MID AMERICA CROPLIFE ASSOCIATION

December 2014

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The membership renewal notice with accomplishments and an invoice for 2015 was emailed on October 30.

The first to renew was **Wright Distribution**!

Others to renew promptly were

December - What a great year it has been for MACA! As I write this, I can't help but think of the many people who have stepped up and volunteered to help with various programs and activities. It's been great. The new people who have attended recent meetings are enthused and excited about being involved with MACA. They are asking questions, making suggestions and talking with committee members and leaders. It's been great and makes a person feel good.

As I wrap up the year for MACA, on behalf of the staff, here's wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May you find time to slow down and enjoy the holidays the way you want.

Bonnie McCarvel
MACA Executive Director
Bonnie@MACA.org

MACA QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) board meeting was held

Banjo Corporation, Cascio Storage & Warehouse, CropLife Media Group, Drexel Chemical Company, Gray Logistics, Helena Chemical Company, Mauser Corporation, and MFA, Inc.

CALENDAR

December 2-4
ARA Conference & Exposition, New Orleans, LA

December 25-26
Office closed for Christmas.

2015

January 12-14
MABA Winter Conference, Lansing Center, Lansing, Michigan

January 13-15
Wisconsin Crop Management Conference & Agri-Industry Showcase Alliant Energy Center, Madison WI

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

February 4
MACA Committee Meetings
Saint Louis, MO

February 5
MACA Board Meeting
St. Louis, MO

February 10-12
TPSA Annual Stewardship Conference, Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel, Savannah, Georgia.

June 16 (Tuesday)
MACA Committee Meetings

on November 6, 2014, and the following actions were taken:

- Approved the August 1, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting minutes.
- Approved the financial reports as presented.
- Heard Jim Jenkins, Chair of the Ag Container Recycling Council, provide an update on ACRC and their plans to collect 10 million pounds in 2014 which will be the highest in program history.
- Accepted Norm Wagoner for another 2 year term on the executive committee.
- Reviewed the membership application from Iteris, Inc. with Bob Stern as the contact for an allied membership and approved as an allied member.
- Approved extending MO-AG's contract for another two years to serve as MACA's Water Consultant.
- Thanked Doug Den Adel for making it possible for the MACA members to tour their cave warehouse in Warrenton, MO on Wednesday evening.
- Approved the 2015 budget as presented.
- Set the 2015 meeting dates as follows:
    - February 4, 2015 - Committee Meetings, St. Louis, MO
    - February 5, 2015 - Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO
    - June 16, 2015 (TUESDAY) - Committee Meetings, St. Louis, MO
        - Baseball game 12:45 pm Cardinals vs. MN Twins
    - June 17, 2015 (WEDNESDAY) - Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO
    - August 7, 2015 - Conference call with Board
    - September 8-9-10, 2015 - MACA Annual Meeting, Hilton Chicago, Magnificent Mile Hotel
    - September 10, 2015 - 7:30 a.m., MACA Annual Business Meeting - Chicago, Illinois
    - November 4, 2015 - Committee meetings, St. Louis, MO
    - November 5, 2015 - Board meeting, St. Louis, MO

D&E Committee tour of Norbert Dentressangle's Warehouse.

STATE UPDATES

Saint Louis, MO

June 17 (Wednesday)
MACA Board Meeting
St. Louis, MO

September 8-10
MACA Annual Meeting,
Hilton Chicago,
Magnificent Mile Hotel,
Chicago, IL

September 11-13
MABA Outlook
Conference, Grand Hotel,
Mackinac Island

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

"

- Norman Vincent Peale

2014-2015

MACA OFFICERS

Tom Quade

President

Neil Cleveland

Vice President

Matt Ewers

Secretary/Treasurer

Greg Reigh

Immediate Past President

QUICK LINKS

Check out the newly designed MACA website!

KANSAS - **Randy E. Stookey, esq.Vice President and General Counsel, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)** reports, "we retained our Governor who, along with the Legislature, will need to work a very tight budget during the 2015 session. This means elbowing for necessary funding in certain Government inspection programs and other projects. Kansas will likely also focus on water conservation initiatives. There may also be legislation to increase the size of the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Fund. The fund is a form of check-off program which provides financial reimbursement to the responsible parties who clean-up ag chemical spill sites."

Kansas reports the following for the week of November 17, 2014.

- Production activities include fertilizer application and row crop harvest.
- Topsoil moisture rated short, 61% adequate, while subsoil moisture was rated 57% adequate.
- Winter wheat was 92% emerged, and rated 35% fair, 56% good, and 6% excellent.
- Corn was 92% harvested.
- Sorghum was 81% harvested.
- Soybean were 92% harvested
- Sunflowers were 74% harvested, behind 82% on average.
- Cotton was 35% harvested, behind 50% on average.

With one of the largest corn crops on record, we will likely be seeing corn and milo stored on the ground or in temporary storage bins across the state.

