Monthly Update
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MACA Monthly News

August 2026

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HELLO, FROM MACA!

August has arrived in the Midwest. The word “august” can describe something majestic or worthy of admiration—a fitting reflection of U.S. agriculture, where American farmers produce an abundance of food with vital support and collaboration from MACA members. In just a few weeks, experts from across the nation will gather in Omaha to network and learn at the 2026 MACA Annual Meeting.

This issue includes details about the MACA Education Programs Fundraising Silent Auction and final information for the Annual Meeting. Travel safely through the rest of August, and we look forward to seeing you in Omaha next month!

MACA ANNUAL MEETING

Each year, American farmers grow crops that feed people around the world. The scale and pace of this work are remarkable, and the effort is complex. Farmers rely on trusted advisors and suppliers to deliver abundant, high-quality products to consumers, whose demand helps drive U.S. agricultural production.

Explore “From Fields to Force” during three days of networking and learning. Join the conversation and make your voice heard.

The meeting will be held September 8–10 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Omaha-Downtown in Omaha, Nebraska.

For full details on the meeting and other MACA click here.

“Fields to Force” MACA Annual Meeting – Key Events by Day:

Opening Day – Tuesday, September 8

The meeting will feature three expert speakers who will share valuable insights with MACA members. The program begins Tuesday, September 8, with an active-duty member of the 55th Air Force Wing, who will offer a “From Fields to Force” perspective.
The 2026 Developing Professionals Class, which includes nine participants from seven member companies, will be introduced along with the incoming 2027 class. The 2026 Young Leader Scholarship Program class will also share reflections on their summer internships and college experiences.

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Opening night will celebrate the legacy and future of MACA's education programs with a silent fundraising auction. These programs include the Young Leader Scholarship Program, Developing Professionals Program, Agriculture Academy, and Lunch & Learn webinars. The reception will be a fun opportunity to connect with industry colleagues.

Day 2 – Business Meetings and Industry Tour – Wednesday, September 9

Wednesday will be dedicated to private business meetings. Be sure to set aside Wednesday afternoon for the Tour & Team Building Event. This year's group will visit the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum, home to historic air defense and nuclear deterrence aircraft, including the B-52, B-36, SR-71 Blackbird, and Atlas missiles, along with many interactive exhibits. Don't miss this unique experience.

Closing Day – Annual Members Meeting and Keynote Speakers – Thursday, September 10

Thursday, September 10, begins with a breakfast buffet and the annual meeting of the members. The program will address critical issues facing members and feature Dr. Stanley Culpepper, University of Georgia Extension Weed Scientist, who will discuss the factors affecting fields across the United States and the work underway to reduce negative crop impacts. The conference will conclude with an energizing presentation from Kevin Cox, a farmer from south-central Indiana. Many of you may remember Kevin and his wife, Brenda, from last year's annual meeting.

Receptions – Tuesday and Wednesday Evenings

The President's Reception on Tuesday evening will give members a chance to connect with colleagues from across the country. Wednesday evening's reception will highlight MACA committees. Join us at both events for fellowship, networking, and a closer look at the association, its committees, and ways to get involved.

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The MACA Education Programs Silent Auction Opens Monday, August 24 – Your Next Steps - Register for the Silent Auction

(Note: You can participate in the Silent Auction even if you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting)

This year during the opening night of the 2026 MACA Annual Meeting the association will be celebrating the past and future success of the MACA Education Programs through a Fundraising Silent Auction.

This will be a fun event to give you the opportunity to personally support these programs with all proceeds going directly towards MACA's Education programs.

The auction will support the following programs:

- Agriculture Academy
- Young Leader Scholarship Program
- Developing Professionals Program.
- Lunch & Learn Webinars

The Silent Auction will feature exciting trips and member donated premium items. The Silent Auction will open next Monday, August 24 at Noon, 2 weeks prior to and run during the MACA Annual Meeting, which is September 8-10, 2026, in Omaha, Nebraska at the DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Omaha.

Action Needed by All:

- **Please register for the Silent Auction via one the options below:**
- **Register by Mobile Phone**, use your phone camera then click on this QR Code

- **Register via Computer**, click on the URL below:
  - https://events.handbid.com/auctions/maca-education-programs-fundraiser

Note: This fundraising auction is designed with personal attendees in mind and not for gathering more funding from companies. Auction items are personal purchases of trips & donated premium items which can be taken at any time the winning bidder and family member designates. Payments are paid through personal funding directly by the person (not member companies) to MACA.

