What's Cooking in Agriculture

Mid America CropLife Association
Annual Meeting
September 2-4, 2025

Kansas City Marriott
Country Club Plaza
4445 Main Street
Kansas City, MO
816-531-3000

Michael Lehman, President

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

2-6:00 PM **Registration Desk Open**

3:00 PM **Welcome**
***President,* Michael Lehman**

3:10 PM **Awards Presentation**
Educator of the Year

3:20 PM

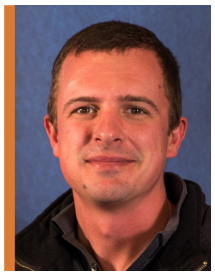
Keynote Presentation:
AI Technology and Shaping Agriculture

Elizabeth Fastiggi
Chief Product Officer
Idealyst Innovation

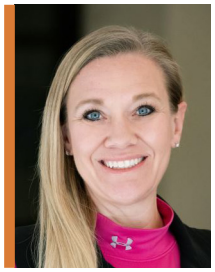
3:50 PM **BREAK**

4:00 PM **Dean Roy Award Presentation**

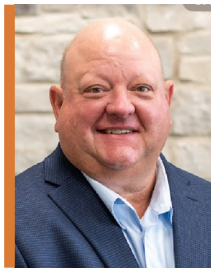
4:10 PM **Industry Panel**
"Critical Collaboration in Agriculture"



Ty Coats
Agri Services Manager – MFA
Norborne, MO



Jami Loecker,
Agronomy Service Manager West Heartland
Customer Unit, Syngenta – Manhattan KS



Kevin Cox,
Grower,
Brazil, IN

5:10 PM **Developing Professionals (DP)**
- Class of 2025 Recognition
- Class of 2026 Introduction

5:30 PM **Young Leader Scholarship Program (YLSP)**
Class of 2025 Q&A

6-7:00 PM **President's Reception**

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Day reserved for confidential business meetings.
For those not involved, see options below.

Developing Professional Meeting

Young Leader Scholarship Program Speed Networking

TOUR **The KC Barbeque Experience**
Team Building Event
$150 per person

12:30 PM **Transportation Departs for Museum of BBQ**
Some attendees may drive separate.

1:00-2:15 PM **Museum of BBQ**
2450 Grand Blvd, Suite 231, Kansas City, MO. 64108
An immersive, colorful environment that creatively encourages you to learn about the elements and regions of American barbecue.

2:30 PM **Walk or Trolley Ride to Jack Stack BBQ**

3-6:00 PM **Jack Stack BBQ**
Dine and Discussion with Pit Master
101 West 22nd Street, #300, Kansas City, MO 6410
More than just a meal, a truly remarkable barbecue experience where we will not only enjoy a great meal and socialize as a group but learn from the Pit Master.

6:00 PM **Transportation Back to Hotel**

7-8:30 PM **MACA Reception - Sponsored by the Committee Members**
This is a new event and fun event hosted by our MACA Committee Members. Join us for fellowship and networking to learn more about our committees and opportunities for you with MACA! All are invited to attend!

Aaron Deardorff

Rodney Schmidt,
MACA Executive Director

Thursday, September 4, 2025

7 - 7:45 AM **Breakfast Buffet**

7:30 - 8 AM **MACA Annual Meeting of Members**

8:00 AM **Opening Comments: Aaron Deardorff,**
Commercial Unit Head, East Heartland at Syngenta

8:10 AM **Industry Vision Award**

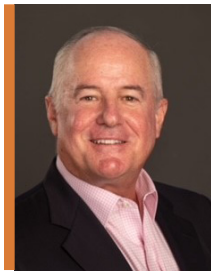
8:20 AM **Members' Report: Rodney Schmidt,**
MACA Executive Director

8:30 AM **Break**

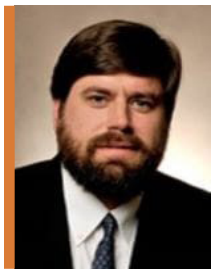
8:45-
10:15 AM **Critical Issues Facing Members –**
2024 Election and New Trump Administration

The panelists will share their unique perspectives on the Trump Administration, State Policies, and the impact on our industry.

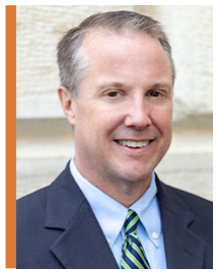
Industry Panel



Val Dolcini,
Head, Public Affairs North America
Syngenta



Harrison Pittman
Director,
National Agriculture Law Center



Ron Seeber
President and CEO,
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

10:15 AM **Closing Comments**
Aaron Deardorff, MC

10:30 AM **Adjourn**

STEP 1: HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The Kansas City Marriott, Country Club Plaza located at 4445 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111 (816) 531-3000 is the hotel headquarters. To make your reservation, please use this link: **Book your group rate** for MACA. Or
contact the hotel's reservations specialists at **800-810-3708** and ask for the Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) room block.

Room Rate: $170.00 per room, per night, plus tax. (Includes $25.00 credited to MACA to defray meeting expenses.)

The cut-off date for hotel reservations is no later than Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

Please note: All participants registering for hotel rooms or The KC Barbeque Experience, Team Building Event must also register with MACA.

MACA Directors strongly encourages you to attend the program sessions Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning. Wednesday is available for private meetings all day.