While it is always nice to be able to spend extra time with family at home, the combined realities of mobile work devices allowing work from essentially everywhere with connectivity, mixed with our current Federal Executive Administration's seemingly constant promulgation of new regulations, creates the need and ability for us to march on, regardless of old man winter.

ILLINOIS -"Harvest is pretty much complete in Illinois," says **Kevin "KJ" Johnson, Director of Government & Industry Relations, Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association**, and he estimates that 95% done with yields all over the board from 275 to 175 bushel corn. In east-central, you hear a lot of 225-240 corn. Beans are also pretty much done. Beans are running from 80 to 50. In east-central Illinois, you hear a lot of 75 to 60 bushel beans

The Illinois legislature has been in veto session this last week and will be in session the first week of December. With a new governor coming in January the Illinois General Assembly will push most major issues till January. The only big issue that might be taking up in veto session could be the increasing in the minimum wage to $11 dollar an hour. IFCA is still not sure the House has enough votes to pass the bill. The Senate does have the votes to pass the bill.

MINNESOTA - "95% of the corn is harvested, most before the major snow fall and soybeans are 98 % harvested," says **Bill Bond, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR) executive director**. Minnesota corn production is forecast at 1.29 billion bushels, 1 percent below last year's production and 3 percent below the October forecast according to the latest USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Crop Production report. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 165 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from 2013 but 5 bushels below the October forecast. Corn planted acreage is estimated at 8.3 million acres and acres to be harvested for grain is estimated at 7.8 million.

Minnesota soybean production is forecast at 305 million bushels, a 10 percent increase from the previous year, but unchanged from the

October forecast. The November 1 yield forecast of 42.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from October. Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 7.35 million acres with 7.27 million acres to be harvested.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 9.83 million tons for Minnesota, down 6 percent from the previous forecast and 11 percent below 2013. Yield is forecast at 22.6 tons per acre, down 1.5 tons from the previous forecast and 3.4 tons per acre below last year's yield. Acres for harvest are up 9,000 acres from last year, at 435,000 acres.

Minnesota fall potato production is forecast at 16.8 million hundredweight (cwt), down 3 percent from 2013. Potato yield is forecast at 400 cwt per acre and an anticipated 42,000 acres will be harvested. One key issues as a result of harvest is rail transportation is so backed up that more product is being transported for water transport by large increase in trucking

Minnesota voters restored political balance and punished the Democrats for focusing largely on metro issues and decisions with the House controlled once again by Republicans. However, Governor Dayton (Dem.) was re-elected; the MN Senate (Dem majority) did not face an election this year. The Minnesota House Republicans announced a roster of 26 House committees that put a particular focus on rural Minnesota issues. New committees include a separate Agriculture Finance Committee, to be chaired by Rep. Rod Hamilton, R-Mountain Lake. Republicans from outstate Minnesota complained bitterly two years ago when Democrats rolled agriculture finance issues into a broader Environment and Agriculture Finance Committee, which was chaired by a lawmaker from Minneapolis. Republicans also created or re-tooled several committees that seem geared toward rural Minnesota concerns. An Aging and Long-Term Care Policy Committee will be chaired by Rep. Joe Schomacker of Luverne, and comes amid concerns about lack of funding for nursing. The legislature convenes in January, 2015.

NEBRASKA - **Andy Licht, Director of Accounting, Nebraska Agri-Business Association** reports the yields were looking good as we traveled around the state for our Area Meetings in late October. There was some hail and storm damage, but otherwise guys were feeling pretty good about yields. Harvest was slowed a bit due to some moisture problems, but it sounds like everything is pretty well wrapped up now.

Half of the state legislature was up for re-election, with a number of term limited senators not able to run. With one additional senator being elected to the Auditor's office, there will be 18 new Senators out of 49 total. We are excited about many of the new faces. It is our 1st year of the two year session, so they will spend a lot time setting the 2 year budget. Bill introduction will begin January 7.

OHIO - Our legislature has been very busy since the election trying to wrap up many different pieces of legislation," reports **Chris Henney, President & CEO, Ohio AgriBusiness Association**.

One piece that significantly affects Ohio agriculture is an amendment that will limit the application of fertilizer and manure on frozen or snow covered ground. This amendment is limited to the Western Lake Erie Basin which is the northwest corner of the state. The bill exempts potash and gypsum and also allows for application if incorporated within 24 hours, is injected or is applied on a cover crop (includes wheat.) The legislation sunsets in five years unless further legislative action occurs to extend. The intent of this legislation is to help address the issue of nutrient loading in Lake Erie which has caused Harmful Algae Blooms over the last several years. As you may recall this past August, Toledo, Ohio issued a drinking water advisory due to microcystin overwhelming their water treatment plant. Microcystin is a toxin produced by the algae. While the state agricultural organizations aren't real excited about the measure, most organizations feel it is a workable proposal.

WISCONSIN - "In Southern Wisconsin, there is still about 15% of the corn in the field. Progress will be slow from here. In Northern Wisconsin, there is still 30% of the corn in the field (at 30% moisture) which is now in standing snow. Not a pretty picture. Yields have been ok for the most part.," reports **Tom Bressner, executive director, Wisconsin Agri-Business Association**.

