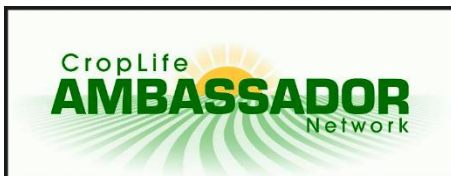
- 9 - noon: D&E
- Noon - 1:00 pm: Brown bag lunch for all via Zoom - all welcome to attend!
- 1-4:00 pm: Industry Communications
- 4:15 - 5:00 pm: Executive Committee + Committee Chair or Vice Chair
 - Provide brief recap of respective meetings.

Thursday, June 18

- 7:30 - 10:30 am: Board of Directors

Meeting information will be sent out closer to the meetings so all can participate.

CROP LIFE AMBASSADOR NETWORK



We reached out to our teachers wishing them well this spring and luck with e-learning. All CAN presentations after mid-March were cancelled due to the virus. We also were able to share with them our PowerPoint presentations to share with their students though so

hopefully they will get a little agriculture learning this spring. Looking forward to start booking speaking requests in the fall!

Please keep sending interested future ambassadors my way. They can send me an email at michelle@maca.org. They can also learn more or sign up online [here](#).



Find us on [Facebook](#) - search - CropLife Ambassador Network- CAN

Michelle Kilper
Michelle@maca.org
Program Coordinator
CropLife Ambassador Network
and Young Leader Scholarship Program
A program of Mid America CropLife Association
Phone: (314) 849-9446 or (800) 625-2767
Monday: 8 am - 2 pm
Wednesday: 8 am - 2 pm
Thursday: 8 am - 12 noon



YOUNG LEADER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The 2020 class of the Young Leader Scholarship Program (YLSP) has been selected. To learn more about the program or how you can get involved please visit our website: YLSP or email Michelle at michelle@maca.org.

The students have some great summer internships lined up. Find out where they will be this summer:

- **Illinois** - Elizabeth (Liz) Bland, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, majoring in Crop, Soil and Environmental Management with a minor in Ag Communications. Liz has a summer internship at Cass-Morgan County Farm Bureau in Jacksonville, IL. She expects to graduate in May 2021.



- **Indiana** - Emily Kuhn, Purdue University, majoring in Plant Genetics, Breeding, and Biotechnology with a minor in Horticulture. She'll be interning at BASF in Champaign, IL. She plans to graduate in May 2021.



- **Iowa** - Mara Weis, Iowa State University, majoring in Animal Science. This summer she will intern in Northern Iowa at Corteva Agriscience. Her planned graduation date is May 2021.



- **Kansas** - Katelyn (Katie) Fross, Kansas State University, majoring in Agronomy. Her internship this summer will be at Crop Quest in Montezuma, KS. She plans to graduate in May 2021.



- **Michigan** - Darren Kulicamp, Michigan State University, majoring in Agribusiness Management with a minor in Agronomy will spend his summer with Noble Research Institute in Ardmore, OK. He expects to graduate in May 2021.



- **Minnesota** - Madilyn (Maddie) Smith, University of Minnesota, majoring in Agricultural Education with a minor in Political Sciences and Communications Studies. Maddie is working on securing a new internship as her original one was cancelled due to Coronavirus. She plans to graduate in 2022.



- **Missouri** - Abigail (Abby) Bertz, University of Missouri-Columbia, majoring in Agribusiness Management will be an intern this summer at Bayer Crop Science. She plans to graduate in December 2020.



- **Nebraska** - Lily Woitaszewski, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in Agronomy with a minor in Agricultural Economics. She'll spend her summer with Corteva Agriscience working as an intern with Pioneer Seed. May 2021 is Woitaszewski's expected graduation date.



- **North Dakota** - Brendan Hanson, North Dakota State University, majoring in Crop and Weed Science (Biotechnology Emphasis) with a minor in Botany will be working for Winfield United as a Technical Seed Agronomist intern. Hanson will graduate in December 2020.



- **South Dakota** - Madeline (Maddie) Weninger, South Dakota State University, majoring in Agricultural Education and Spanish. Maddie plans on spending her summer with Corteva Agriscience as an intern at Mycogen Seeds in Wisconsin. She'll graduate in May 2021.

