A monthly update from Bonnie McCarvel,
Executive Director of MACA

July 2016

July - Happy 4th of July! I hope you take time to celebrate our freedom and what it means. This month you'll also have an opportunity to see many of the 2016 Class of Young Leader Scholarship Program recipients at work at their internship. What a great experience they are having. It will be good to meet them in person in September and learn more about them!

Now is also the time to make plans to attend the 2016 MACA Annual Meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota. What an excellent line-up of speakers. Check it out and make plans to attend to learn what's new as well as connect with long time industry leaders and friends.

The June meetings for MACA were informative and well attended. Plus the group took a ride up the Mississippi River and learned a bit about its history and importance to the region. In the meantime, I hope you stay cool this summer. It's been a hot one in June as the dog days of summer arrived and surprised many people.

Bonnie McCarvel
Executive Director

MEETING SUMMARY

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) Board of Directors met on June 9, 2016, and took the following actions:

- Accepted Doug Den Adel's resignation from the board of directors on March 14, 2016. Elected **Jay Morris, Morris-Bixby** to complete Den Adel's term which ends in September 2016. Den Adel resigned from the board of directors effective March 14.
- Reviewed plans for the 2016 Annual Meeting to be held in Bloomington, MN.
- Approved the 2017 MACA Annual Meeting site at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, MO.
- Approved the D&E committee plans to update the HAZMAT training videos.
- Reviewed the 2016 Young Leader Scholarship Program (YLSP) and plans for the 2016 Class.
- Discussed the membership survey results.
- Approved **Willowood's** membership application as a basic manufacturer with Andy King as the contact.
- Approved **MMI's** membership application as an allied member with Lisa Klein as the contact.
- Reviewed a variety of issues including water lawsuits and the potential impact on agriculture. MACA's Water Consultant Steve Taylor provided an update on the value to members, the Great Lakes and FWQC efforts. Kellie Bray provided an update on CLA issues.
- Randy Stookey, KARA, provided an update on the various state initiatives in the region.
- Long Range Plan Chair Matt Ewers provided a report on the Long Range Plan by reviewing the four initiatives and their status.
- Financial Review - approved the 2016 financial review for MACA which was conducted by Filla & Filla, CPAs, P.C.
- Bylaws Update - Quade and Ewers reported that the bylaws have been drafted to reduce the board size from 15 to 12 members due to the consolidation in the industry.
- Scheduled a conference call on July 22 at 9:00 am Central time to have a vote on proposed bylaws.
- Set the next regularly scheduled meeting for Friday, August 5, 2016 at 8:00 am CDST (9:00 am EDT) as a conference call.

CLASS of 2016 YLSP RECIPIENTS in ACTION - (The remaining states will be featured in August.)

Michigan - Andrea Williams with Jim Byrum working her daily activities in the MABA office.

Missouri - "MFA Inc. and Missouri Farmers Care have kept me busy and traveling

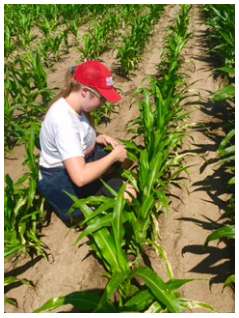
quite a bit," says Carley M. Esser

Farm Animal/Group Photo Collage:
We have seen so much success with our Ag Ed on the Move program in 3rd grade classrooms that we decided to bring the teachers to the farm to help promote education. I have been helping with these "Teacher to Farm Tours" across Missouri. We have toured event barns, wineries, cattle operations, hog operations, poultry barns, row crop operations, a robotic dairy, and the Tyson poultry processing plant.

Every Friday night home St. Louis Cardinals game Missouri Farmers Care puts on the Race to the Plate - Go Farm Team event at Ford Plaza before the game. We have Sweet Bessie (as pictured), Simon the Soybean, Captain Cornelius, and the Baconeer. We take photos with kids and families before the game and hand out information cards. After the fourth inning, the mascots race around the field.