BUSINESS/HOSPITALITY SUITES: Arrange meeting rooms by contacting the MACA office and speaking with Rodney Schmidt. Please know the dates, times, number of people expected and have a credit card ready to charge the meeting room fee. Once a meeting room has been reserved, the hotel contact name will be sent to you to make food & beverage and AV arrangements with the hotel. The cost for the meeting room is $360.00 per day which includes tax and service charges. Meeting room space must be reserved by July 18, 2025 to ensure a room.

STEP 2: MACA REGISTRATION

Complete the registration form online at **www.maca.org/registration/**; or complete the form and email it to **info@maca.org** or send it by mail or fax to **314-849-0988**. MACA will accept payment by check, credit cards – American Express, Visa/MasterCard, Discover, or PayPal online.
The MACA early registration cut-off date is Monday, August 4, 2025.
There is a late fee for registrations submitted August 6 or later.

The MACA registration fee includes program speakers plus: Tuesday break; Tuesday reception; Wednesday Reception; Thursday breakfast; Thursday.

DRESS: Business casual.

SPOUSES: All registered spouses are welcome to attend the speaker programs, receptions and may register for The KC Barbeque Experience, Team Building Event. No organized activities are planned for spouses.

REFUND POLICY: Any refund request must be made in writing and submitted to the MACA office by Monday, August 25, 2025. No refunds after August 26, 2025.

MEMBER REGISTRATION RATES: The employees and spouses of MACA member companies are eligible for special registration rates.

NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION RATES: Prospective members, professional colleagues and guests are also welcome to attend the Annual Meeting at the designated rates. If your company joins MACA and pays its 2025 membership dues prior to August 1, you and your spouse may attend at member rates.

STEP 3: The KC BBQ Experience

Team Building Event: 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 very 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-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 afternoon with The KC Barbeque Experience. The investment for this unique experience is $150 per person.

Date/location: The 2025 MACA KC Barbeque Experience, will be held on Wednesday, September 3. Transportation will depart from the hotel at 12:45 pm with the Museum of Barbeque Tour starting at 1:00 pm, followed by Jack Stack Barbeque - Freight House at 3:00 pm. Transportation back to the hotel will be at 6:00 pm with continued fellowship and networking at the hotel.

Details:

1. Advance registration for the The KC Barbeque Experience Team Building Event, with payment, is required. No registration at the meeting. Any refund request must be made in writing and submitted to the MACA office by Noon, Monday, August 25, 2025. No refunds after August 26.
2. Confirmation with final details will be emailed to registrants 5-7 days prior to the meeting.

Registration Fee: $150 per person.

The $150.00 registration fee includes transportation, admission to the Museum of BBQ, food & beverages are included, as well as meeting space at Jack Stack Barbeque. NOTE: To attend this event, registration and payment for the Annual Meeting is also reguired.

Questions: Contact Jaime Yanes at 901-355-4123 or Rodney Schmidt at 314-849-9446.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kansas City Area Map – Check this website **www.visitkc.com** Kansas City Tourism Guide for food and drink, plus entertainment.

Transportation from KCI airport terminal to hotel: The hotel does not provide transportation to or from the airport. You will need to arrange your own transportation such as Taxi, Uber or Lyft.

Parking: Hotel will provide complimentary self-parking to guests for one vehicle per room night. This is based on the room block and functions booked under the agreement and is subject to adjustment by the Hotel if the size or scope of the Room Block or functions is reduced.

Ready to Register:

https://www.maca.org/registration/

MACA MEMBER COMPANIES & STATE/NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

ADAMA

Ag Depot

Ag Retailers Association

Agribusiness Association of Iowa

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

AgXplore International

Ag Container Recycling Council

Albaugh, LLC

Alliger Financial

AMVAC Chemical Corporation

Azotic Technologies

BASF Corporation

Bayer Crop Science

Blackhawk Warehousing & Leasing Co.

Cascio Storage & Warehouse, Inc.

Certis Biologicals

CNI

Corteva Agriscience

Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology

CropLife America

CropLife Media Group

CRC Global Solutions

Drexel Chemical Company

Dunavant Distribution Group, LLC

FarmChem

FMC Corporation

Foster Logistics LLC

Gharda Chemicals International, Inc.

Gowan USA LLC

Gray Logistics, LLC

Green Leaf, Inc.

GROWMARK, Inc.

Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC

Helm Agro US, Inc.

Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association

IEDS Logistics

KALO

Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

Kincannon & Reed

Kova Fertilizer, Inc.

Lamberti Agriculture

MFA, Inc.

Michigan Agri-Business Association

Micro-Matic USA

Minnesota Agri-Growth Council

Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

Missouri Agribusiness Association

Morris Bixby Group

Nebraska Agri-Business Association

Nickey Warehouse, Inc.

North Dakota Agricultural Association

NPW LLC, Inc.*

Nufarm Americas, Inc.

Nutrien Ag Solutions

Ohio Agribusiness Association

OPARR

Rocky Mountain Agri-Business Association

Rosen's Inc.

Russell Associates

Schuetz Container Systems, Inc.

Smartwyre

South Dakota Agri-Business Association

Southern Crop Production Association

Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC

Tessenderlo Kerley, Inc

Tri-Rinse, Inc.

Valent USA Corporation

Western Plant Health Association

Westlink Ag Group Inc.

Wisconsin Agri-Business Association

* Denotes new member in 2025

READY TO REGISTER?

Click here for registration rates:

https://www.maca.org/registration/

MACA

MID AMERICA CROPLIFE ASSOCIATION

Mid America CropLife Association
11327 Gravois Road, Suite 201
St. Louis, MO 63126
Phone: (314) 849-9446
Fax: (314) 849-0988
Email: Info@maca.org