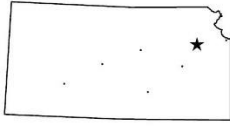


- **Wisconsin** - Ashley Nelson, University of Wisconsin-Madison, majoring in Biochemistry and Plant Pathology. Ashley will be at the Winfield Innovation Center in Wisconsin for the summer. She is looking forward to graduating in May 2021.



And thank you again to our sponsors: **Wright Distribution, Valent USA, Syngenta, Rosen's, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Nufarm, Morris Bixby, MMI, MFA, KALO, IEDS, GROWMARK, GreenLeaf, Corteva, Bayer, AMVAC, Albaugh, LLC; and Aceto.**

STATE UPDATES



KANSAS - "The Kansas legislature adjourned its regular session in March more than over a week early due the pandemic," reports **Randy Stookey, JD, Sr. VP, General Counsel, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)**. The only bills that had been passed and forwarded to the Governor were the 10 year transportation plan and the budget bill for 2021. The legislature will return at some point in May for final action in the veto session. When the legislature adopted the budget bill in March, Kansas had a very strong projected ending balance for the end of fiscal year 2021. Following the pandemic, however, the state now has a projected deficit by the end of the 2021 fiscal year. For that reason, the only legislative action that is likely to occur is the passage of an omnibus budget bill to address projected budget shortfall. Although, KARA will work with Senate Leadership for a final vote in the senate for the passage of House Bill 2432, a bill which would fund a pesticide waste disposal program from the Kansas agricultural chemical remediation reimbursement fund. This is a limited scope, good stewardship program for our industry to be run by the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture.

Regarding the coronavirus, KARA worked with our Governor early in this process to secure a truck weight waiver for essential products and services, which was defined by policy to include agricultural inputs. We were also able to receive some CDL licensing concessions for renewals and limited, appointment-only testing for seasonal drivers at state licensing offices. In addition, KARA participates in weekly conference calls with the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture for the ag community.



MINNESOTA - "The Minnesota Legislature is in session while adhering to the social distancing rules in floor sessions and committee hearings," says **Bill Bond, executive director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR)**. The projected budget \$1.5 b. budget surplus disappeared with the recently passed \$330 million bill authorizing more funding for the state to combat COVID-19. Governor Tim Walz received broad discretion on how to use that money to combat the virus when it was signed into law.

The major issue for agriculture, since the coronavirus hit, has been CDL driver's license issues as the spring season gets underway which was a heavy lift for MCPR as Minnesota once again distinguished itself as an over regulated, inflexible state government but we were able to get through bureaucratic resistance to create the licensing exceptions members needed.

Minnesota kindness was shown to Bill and his family recently. As he said, "While we were very sad to lose my 96 year old father-in-law recently, the staff at the assisted living facility which provided his hospice care enabled us to spend time with him as he passed, bending the Governor's Executive Order out of concession to his needs for family comfort." Our sympathy to Bill and his family on their loss.



WISCONSIN -"The State Assembly closed their session prior to the coronavirus shut down. The Senate was forced to cancel their last session scheduled for late March. Because of that, there are a lot of bills that will not become law, including several bills dealing with water quality," reports **Tom Bressner, executive director, Wisconsin Agri-Business Association**. We will expect to see those again in 2021.

The State of Wisconsin is under a "Safer-At-Home" Order until May 26th, or so it appears. The Legislature has filed a lawsuit against the Governor claiming that he does not have the power to extend it past May 12th. We will see where that goes. In the meantime, regardless of the length of the stay, it is a challenging time for agriculture in Wisconsin. Any kind of a government program to help farmers is welcome as agribusiness companies deal with the largest book of overdue accounts receivable on record. Seasonal employee issues are also very prevalent due to these challenging times.

People have had to be creative trying to make life as normal as possible. I have a great picture taken on Easter morning at a small Lutheran Church in Augusta, Wisconsin. Cars lined the church parking lot with their windows cracked open, while their Pastor delivers his Easter morning sermon standing in an auction truck, preaching over the loud speaker system. I am told that his sermon was delivered much slower than the auctioneer would have done. Stay safe everyone.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The 2020 membership renewals are coming in. Thus far 53 have renewed! If you know someone who should be a member of MACA, give me a call so we can discuss.