I was given the opportunity to attend the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives conference in Washington, D.C.with the MFA Inc. Board of Directors. I researched topics and prepared the Board to have productive conversations when we visited Congressmen and women on Capitol Hill.

Nebraska - Jennifer Myers at work during her internship with Dow AgroSciences.



Taking a tissue sample of the corn leaf

Rating rows of corn in order to figure out our numbers.

Jennifer (in the red shirt) mixing up a spray to test on some corn.
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Missouri - Nora Faris is spending the summer in Washington, DC as an intern with FLM+Public Affairs.

Faris on Capitol Hill for committee hearings and legislative meetings on issues ranging from GMO labeling to international trade agreements.

North Dakota - Taylor Kemper is working Dow AgroSciences as a sales intern in ND and northern Minnesota.

Taylor using a GPS to track coordinates where she will take soil samples. The field is a wheat Instinct trial field we are looking for responses to nitrogen levels.

Taylor and sales Trainee, Karissa. We spent time together doing Proof In the Field with the chemical PerfectMatch. We spent time with the growers and retailers while they were spraying the chemical and watched them tank mix it and rode in the sprayer with them.

STATE NOTES

MICHIGAN - "Really pretty quiet, with the budget passed, grain dealers act updated, minor changes to our seed law and little beyond that will impact agriculture," says **Jim Byrum, Michigan Agri-Business Association's President.** As for regulations, there is a new electronic testing procedure for custom applicators and difficulties associated with the fallout from the Flint water problems. State officials are hesitant to make decisions and slow on regulatory matters. Inspections are tighter and more aggressive.

"What summer rain?" questions Byrum. "We are largely on the edge of a drought in much of the state, except for fortunate spots that have received rain, and not too much as some areas have seen. Lawns are dried up in central Michigan and because of the heat and wind, water loss has been more pronounced than normal, and rainfall has been sparse."

KANSAS - "In response to a Kansas Supreme Court decision regarding inequitable state funding between school districts, wherein the court threatened to disallow any funding for the next school year (effectively shutting down the school system), the Kansas Legislature conducted a two-day special session last week to find $38 million in additional revenues to bolster the $4 billion Kansas education budget," says **Randy E. Stookey, esq., Vice President, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)**. Now starts the legislative election cycle where all state representatives and senators in our legislature stand for re-election.

Nothing pressing on the state level regarding regulations, but KARA is working with state and national partners in reaching out to our Congressional delegation in support of the Roberts/Stabenow Biotechnology bill, and in submitting comments to the USEPA on its draft ecological risk assessment for Atrazine.

Kansas is more than half way through (58%) the 2016 wheat harvest, well ahead of the 37% at this time last year. Yields have ranged between 50-90 bushels per acre and test weights are averaging above 60 pounds per bushel with protein content hovering around 11-13 percent. By all accounts, this is a banner year for Kansas wheat.

WISCONSIN - "First cutting hay crop has been outstanding. Corn and soybeans look great as well," writes **Tom Bressner, executive director, Wisconsin Agri-Business Association.**

CROPLIFE AMBASSADOR NETWORK

The CropLife Ambassador Network (CAN) spring campaign has wrapped up. We had 38 Ambassadors give 57 presentations to 3,104 students. The most popular topic was Farmers: Stewards of the Land. Now I'll be busy updating presentations, reaching out to schools to get speaking requests, and adding more ambassadors to our mix.

We are looking to increase our ambassador database. Please join us! We need you! If you are interested in becoming an ambassador please send me an email at michelle@MACA.org. You can also volunteer a person from your company to be an

ambassador - just let me know their name and email and I will follow-up with them. I can get you or them set up before requests start coming in for the fall.

Please follow us and like us on Facebook. Search for CropLife Ambassador Network. Follow us on Twitter @CropAmbassador. I also created a LinkedIn group for the ambassadors and teachers. Please join the group. Search for CropLife Ambassador Network and let's start discussions today.

