



May, 2014



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**MAY**- The sights and sounds are making for a late spring, but spring is rapidly approaching and field work will soon be in full swing in the Midwest.

It seems as if MACA is in full swing too with the quarterly meetings set for June 18-19, the MACA Annual Meeting September 2-4, the Young Leader Scholarship Program recipients selected, CropLife Ambassador Network wrapping up school visits for this school year and seeking award nominations!

Everyone has been doing their part to make sure these programs move forward effectively and efficiently to provide benefits to the MACA members. Read on for the details!



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**MACA JUNE MEETING**

2013-2014  
MACA Officers

Greg Reigh

President

Tom Quade

Vice President

Phil Harms

Secretary/Treasurer

Jason Paris

Immediate Past President

CALENDAR

June 18, 2014-MACA  
Committee Meetings - St.  
Louis, MO

June 19, 2014-MACA  
Board Meeting - St.  
Louis, MO

August 20-21  
2014 MAGIE Show,  
McLean County  
Fairgrounds,  
Bloomington, IL

September 2-4

MACA Annual Meeting,  
the Alexander Hotel,  
Indianapolis, IN

November 5, 2014- MACA  
Committee Meetings - St.  
Louis, MO

November 6, 2014- MACA  
Board Meeting - St.  
Louis, MO

December 2-4 - ARA  
Conference & Exposition,  
New Orleans, LA

2015

February 10-12 - TPSA  
Annual Stewardship  
Conference, Hilton  
Savannah Desoto Hotel,

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) quarterly meetings will be held on **Wednesday, June 18, 2014, and Thursday, June 19, 2014, at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark Hotel, One South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri.**



The newly opened Ballpark Village outside of Busch Stadium.

The group will also be taking in the Cardinals vs. the Mets baseball game which starts at 12:45 pm. We have 30 tickets for the game - compliments of **Monsanto's Chemistry and Seed Businesses**. Please note the committee meetings will be on Wednesday from 9 - noon, then the baseball game and the board meeting on Thursday from 7:30 - noon. Make your plans to participate:

1. Register for the meeting by going to <http://www.maca.org/members/boardmeeting/> and complete the form or [download](#) the form for e-mailing.
2. Make your hotel arrangements prior to the meeting by calling the **877-845-7354** to reserve a room at the rate of \$184.00 plus tax which includes the meeting room fee. To ensure the rate, say you are with MACA. Last day to reserve a hotel room is Friday, May 16 by 5:00 p.m.
3. Tickets will be on a first come, first served basis - you must register for the meetings, and then you are eligible for one ticket. Lunch will be on your own.

YLSP RECIPIENTS

This year 26 students from 12 land grant colleges applied for the MACA Young Leader Scholarship Program. The Crop Production Issues Committee reviewed each applicant and selected 12 recipients. [Click to read more about these men and women.](#)



STATE UPDATES

**KANSAS** - "Kansas began the veto session on April 30<sup>th</sup>," reports **Randy E. Stookey, esq. Vice President and General Counsel, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)**, "where only a handful of pertinent bills remain to be resolved before sine die." Because the legislature moved to two year budgeting in 2013, there are only supplemental budget issues yet to be appropriated. One large issue was settled before the end of the regular session when the legislature passed a bill to appropriate additional education funding in response to a Kansas

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*"The Earth has music for those who listen."*

- George Santayana



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Supreme Court decision last month ordering the legislature to contribute more funding to education in order to equalize state funding and local option budget funding across the state. One bill important to many large complex property owners is a bill which requires county appraisers to follow the historical test recognized in Kansas when classifying machinery and equipment for property tax purposes. This was important to grain elevators, ag retail facilities, and ethanol processing facilities, among others, to ensure that the same property is being classified for property tax purposes consistently and fairly across the state.

One other bill that was passed in the regular session and signed into law by the Governor is a change to the overweight permit statutes. The change removes the requirement for permitted overweight trucks to label their loads with "oversize load" signage. It also changes times and conditions when oversize/overweight loads may operate by removing limitations to operation when rain, snow, or smoke are present or when the roadway is merely wet. Such trucks may not operate when the roadway has ice, snow pack or drifting snow.