SHORT NOTES

- **CropLife America** has established a COVID-19 Resource Page on their website (<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/covid19>). This page will be updated regularly and you will find the latest agriculture/industry related details for informational purposes only. Every effort will be made to keep the links as accurate and up-to-date as possible, however, this is a dynamic situation, so please double-check government sources for new information as you are making decisions for your business.
- **Jack Dutra**, former MACA President and previously served as the MACA Water Consultant is the interim director of the 2,4-D Task Force. He's replacing Jim Gray who passed away in November.
- **The April issue of the MACA Water Update by MACA's Water Consultant Steve Taylor** focused on the EPA's easing of rules due to COVID 19 and Lake Erie bill of rights. The [update](#) explains both issues in greater detail.
- April 13 was a milestone date for **Michelle Kilpler**! Please join me in congratulating her on her five year anniversary with MACA.

- **Jim Byrum**, former **President of the Michigan Agri-Business Association**, has gone to work for Anuvia Plant Nutrients in their government affairs division.
- Kudos to **Ohio AgriBusiness Association** for their creativity. They will feature stories of businesses who are continuing to serve Ohio's farmers while also adapting to federal health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19 and are going above and beyond for their companies and customers. They will be recognized as "Heroes of Agribusiness" and featured on their social media. Their goal is to raise the awareness of the industry overall and also help spread positive messages.
- Congratulations and best wishes to **MACA Vice President Lindsey Jackson**. She left Corteva AgriSciences on April 24 and started as the Director of Operations at Epogee.
- Welcome back **Jane Hanson**! Jane was previously with **Corteva**, but is now with **Rosen's Inc.** as an associate business unit manager for their Western Business Unit.
- **The Far West Agribusiness Association (FWAA)** has named Margaret Jensen as its new Executive Director. Currently, she is employed as an Agriculture Recruiter for Ag 1 Source, and started her new position on April 15, 2020. She succeeds Jim Fitzgerald, who officially retired December 31, 2019, but has stayed on as a consultant through April 2020.
- **Chuck Lippstreu, MABA President**, is working from home like most of you and says he's planned virtual meetings thru May.
- **GROWMARK/FS** teamed up with the Illinois Corn Marketing Board and Illinois Soybean Association Checkoff Program to help distribute free hand sanitizer to ag retailers. to keep essential agriculture employees and customers safe and healthy during this pandemic.
- **Brent Sigurdson, Nufarm**, reports they are currently doing their part to stop the spread of Covid 19. Plants are running and our commercial folks are sitting tight, lots of video and conference calls.
- Take a photo of your face and [email](#) it to me - with the date taken!!! From the video conference calls I have been on lately, I think we need to have a picture of people from their 'stay-at-home' styles...some with a little additional facial hair, others with longer hair, and others trying to cover-up a gray hair or two! It would be fun and would provide a laugh or two!
- Are you looking for MACA-branded apparel and gifts? Then check out this link to for some MACA things..... [apparel](#). Thanks to **Lisa Klein, MMI**, for her help with this.
- The **MACA Office** is closed due to the coronavirus and will continue to be indefinitely as that is the order for St. Louis County which is where the office is located. Michelle, MaryEileen and I are all working from home. Please continue to mail or call the office as we are checking email and the phone. There may be a delay, but we are doing our best. If for some reason you don't get an answer - please call my cell - **314-706-4322**.

CALENDAR

2020

June 15-18 - MACA Quarterly Meetings, see schedule above, via electronic communications!

July 31 - Board of Directors Conference Call

September 8-10 - MACA Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO

November 11-12 - MACA Quarterly Meetings, St. Louis, MO

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"This is only temporary. The best is yet to come."

~ Unknown



QUICK LINKS

[MACA Website](#)

[MACA Facebook](#)

[MACA LinkedIn](#)

[MACA 2020 Meeting Dates](#)

[C.A.N. Website](#)

[C.A.N. Facebook](#)

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