The elections yielded even bigger margins for the Republican Party as they now have the Governor's seat, control the Senate 19-14 and the Assembly 63-36. It is a budget year, so work has already begun on preparing the 2015-16 budget. And although nothing has been made official, obvious steps are taking place to prepare for Governor Walker's run for President in 2016. We also expect Congressman Paul Ryan to run as well, so this thing could get interesting in Wisconsin.

CROPLIFE AMBASSADOR NETWORK

Burrrrrr is the only way to describe November no matter what part of the country you live. We haven't had snow in St. Louis before Thanksgiving since I was a kid. Thankfully no presentations have been cancelled yet due to weather. I filled several requests after the October update so thank you very much to Brian Miller and Brian McDaniels for volunteering!

Even though Thanksgiving has past, I thought I would share with you the cost of Thanksgiving Dinner this year was up $ .37 from last year but still under $50. The traditional Thanksgiving feast has gone from $49.04 in 2013 to $49.41 this year. Even with turkey production lower than in years past the American Farm Bureau Federation reports that consumers should have found an adequate supply. So I hope you enjoyed the holiday!

I would like to welcome the following new ambassadors to the CropLife Ambassador program: **Rick Welder of CropLife Media**, **Heather Gieseke of Meredith Agrimedia, Jerry Oxborough** retiree from the farm equipment industry and **Katie Stutsman of Dow AgroSciences**. Welcome to all of you, I hope to keep you busy.

Below are open presentations looking for an ambassador:

Indianapolis, IN Courtland, MN St. Louis, MO

While on the website looking for speaking opportunities
be sure to check out the new
Careers in Agriculture
presentation.
It is newly revised and ready for to be downloaded!!

My contact info is Diane Orf, CropLife Ambassador Program Manager at diane@maca.org or call the office at (314) 849-9446 or (800) 625-2767. My hours are Monday and Tuesday from 8 am- 2;30 pm and Thursday from 9 am-noon.

WATER ISSUES

"On November 14th, the comment period closed for one of the most contentious rulemaking ever proposed by the EPA . . . the WOTUS rule" stated Steve Taylor, MACA Water Consultant. Leading up to the 14th, I reviewed various drafts as final touches were put on comments by MACA's affiliated organizations. This includes the Federal Water Quality Coalition (FWQC), CropLife America (CLA) and the Agricultural Nutrient Policy Coalition (ANPC) organizations as well as the Water Advocacy Coalition (WAC). I'll spare you the details, but, I will say our allies did a great job covering most all of the many concerns and perspectives from various angles.

For example, the FWQC laid an excellent legal foundation for a probable future Supreme Court challenge. The fact is that EPA has put most all its eggs in the basket of Supreme Court Justice Kennedy. Some District Courts have used the Kennedy opinion as justification for its rulings. FWQC's comments make clear how this is an error stating that EPA and the Districts courts cannot assume the most expansive federal authority and must interpret Supreme Court rulings which are most narrow. FWQC states that "the proposed rule allows the agencies to assert jurisdiction over more water bodies than are covered by the Rapanos plurality, more water bodies than are covered by the Kennedy opinion, and this can hardly be said to be a "narrow" interpretation."

In their comments, CLA focuses more directly on pesticide application. CLA states that the proposed rule would add compliance and legal uncertainty for pesticide users. CLA claims WOTUS would improperly broaden federal CWA jurisdiction, complicate pesticide use and compliance requirements under FIFRA and the CWA, and increase the potential for federal enforcement and penalties, as well as citizen suits. The ANPC and WAC comments are very extensive. The ANPC groups make the general observation in their comments that the agencies' marketing campaign aimed at selling WOTUS paint two misleading and contradictory pictures between minor clarification versus a water quality crisis. In its comments, WAC plainly states that "clarity is very different from expansion."

Most all of these groups recommend the agencies withdraw the proposed WOTUS rule and engage the regulated community on a new approach. Many bet, however, that the agencies make some minor tweaks and issue a final rule which immediately will end up back in the Courts.

SHORT NOTES

- Our condolences to **MACA Immediate Past President Greg Reigh** and his family on the loss of his mother in early November. The funeral was held on Saturday, November 8.
- The 25th Annual Environmental Respect Awards program, sponsored by DuPont Crop Protection, CropLife® and Farm Chemicals International, is now accepting entries at the all-new www.EnvironmentalRespect.com.
- The **D&E Committee** heard from **Kevin Green, DuPont Crop Protection**, on regulatory issues via conference call, **Jane Hanson, Dow AgroSciences** presented information on communication between manufacturers and other in the supply chair regarding label changes and concerns; and **Sarah McLallen, CropLife Foundation**, provided an updated on CropLife StewardshipFirst.

Mid America CropLife Association works to research public issues relating to crop production and to work together to improve the crop lifecycle via health, safety and pubic education.