



A monthly update from Bonnie McCarvel,
MACA Executive Director
11327 Gravois Road, Suite 201
St. Louis, MO 63126
Phone: 314/849-9446
E-mail: bonnie@maca.org

MACA Monthly News November 2020

November – In Mid-October I loaded up the car and headed back to Minnesota for harvest.



Driving through Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota you realize how lucky we are to live in the Midwest! I made it back to the farm to ride shotgun in the combine, helped unload wagons, climbed the bins to check on available space, ran for food to keep the crew fed, picked up parts and helped move from field to field. The weather cooperated and no drying was needed.

While the crop was good,



lack of rain in August and some hail in July impacted the yields....but it still was a good year.

Back in St. Louis, plans are well underway for the year ahead. A conference call with President Jackson and the committee chairs and vice chairs was held to set the stage for the 2021 year. While the November quarterly meetings will be virtual, lots of things are planned so check out the schedule below and join us for all or a portion of the meeting!

Finally, take a few minutes between now and November 26 to count the good things in your life. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised with all that has occurred. Here's wishing you and yours a thanksgiving filled with good food, family, and stories to make you laugh!

MACA NOVEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING NOTICE

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) quarterly meetings scheduled for November 9-12, 2020, will be held *virtually* starting on Monday. Click [here](#) for the respective committee meeting agendas and Zoom details.

Join us for the Wednesday "Lunch and Learn" which will feature "Talking Pesticide Benefits" by Genevieve O'Sullivan, Vice President, Communications & Marketing, CropLife America.

Then for some fun, plan to participate in the Murder Mystery hosted by Lindsey Jackson. Dress up and be ready for a "Margaritaville" theme murder mystery and have some fun with your MACA friends. There is a charge for the murder mystery of \$11/person and is limited to 25 people – so give a call with your credit card if you want to participate.

CROP LIFE AMBASSADOR NETWORK

Soon many American's will sit down to a Thanksgiving dinner (hopefully) and without much thought, families will pass around mash potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, dressing, onions, bread, green beans, pumpkin pie, and hand sanitizer. Imagine how different the dinner conversation would be if, when Aunt Tracy asks Cole what he's learning in school he tells her all about the safe and abundant food supply we enjoy because farmers use crop protection.

That CAN happen if we decide to be leaders in our industry and educate the next generation on the necessity of crop protection. We have to be the ones to educate children about our industry. You can do that by becoming an ambassador and if you are already then help us find schools to reach out to and share our presentations with. This year we can offer virtual presentations to students.

To learn more about the CAN Ambassador Program or to sign up go to ambassador.maca.org.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Find us on **Facebook** – search - CropLife Ambassador Network- CAN.

YOUNG LEADER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We have sent out a request for applications for our 2021 Young Leader Scholarship Program to the 14 participating universities in the 13 MACA states. The schools are eager to work with us and promote the program to their students. To learn more about the program or to encourage students to apply, please visit our website [here](#).

If you could be a sponsor for our 2021 YSLP program, please contact [Bonnie](#). Please consider being a sponsor! Levels range from \$500 to \$5,000. All contributions are extremely helpful to the success of this program. The contributions are tax deductible. Sponsors will be recognized in MACA newsletters, in MACA monthly news updates, at the quarterly and annual meetings. Help MACA continue the successful program to benefit the crop protection industry.

Thanks!

Michelle Kilper
Michelle@maca.org
Program Coordinator



CropLife Ambassador Network and Young Leader Scholarship Program

STATE UPDATES

Minnesota – “After five special sessions, the legislature passed a \$1.8 billion Bonding Bill, which also featured tax policy and supplemental budget items,” writes Bill Bond, Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR). MCPR lobbied in the 2020 regular Session for full Section 179 conformity. The recently passed tax provision in the bonding bill

provides \$200 million in tax relief for MCPR members when they invest in equipment for their Minnesota businesses. This bill also retroactively fixes the tax hit some taxpayers experienced when they traded in equipment in 2018 and 2019. In last year's Tax Bill, like/kind exchanges were treated as an income gain, but the immediate expensing provision wasn't adopted to offset the difference. Without this change, farmers and small business owners would continue to be hit with retroactive tax increases because state law doesn't conform to federal law for each business tax offset. The bill is a little different than what was proposed in early 2020. What was being considered earlier this year was a more comprehensive tax bill which including other provisions. This bill has been streamlined to be just a Section 179 conformity bill so the language has retroactive component to the like-kind exchanges in calendar year 2018 and 2019 and then, the full expensing is provided for related to all properties in 2020.