While we are not aware of any new regulations currently at the state level, KARA has filed comments on the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act Regulations on animal food. We are also monitoring and plan to file comments on the EPA's Waters of the U.S. regulations asserting EPA's newly claimed jurisdiction over non-navigable waters with close connectivity to navigable waters - which essentially provides no limit to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. We are also closely monitoring Presidential Executive Order 13650, issued last summer, which promises to initiate new regulations from EPA, OSHA, DHS, and possibly other federal agencies as a response to the explosion in West, Texas last year.

Moisture has been measured this spring so far in Kansas and temps have been dipping into freezing in many areas as late as last week, holding off much spring corn and sorghum planting. From this week's USDA ag stats report, wheat condition has declined over last month and topsoil moisture rated 28% very short, 44% short, and 28% adequate. In more detail, winter wheat is rated 11% very poor, 21% poor, 44% fair, 23% good, and only 1% excellent. Corn planted was 21% complete, ahead of only 5% at this time last year and 8% average. Still looking for those good spring rains to fill the ditches and return our subsoil moistures to healthy levels.



**MINNESOTA** - "The Governor will present on April 30 to a joint session of the House and Senate his State of the State address at 7 PM. The Governor's "Non Session" is attempting to adjourn before the May 19 Constitutional date for adjournment," says **Bill Bond, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR) executive director**.

However, the \$1.4 billion surplus creates much to debate but have no illusions...much of the money will be spent. The other two dates dominating in the back ground of all that Minnesota Capitol debates are the August 12 Primary Election and the November 4, 2014 Election Day. Tucked in the Omnibus Supplemental Appropriations bill being negotiated last week between the House and Senate bills is a bee compensation law that has garnered considerable attention. The provision seeks to compensate bee keepers for loss of bees due to pesticides. If the pesticide applicator is identified and the applicator violated the law by failing to follow the label or rules of application, the applicator would be liable to a bee owner for financial damages. If the pesticide applicator cannot be identified, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) could compensate the bee owner from the State Pesticide Regulatory Account with a cap of \$150,000/year cap on total compensation for all claims. The Pesticide Regulatory Account contains the fees and penalties paid to MDA by pesticide manufacturers, distributors, and applicators. The

bill also requires MDA to form a pollinator emergency response team (Imagine Ghost Busters wearing Bee Suits ... "Who ya gonna call?" ) funded from \$100,000 from the general fund. MCPR and several other ag associations participated discussions with the bill authors. MCPR insisted that bee keepers be required to register with DriftWatch to be eligible for reimbursement which MCPR supports to provide MCPR members with a geospatial map location of all bee colony sites to assist us in pesticide drift issues. The Senate language contains this provision but the House does not. Stay tuned.

Minnesota's **minimum wage was increased** and other significant wage computation changes just became law with changes in the definition of a large employer and other changes for small employers based on age, training wage and if an Exchange Visitor (J) nonimmigrant. Then, beginning 2018, the Commissioner of Labor and Industry will make minimum wage adjustments based on the implicit price deflator, which is based on national data for personal consumption expenditures plus several other factors.

The current law regarding the 48 hour work week for agriculture employees remains unchanged. However, even with the 48 hour work week exemption for agricultural workers remaining intact, minimum wage increases in Minnesota will also impact farm operations with salaried agricultural employees. Current Minnesota law requires that any farm employee paid on a salaried basis must be paid a minimum weekly amount equivalent to 48 hours of straight-time pay **plus** 17 hours at time-and-a-half, or the equivalent of 73.5 times the minimum wage per week. MCPR is concerned about the level of minimum wage increase, future inflation adjustment provisions, and the impact of the multiplier effect with agricultural salaried employees, all of which will impact the competitiveness of Minnesota's agricultural sector compared with other states.