Michelle Kilper
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Phone: (314)849-9446 or (800)625-2767
Monday and Wednesday - 8 am-2:30 pm
Thursday - 8 am-noon

WATER ISSUES

"In my last update, I briefly mentioned that Congress was taking action to exempt pesticide applications from compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) NPDES Pesticide General Permit (PGP) program," writes **Steve Taylor, MACA Water Consultant.** Specifically, HR 897 & S 1500 is legislation that would provide this relief for pesticide applicators. During June, Congress completed their conference agreement for the FY 2017 Military and Zika Supplemental Funding package. However, HR 897 language was taken out and replaced with language that only provides an exemption for state and local control of mosquitos and only for six months.

This provision will not address the primary issues pesticide applicators face which are compliance costs and the threat of litigation from activist groups. And although this legislation has passed the House, Senate Democrats have indicated they will block the proposal due to restrictions on Planned Parenthood funding and taking away funds from Obamacare. President Obama has threatened to veto the bill. So in this election year, it appears only a very narrow window exists for this legislation. But with 5 Democrats in the Senate and 23 Democrats in the House supporting the original, broader exemption language, the window does exist. MACA will continue to work with CLA and others organizations on this issue and keep you informed.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As I write this, **54** members have renewed their 2016 membership. And there are two new members - **Willowood** and **MMI**. Welcome and thank you!

SHORT NOTES

- ***"Drive to Succeed"*** registrations are coming into the office for the **2016 Annual Meeting September 6-8 in Bloomington, Minnesota**. Here's your chance to hear from seven of the industry's leaders including **Dow AgroSciences' Ben Kaehler; Syngenta's Michael Boden, and Wells Fargo's Mike Swanson** as speakers. Plus hear **SipcamRotam's Adam Burnhams, Arysta's Rico Christensen, FMC's John Kasper,** and **Rob Saik, AgriTrend**, as well as the **2016 class of Young Leader Scholarship Recipients.**
- First golf team to register for the MACA Golf Tournament was the **Helena team - Randy Parman, John McKinney, Doug Goff** and **Eric Cowling.**

Thanks for your continued participation!

- A Senate agreement on GMO language has been reached! The legislation, which will need 60 votes to pass the Senate, would nullify Vermont's first in the Nation GMO labeling law, which takes effect July 1 and would bar any other state from enacting labeling requirements that differ from the federal standards.

- 37 MACA members toured the Mississippi River on June 8 and learned about its role in St. Louis and the country.
- Congratulations to **Matt Ewers, MACA Vice President** and from **IEDS**, on completing his first Half Ironman race on Sunday, June 26. That was a total of 70.3 miles - 1.2-mile (1.9 km) swim, a 56-mile (90 km) bike ride, and a 13.1-mile (21.1 km) run. Each distance of the swim, bike, and run segments is half the distance of that segment in an Ironman triathlon. His sister and sister-in-law also participated and all three completed the race.
- The **CropLife America States Affairs Committee** met in St. Louis on Tuesday. I had the opportunity to provide an update on MACA efforts. Also at the meeting were **David Flakne, REI Committee chair,** and **Kellie Bray** and **Jeff Case, CLA.**

CALENDAR

July 4 - Independence Day - Office Closed

July 22 - MACA Board of Directors Conference Call

August 5 - MACA Board of Directors Conference Call

August 23-23 - Nebraska Annual Summer Convention, Hilton Garden Inn, Council Bluffs, IA

August 24-25 - MAGIE show, McLean County Fairgrounds, Bloomington, IL

September 6-8 - MACA ANNUAL MEETING, BLOOMINGTON, MN

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved." *~ Franklin D. Roosevelt*

QUICK LINKS

MACA Website
MACA Facebook
MACA 2016 Meeting Dates
C.A.N. Website
C.A.N. Facebook

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