Monthly Update
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# MACA Monthly News

July 2025

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## Hello, from MACA!

Wow!!! In just over 60 days we'll be in Kansas City, MO! Please take time to register for the MACA Annual Meeting. As was the case last year, this year, there is a special incentive for sponsors! Contribute $5,000 or more to be a part of the President's Club and you'll receive 3 sponsor registrations! If you contribute $2,500 or more to be a Platinum sponsor, you'll receive 2 sponsor registrations.

In this issue check out the Young Leader Scholarship Program recipient photos to learn more about them. Also read the summary of the MACA Quarterly meeting for June.

The Midwest weather in 2025 overall seems to be favorable for the crops. However, it never fails there are extremes in some States and locations. Please take care with your travels and events you have planned for the 4th of July!

## MACA ANNUAL MEETING

Be on the lookout for the email regarding "What's Cooking In Agriculture?" That's the theme for the 2025 MACA Annual Meeting September 2-4, at the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO.

### Speakers

The planning committee has secured the A list of speakers – On Tuesday, **Elizabeth Fastiggi, Idealyst Innovation**. She will share her insight on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact and path forward in US Agriculture. A panel will follow, addressing Critical Collaborations in our industry. It will feature **Kevin Cox, an Indiana Farmer; Jami Loecker an Agronomy Service Manager with Syngenta** in the Manhattan, Kansas area; and **Ryan Morris who is the MFA, Inc. Location & Sales Manager**, River Valley, Missouri. On Thursday, the program will focus on Critical Issues Facing Members and will feature **Val Dolcini – Head of Public Affairs, North America, Syngenta; Harrison Pittman – Director, National Ag Law Center; and Ron Seeber – President and CEO, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association**. They will share their perspectives on the Trump Administration, State Policies, and the impact on our industry.

### "The KC Barbeque Experience."

**Be sure to lock in Wednesday afternoon for a new event at the meeting.**
When most people come to Kansas City, what do they think about? Barbeque! As we take a break in 2025 with the MACA Golf Tournament, we have a unique team-building event lined up for Wednesday afternoon during the Annual Meeting. It's called "The KC Barbeque Experience". The

afternoon starts with a visit to the world's first Museum of BBQ. This will immerse you in the A to Z's of BBQ in a feast for the senses. You will learn how pitmasters combine meat, spices/rubs, wood, fire, smoke and sauce to turn tough cuts of meat into delicious BBQ. You will explore the four main U.S. regions of barbeque --- Carolinas, Memphis, Texas, and Kansas City and what makes each unique. Then we will enjoy a full-course, mouthwatering BBQ meal at Jack Stack Barbeque – Freight House, one of the top BBQ restaurants in Kansas City. We will get some insights from their Pitmaster regarding how they make BBQ meat so memorable. Join us for a one-of-a-kind memorable afternoon with "The KC Barbeque Experience."

### Private Meeting Rooms – Contact Rodney now!

Wednesday will continue as the day set aside for **private business meetings**. Be sure to make plans to schedule a meeting by reserving a private meeting room. Allied members can also set up a display to highlight their business. Details for the private meeting rooms and tabletop displays were emailed in early June. Questions? Contact rodney@maca.org

**Register NOW for the Annual Meeting and reserve your hotel by clicking here** www.maca.org

## DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALS (DP) PROGRAM

MACA DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

MACA is proud to highlight the continued success of the Developing Professionals Program, a cornerstone initiative designed to nurture and empower the next generation of agricultural professionals. Created for individuals in the early stages of their careers, the program delivers a comprehensive mix of professional development, industry insights, and networking opportunities—equipping participants with the tools needed to thrive in the evolving ag industry.

Do you know a Developing Professional in your company who has 4 -7 years of experience; is focused on sales, marketing or related professional areas within Agriculture and would benefit from professional development? The MACA Developing Professionals Program may be just what your person needs! It's an opportunity to learn a bit more about the crop protection industry by attending the MACA Annual Meeting in person, attending the virtual Lunch & Learn sessions, plus specific training sessions on Self-Evaluation, Mentoring, Work/Life Balance, Strategic Thinking and Leadership Skills.

### Developing Professionals Class of 2026 - Nomination Form

**The nomination form is available on the MACA website and by clicking on this link** "MACA Developing Professionals Class of 2026 Nomination Form". Please submit names from your company by August 1, 2025, to rodney@maca.org to participate.

# YOUNG LEADER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our **Young Leader Scholarship Program** student winners have officially kicked off their summer internships! Take a look at some of their exciting experiences and moments from their adventures!

## Adam Loker, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, BASF

"I'm currently a Chemical and Agronomy Intern with **BASF Agricultural Solutions**, working in Manhattan, Kansas with corn and soybeans. This summer, I'm supporting the Real Results Yield Challenge, focusing on BASF's Performance Driven Fungicides like Veltyma, Reytek, and Revylok. As a second-year intern, I've learned how much agriculture varies by region and the importance of understanding local grower mindsets. I've especially enjoyed working directly with farmers and retailers and look forward to applying for BASF's Professional Development Program to continue growing in this field."