MCPR was recently notified that the MDA was going to be holding a public hearing regarding raising the Agricultural Chemical Response & Reimbursement Account (ACCRA) Pesticide Fee. After discussion with a few MCPR members, MDA and some of the ACCRA Board members, Jessi Brunelle did attend the public hearing with comments. One of the major issues that was discussed was the \$1.5 million that was transferred (\$1,046,000 in FY11 and \$500,000 in FY13) from the ACCRA Fund into the General Fund to assist with the state's budget deficit. Based on reimbursement and revenue trends, MDA has projected that the ACCRA fund balance will drop below the statutory minimum of one million dollars in approximately mid-2015. Advance notice is necessary so surcharges can be considered in business costs. The Agricultural Chemical Compensation Board (Board) has discussed this issue at public board meetings over the past several months. MDA has redirected staff salaries away from the fund to preserve the balance. MCPR agreed with the ACCRA Board that the fund needed to be replenished and we acknowledged that it was too late in the legislative session for a legislative remedy in 2014 for replenishing the funds. However we suggested that the ACCRA Board request that the MDA include in their budget proposals restoring our fund from an appropriation authorized by the 2015 legislative session. We commented that we knew of other user fee funds that were restored in previous sessions (education fund, airport user fee fund, etc.). At the conclusion of the meeting the ACCRA Board requested to use some of the verbiage Jessi Brunelle had used in her comments to revise the letter they will be sending to the Commissioner of Ag for his consideration on this issue. These proposed fee increases will take effect on January 1, 2015. Comments and further information is available on MDA's website: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/acra.aspx>.

**[View additional links by clicking on this link.](#)**

Spring field work may start any day now...spring rain now followed a spring blizzard last week. Yep - Bill used his snow blower a week ago to remove 8" of snow from the driveway. MCPR received reports of limited corn planting from southwestern **Minnesota** last week, as well as some

planting of oats, spring wheat and barley. But other parts of Minnesota are still waiting for suitable conditions to begin planting. Only 0.6 days were rated suitable for fieldwork statewide last week.



**WISCONSIN** - "The State Assembly has adjourned for the year," reports **Tom Bressner, Wisconsin Agribusiness Association**. The Wisconsin State Legislature adjourned on April 1st, and does not plan on returning to session until January 2015. Some regulations are already being drafted for 2015, but our legislature is adjourned for 2014.

As for spring field work, some manure is being spread and some anhydrous being applied, but that is about it so far. If it does not rain, some planting could start in the southern part of the state in a week to 10 days. The northern half of Wisconsin is still trying to get the frost out of the ground.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Thanks to the 63 members for renewing their 2014 membership.



## CROPLIFE AMBASSADOR NETWORK

[ambassador.maca.org](http://ambassador.maca.org)

Ambassadors have been busy this spring filling all the presentation requests before the end of the school year. Spring is a little tricky as many teachers have to work around grueling standardized testing schedules.

Most requests have been filled, currently we do have three outstanding presentation requests on the website, so please don't hesitate to grab one up for yourself or maybe this is a good time to suggest joining the ambassador network to a coworker. If you would like more information on any of these outstanding opportunities, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Courtland, MN 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders  
Springfield, NE 4<sup>th</sup> graders  
Columbus, NE 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders

We would like to welcome, **Jennifer Cox of Dow AgroSciences**, as our newest ambassador. Jennifer will be presenting to schools in the central Iowa area. Welcome to the CAN network and hope to get you busy soon. Thank you to **MACA Secretary/Treasurer Phil Harms** for referring Jennifer!



**Sarah Miller** of Successful Farming presented to a school in the suburbs of Chicago and received this feedback:

*"Ms. Miller was wonderful! Our class absolutely loved the presentation! It was extremely interesting for the students because most of them have never lived in a rural area." A. Haeger, St. Colette School, Rolling Meadows, IL.*



**Diane Orf, CropLife Ambassador Program Manager** can be reached at [diane@maca.org](mailto:diane@maca.org) or call the office. Diane normally works Monday and Tuesday from 8-2:30 and Thursday from 8-noon. Please call (314) 849-9446 or (800) 625-2767.



## WATER ISSUES

<http://www.maca.org/members/>

"For the last couple updates, I've focused on the new EPA "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) proposed rule which directs implementation of the Clean Water Act (CWA)," writes **Steve Taylor, MACA Water Consultant**. This month, I'll review the status of another new proposed EPA rule that also directs how States are to implement their water quality program in compliance with the CWA. Although the issues are different, we do see the same aggressive style for CWA implementation for both rules.