Bond reports the harvest is producing excellent crops in near record harvest conditions. Recent snow and cold weather a little set back. Yields are very high.

Covid-19 is impacting the MCPR also. They are doing virtual meetings often and most of the time from the home office. As for the Annual Conference, Bond stated the December 2020 Trade Show has been canceled and no virtual meetings planned. The Minneapolis Convention Center, which is normally the location for their annual trade show, is being used as the Police 3rd District Headquarters to replace the one burned down in the riots earlier this year.

Wisconsin – “It is the election season. Legislators are out knocking on doors, and they are not in Madison,” reports Tom Bressner, Executive Director, Wisconsin Agri-Business Association. “The legislature has not met since early March, so while there is a lot of discussion on 2021 topics, nothing has happened in Wisconsin since March.”

The harvest is underway and Bressner says the crop quality and yields in Wisconsin are outstanding. The southern part of the state is progressing well. Snow has slowed progress dramatically in the north.

As for COVID-19 and the impact on their office, Tom has been back in the office since June 14. Three of the five of our staff are back in the office full time, one working jointly from home/office, and one still full time at home.

The 2021 Wisconsin Agribusiness Classic will be completely virtual on January 11-14. It will be a full conference with opening session keynote speakers, 14 different educational breakout sessions, trade show, silent auction, etc.

MACA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The 2021 MACA membership renewal emails were sent out on Friday, October 30. Please be sure and look for the email. Remember for 2021 the new dues structure is in place and so there may be a change in the dues amount for some members. The dues amount is based on your company's audited financial information...but that is on the honor system. Also, the dues can be paid in calendar year 2020 or prior to February 15, 2021. A special thanks to **Cascio Storage & Warehouse** and **Nutrien Ag Solutions** for renewing their membership early.

SHORT NOTES

- The October issue of the MACA Water Update by **MACA's Water Consultant Steve Taylor** focuses on the Federal Water Quality Coalition (FWQC) and MACA's long time

relationship with them and how MACA has impacted water issues over the years. Check out the [update](#) for details.

- A shout out to **Taylor-Cain** for their 15 gallon container. It won the Industrial/Commercial 2020 AmeriStar Package Award, one of the packaging industry's most prestigious design award from the Institute of Packaging Professionals!
- 'Vision 2030' featured speakers at the virtual 2020 Annual Meeting are still posted on the MACA app which you can access via your phone or computer. Just click the MACA Logo below to access all download and access options.



The three featured speakers including **Chris Novak, CLA CEO & President; Jason Henderson, Purdue Extension, and Philippe de Lap rouse, HighQuest Partners**, are still available for your review.

- **Vice President Rodney Schmidt** is looking dapper and refreshed! He's got a new photo to share with all of you. He was afraid some of you might forget what he looked like since we have been quarantining and socially distancing. So here he is so you don't forget him!



CALENDAR

- **November 9-12 – MACA Quarterly Meetings, St. Louis, MO**
- **November 26 – Happy Thanksgiving!**
- **November 27 – MACA Office Closed**

2021

- **January 11-14 - Wisconsin Agribusiness Classic - virtual**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Give thanks not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of your life. Appreciate and never take for granted all that you have," ~ Catherine Pulsifer.

Mid America CropLife Association
11327 Gravois Road, Suite 201
St. Louis, MO 63126
Phone: 314/849-9446
E-mail: bonnie@maca.org