Monthly Update
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MACA Monthly News

April 2025

April is a great month, especially in the Midwest agriculture industry. Winter is over and spring is upon us. All the MACA member companies actively are providing products and services to ensure the farmers plant millions of acres of corn, soybeans and numerous other crops in a remarkably short period of time. MACA programs are also in full motion with Lunch & Learns providing relevant information in a timely manner. At the same time plans for the June Quarterly meeting are being finalized. Be sure to check out the plans for this meeting set for St. Louis where MACA business will be conducted, members will network, and team building will take place at the baseball stadium. Make sure to attend and don't delay registering for the meeting and make your hotel reservations.

LUNCH & LEARN (L&L) SERIES

An online definition of the word "Agriculture" is stated as "the science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products". To accomplish this ongoing task in a timely manner requires the use of enormous amounts of equipment, supplies and people. With that safety must always be a priority. To help ensure the MACA members have a safe and successful season, the April Lunch & Learn session will focus on safety. Join us for "Safety: Building Awareness and Prevention" featuring **Kerry Stevenson, Nufarm,** along with her colleagues, **Johnny Jay** and **Brian Ahrens**. The content will not only focus on employee safety, but will also bring travel safety, industry trends and core values into the picture. This presentation is scheduled for April 24 and will start at **noon**, Central Daylight Savings Time, on Teams.

Click on the link below to join the meeting.
Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 286 557 741 847
A separate TEAMS invite will be sent to the membership approximately 3 weeks prior as well.

The L&Ls are open to all employees of MACA member companies at no charge. Please share with others in your company.

The March L&L session provided informative updates from the State Associations within the MACA geography and was hosted by **Randy Stookey, JD, IOM, Sr. Vice President Government Affairs & General Counsel, Kansas AgriBusiness Retailers Association.** The audience was very large and composed of people who are not always available to attend the MACA meetings in person. Special thanks to speakers: **Steve Taylor, Executive Director, MO-AG, Grace Howe, Executive Director,**

Wisconsin Agri-Business Association, Bruce Kettler, President & CEO, Indiana Agribusiness Council, Julie Kenney, CEO, Agribusiness Association of Iowa; for The State Association Update. Thanks also to the moderators for the session **Jane Hansen, Rosen's, Inc.,** and again to **Randy Stookey, KARA** hosting**.**

JUNE QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The MACA Quarterly Meeting will be held June 4-5, 2025, at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO. The Committee meetings will be on Wednesday, June 4 and the board will meet on Thursday, June 5. This meeting will include a team building event – a Cardinals baseball game!

Wednesday, June 4

Committees Meetings:

9:30 - 11:30 am	Executive Committee
9:30 – 11:30 am	Membership Committee • Annual Meeting Subcommittee
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 - 5:00 pm	Critical Member Issues
1:30 - 5:00 pm	Education
6:00 pm	Team Building Event – Cardinals vs Kansas City Royals baseball game. (Your ticket includes dinner and beverages)

Thursday, June 5

- The board meeting begins with breakfast at 7, the meeting at 7:30 and adjourns by 10:00 am.

Registration details will be posted on the MACA website soon, along with a separate email to the membership.

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALS (DP) PROGRAM

MACA | DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

Work Life Balance was the topic for the class at the end of March. The DPs engaged in the training and shared firsthand experiences. Great to listen to and see how things are going.

The next class topic is set for May 20 and will be 'Strategic Thinking' with **Joe Olson, Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC** leading the discussion.

This year's class includes 11 individuals from 8 member companies. If your company is looking for an opportunity for your Developing Professionals to improve some of their soft skills, consider having them participate in the Class of '26 Developing Professionals Program. We'll be looking for applicants in late spring/early summer. A notification will be sent to the membership when the '26 registration opens. Click here to learn more about the **Developing Professionals Program.**

YOUNG LEADER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The 2025 class of Young Leader Scholarship Program (YLSP) recipients consists of 11 outstanding students. The recipients, along with their states and universities, are:

- **Adam Loker**, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, majoring in Agribusiness Economics with a minor in Agricultural Communications.
- **Regan Koester**, Purdue University, majoring in Agribusiness with a minor in Agribusiness Management.
- **Kylie Anderson**, Iowa State University, majoring in Agricultural Communication and International Agriculture with a minor in Spanish.
- **Coy Stamm**, Kansas State University, majoring in Agronomy-Consulting and Production with a minor in Animal Science and Industry and Agricultural Sales.
- **Blaine Cords**, Michigan State University, majoring in Crop and Soil Science with a minor in Agronomy.
- **Noah Riley**, University of Missouri - Columbia, majoring in Agribusiness.
- **Alexis Bodlak**, University of Nebraska, majoring in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Communications with minors in Public Policy Analysis and Clifton Builders.
- **Haley McClue**, North Dakota State University, majoring in Agriculture Communication with a minor in Crop and Weed Science.
- **Sarah Hoak**, Ohio State University, majoring in Sustainable Agriculture with a minor in Agribusiness.
- **Kyle Hagen**, South Dakota State University, majoring in Agriculture Systems Technology with minors in Ag Business and Precision Ag.
- **Natalie Clemenson**, University of Wisconsin, majoring in Dairy Science with minors in Ag Business and Spanish.

These recipients receive professional development training from MACA members, networking opportunities with MACA mentors, a $2,000 scholarship to assist with college expenses, and a trip to the MACA Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO.

AGRICULTURE ACADEMY

The mission of the Agriculture Academy is to educate students from kindergarten through 12th grade about the importance of agriculture. The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) recognizes the vital role agriculture plays in our daily lives. Through the Agriculture Academy, MACA aims to support teachers, schools, and organizations eager to teach agricultural topics but in need of funding. We are excited to offer up to $1,000 through our Agriculture Academy grant program to help further these efforts. **To be considered for a grant, please complete the application.**

Applications will be accepted from February 2025 through May 1, 2025. Grant recipients will be notified in July 2025 and may use their grant funds for the 2025-2026 school year.

To learn more or apply online: **https://ambassador.maca.org/grant-program/**

Michelle Kilper, Agriculture Academy Coordinator, presented checks to these two elementary schools in St. Louis, Missouri who were selected to receive funding from the Agriculture Academy Grant as part of a soft launch for our new grants program. We're thrilled to partner with both schools! One of them has a Pollinators Club where students explore the significance of pollinators in agriculture. The other is implementing a Farm-to-Table approach to educate students about the journey of food from farm to plate. It is a pleasure to be able to partner with these two schools.

MACA ANNUAL MEETING

September 2-4, 2025, are the dates for the Annual Meeting set for the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO. The committee, chaired by Scott Stout, is working on the program speakers, as well as the team building event. Details will be forthcoming.

CALENDAR

April 24	MACA Lunch & Learn – "Safety: Building Awareness and Prevention", Nufarm
May 21	MACA Lunch & Learn – "Making Work Optional", Alliger Financial
June 4	MACA Quarterly Meetings – Committee Meetings, St. Louis, MO
June 5	MACA Board of Directors Meeting, St. Louis, MO
Sept. 2-4, 2025	**MACA Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man."
- George Washington