In this particular proposed rule, EPA states that ". . . the core requirements of the current regulations have been in place for over 30 years. These requirements have provided a strong foundation for water quality-based controls, including total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). As with the development and operation of any program, however, a number of policy and technical issues have recurred over the past 30 years in individual standards reviews, stakeholder comments, and litigation that the EPA believes would be addressed and resolved more efficiently by clarifying, updating and revising the regulation to assure more effective implementation and to have the appropriate balance of consistency and flexibility for States."

Some argue the proposed rule actually tilts the 'balance' away from 'flexibility' for States. EPA is proposing that water quality standards be set to protect non-impaired, "healthy" waters though the TMDL program within Section 303(d) of the CWA. The problem is the CWA plainly states that TMDLs are only for impaired water. Healthy waters are protected by the antidegradation section of the CWA. Antidegradation is simply keeping clean waters from becoming 'un-clean'. EPA is also proposing that

minimums be mandated for States regarding the States antidegradation procedures. For an example, many States implement their anti-degradation program by allowing "de minimis" levels of pollutant. States allow very tiny loadings to a 'healthy' or unimpaired waterbody so they can focus resources on the bigger issues that actually impact water quality. Having the ability to prioritize in this manner is critical for many States to be able to implement a water quality program in an effective manner.

Finally, EPA is asking for comments as to whether States must submit implementation methods to EPA for approval. Under the framework of 'cooperative federalism' that Congress established between the States and the federal government, States are supposed to be able to make their own choices as to how to implement their water quality standards.

We'll continue to monitor these issues and keep you informed.

## AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Each year, MACA presents several awards to recognize individuals for their efforts. The four areas include:

- **Educator of the Year** - presented to an individual who has demonstrated significant contributions to American agriculture, especially in the MACA region.
- **Ruth White Media** - who's demonstrated an evidence of consistent, objective and accurate reporting on American agriculture and the myriad of issues involved in modern agriculture, including the CropLife industry
- **Industry Vision** - provides exemplary vision on the issues affecting Midwestern agriculture.
- **Ambassador of the Year** - recognizes an ambassador for their efforts in promoting the crop protection industry through presentations to students or consumers

To nominate an individual award - just click [here](#). Nominations are due by July 15, 2014.

## SHORT NOTES

- **Tom Rosen, CEO of Rosen's Diversified, Inc.**, was awarded the Siel Prize for agribusiness by the University of Minnesota. Rosen leads a multi-faceted, international agricultural products company best known for its meat processing, agricultural chemicals and companion animal products. Rosen's Diversified, a family-owned, privately held company, is headquartered in Fairmont.
- Congratulations and best wishes to **MFA, Inc.** MFA is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2014.
- Thanks to the 16 MACA leaders who have graciously agreed to serve as hosts for the 2014 Young Leader Scholarship Recipients while at the MACA Annual Meeting. They include: **Tom Schaefer, Monsanto; Tim Riley, AMVAC; Tom Quade, FMC; Jason Paris, MFA; Jay Morris, Morris Bixby; Zach Miller, Helm Agro USA; Gunther Kreps, CPS; Jim Jenkins, Syngenta Crop Protection; John Howe, Winfield Solutions; Jeff Hayslett, AMVAC; Phil Harms, Dow AgroSciences; Paul Edsten, DuPont; Neil Cleveland, Bayer CropScience; Kellie Bray, CLA; Don Bradley, Olympus Seed Treatment Formulator; and Carl Bartenhagen, FarmChem.**
- Congratulations to **Susanne Wasson, Dow AgroSciences**, on

being named US Commercial Leader of the Crop Protection Business! This includes row crops, range and pasture, industrial vegetation management, turf and ornamental and pest management. She'll also be speaking at the MACA Annual Meeting on September 4 in Indianapolis.

- **"On Track 4 Success" is the theme for the 2014 MACA Annual Meeting at The Alexander in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana. Look for the registration brochure which will be mailed out in early June. Who will be the key note speaker on Tuesday???? Someone you won't want to miss!**

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### **2014 Mid America CropLife Association Annual Meeting**

**September 2-4, 2014**

**The Alexander Hotel**

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

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Mid America CropLife Association works to research public issues relating to crop production and to work together to improve the crop lifecycle via health, safety and public education.