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Thanks in advance for registering for the MACA Education Programs Fundraising Silent Auction.

Start your Bidding Monday, August 24th at Noon CT. 😊

- Remember, all proceeds go towards the MACA Education Programs.
- Your personal contributions mean a lot to the association and the participants of the programs.

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALS (DP) PROGRAM

With the outpouring of interest in this program, we have decided to extend the nomination period through September 30, 2026! Read on for more information…….

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 2027 - Nomination Form

The nomination form is available on the MACA website and by clicking on this link "MACA Developing Professionals Class of 2027 Nomination Form". Please submit names from your company by September 30, 2026, to rodney@maca.org to participate. **Note - Update**: It is preferred, but not required, for the Class of 27 Developing Professionals to attend the 2026 Annual Meeting in Omaha, NE.

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YOUNG LEADER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Meet Our Young Leaders!

Our Young Leader Scholarship Program (YLSP) recipients are more than exceptional college students—they are passionate, driven individuals making an impact in agriculture and beyond. We asked our YLSP scholars to share a fun fact, unique experience, or something that makes them who they are. Get to know our 2026 recipients below!

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Peter Metivier — Illinois

Peter recently spent a semester studying international agriculture in Toulouse, France, where he gained valuable global perspectives and experiences in agriculture.

Kylie Saathoff— Indiana

In high school, Kylie started her own pumpkin business, selling multiple varieties of pumpkins throughout her county. This experience taught her valuable lessons in responsibility and decision-making and played a major role in her decision to study Agribusiness. Her goal is to pursue a career in agricultural sales where she can work directly with customers.

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Will Vlasek— Iowa

Will manages his own herd of registered Angus cattle back home. His direct-to-consumer beef operation combines his passion for agriculture with hands-on business experience, making it both a hobby and a part-time job.

Emma Hamilton — Kansas

Emma has a unique hobby—raising fancy pigeons! She enjoys traveling across the country to showcase her pigeons at shows and connect with other enthusiasts who share her passion.

Sara Dammann — Michigan

Sara loves to travel and explore new places. She has visited 41 of the 63 U.S. National Parks, with plans to continue adding more adventures to her list!

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Clare Viau — Minnesota

Clare studied abroad in Florence, Italy, during the fall semester. Some of her favorite memories include attending an F1 race, working at a local vineyard, and hiking around Mount Etna, an active volcano in Sicily.

Aliza Yoder — Missouri

Aliza is a huge St. Louis Cardinals fan! Each season, she attends an average of seven games. One of her favorite experiences was attending the 2025 Opening Day and seeing the Budweiser Clydesdales in person.

Caleb Burnside — Nebraska

This summer, Caleb helped plan the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) by supporting sponsorship outreach, communicating with more than 250 high school students, organizing speakers, coordinating housing and meals, preparing business roundtables, and managing many of the details needed to make the event successful.

NAYI provides students with opportunities to network, learn from industry professionals, and explore careers in agriculture. Caleb is excited to see the event come together and hopes it creates a lasting impact on the next generation of agricultural leaders.

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Molly McGuire — Ohio

Molly works in the Soybean Pathology and Nematology Laboratory under Dr. Horacio Lopez-Nicora. Her research focuses on *Phytophthora sojae* and other oomycete pathogens, as well as Soybean Cyst Nematode research in university and industry trials.

Molly completed a research project and presented her findings at the 2026 Spring Poster Contest, where she earned third place. She plans to pursue graduate studies in Plant Pathology with a specialization in oomycetes.

Bryce Haubenschild — South Dakota

Bryce's family supplies the cattle featured at the Minnesota State Fair Miracle of Birth Center each year. Every cow showcased at the Miracle of Birth Center comes from their herd. Bryce enjoys sharing his family's farming story and passion for agriculture with others.

Brandon Boyd — Wisconsin

Brandon enjoys welding and fabrication. Whether working on projects at home on the farm or helping fabricate and repair parts for the UW-Madison Quarter Scale Tractor Team, he enjoys using his skills to create and solve problems.

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CALENDAR

Sept. 8-10, 2026	**MACA Annual Meeting, Omaha, NE**
Nov. 11, 2026	**MACA Committee Meetings, St. Louis, MO**
Nov. 12, 2026	**MACA Board of Directors Meetings, St. Louis, MO**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Work hard at your job, have fun, do what you say you are going to do, be on time, and most importantly, treat others as you would like to be treated yourself."

- Rodney Schmidt

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