## Reagan Koester, Purdue University, Corteva

"As a Stakeholder Engagement Intern on the Sales Excellence Team at **Corteva Agriscience**, I've had the privilege of supporting the Johnston Experience—connecting with growers, prospective customers, employees, and key industry stakeholders. This role has deepened my appreciation for the meaningful relationships that drive our industry forward and reminded me daily that people are at the heart of everything we do."—

## Kylie Anderson, Iowa State University, Bayer

“I am Kylie Anderson and this summer I am interning with **Bayer Crop Science** as a seed sales intern. I am located in Waco, Nebraska and getting used to the drier climate over here! So far this summer I have had the opportunity to go on a ton of ride-along's with different seed professionals and technical agronomists. In this picture I was testing the soil moisture in a growers field!”

## Coy Stamm, Kansas State University, Winfield Solutions

“I’m interning with **WinField United** in a sales role based in Eastern Kansas, spending most of my time in the northeastern part of the state. My work includes walking plots, evaluating product trials, and meeting with local retailers. One highlight has been using Picketa Systems for real-time tissue analysis in the field—an exciting technology that supports more sustainable, efficient farming. I’m especially looking forward to continuing to build relationships across the industry, which I believe are key to long-term success.”

## Blaine Cords, Michigan State University, Mid-Michigan Agronomy

“This summer, I’m working with **Mid-Michigan Agronomy** at their Marshall, Michigan farm location. I’m responsible for applying various treatments to potatoes, conducting agronomic tests, and helping with overall farm management, including operating center pivots.”

## Noah Riley, University of Missouri – Columbia, Bayer

## Alexis Bodlak, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

“As a **legislative intern for U.S. Senator Deb Fischer**, I support constituent correspondence and help monitor congressional proceedings. I’ve gained a deeper understanding of the U.S. Capitol’s history and day-to-day operations of Congress. I’ve enjoyed connecting with professionals to learn more about careers in agricultural policy and communications. I am most looking forward to showing my family around D.C. on Fourth of July weekend!”

## Haley McClue, North Dakota State University, ND Soybean Council

"This summer, I'm serving as the Outreach and Engagement Assistant at the **North Dakota Soybean Council**. In this role, I support event planning and logistics, assist with post-event evaluation, and represent NDSC at events across the region. I've also contributed to communications and research projects, gaining valuable experience in media strategy, content creation, and event analysis. I'm especially enjoying the opportunity to network with industry professionals and am looking forward to attending more field days and events throughout the summer."

## Sarah Hoak, Ohio State University, Bayer

"I'm working for **Bayer Crop Science** this summer as a crop protection sales intern. In the picture I am at our research farm where I will be taking pictures and getting time lapse camera footage of demo plots to put together marketing resources. This summer I've really enjoyed being out in the field with growers and building new relationships! I'm super excited to keep learning about sales and to strengthen my knowledge of crop protection products in the industry."

## Kyle Hagen, South Dakota State University, Brevant

“This is a photo of me in the field doing stand counts on **Brevant** corn fields on May 29th. I've learned a great deal about Brevant as a whole, the product portfolio, trait packages, and retailer perceptions of the brand. I've greatly enjoyed meeting with retailers, Brevant sales representatives, and growers throughout MN and SD while seeing how production dynamics change across the territories. I am most looking forward to meeting more growers and retailers this summer.”

## Natalie Clemenson, University of Wisconsin – River Falls, Ag Partners Cooperative

“This summer I am working as an agronomy-crop scout intern at **Ag Partners**. I am doing a variety of things out in the fields including scouting for weeds and insects, staging plants, taking soil samples, and more. I have learned a lot about weed identification, deficiencies in plants, and plant conditions. I am enjoying getting to expand my knowledge about agronomy and getting hands on experience in the field. I am looking forward to seeing what the rest of the summer will bring!”

## JUNE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The MACA Board of Directors met June 5, 2025, at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, St. Louis, MO. The board took the following actions:

- Membership Chair Matt Wagner reviewed plans for the 2025 Annual Meeting.
    - Referred sponsorship discussion to the Executive committee.
    - Set the 2026 MACA Annual Meeting dates for September 8-10, 2026, in Omaha, NE.
- Critical Member Issues Sub-Chair Brian Clark reported the committee will develop a plan for renewed content and activites directed towards distribution & Warehouse members. ACRC, Leigh O'Neill provided and update on container recycling, along with a Water Update from MACA Water Consultant, Andrea Rice.
- Education Vice Chair Mitch Reed reported:
    - The Developing Professionals (DP) Class of 2025 is going well with 11 participants from 8 companies and the MACA website is open to accept nominations for the '26 Class now.
    - Young Leader Scholarship Program (YLSP) – 11 students from the 13 State coverage area of MACA and they will attend the 2025 Annual Meeting.
    - Agriculture Academy – Coordinator Michelle Kilper currently has 17 applicants for the 2026 grant program. The selection committee will meet in July to finalize.
    - Awards – Mitch requested nominations for Industry Vision and Educator of the Year are currently open and encourages the membership to reach out with nominations NOW.
    - Communications & Marketing - Rodney Schmidt reported the following:
        - Addy Schafer, Meister Media, has agreed to be on this committee along with Kristen Marshall, Albaugh, Jaime Yanes and Mike Lehman.
        - The committee will be working over the next two weeks to provide a "MACA Talking Points" piece for use by members involved with the Annual Meeting Sponsors drive which will begin the last two weeks of June and continue through August
- Schmidt presented the 2024 Financial Review Report prepared by Filla & Filla, CPAs, which was accepted during the meeting.
- Next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 25, starting at 7:30 am CDT via TEAMS.

## CALENDAR

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| July 25 | MACA Board of Directors Meeting – Virtual via Teams |
| **Sept. 2-4, 2025** | **MACA Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO** |

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."*

- Albert Einstein