



Inputs

Executive Director's Report

Hello MCPR members,

An interesting program has developed at the MDA. A few members have contacted MCPR to request that we enable them to settle an MDA penalty. MDA has offered to suspend a portion of their financial penalty if the MCPR member arranges for an independent inspection of all NH3 storage and equipment at their cited facility two times during an annual period and submits copies of the associated inspections to the MDA within 15 days following the inspections. MDA further offers the MCPR member that if they accept this settlement option payment, then the facility should provide the copy of an agreement with the independent inspector when they submit the balance of their fine remittance. Because of MCPR's Stewardship program, members are contacting us to request that we be their independent auditor to achieve this optional settlement. The MCPR Board has tentatively approved this new service provided we can limit MCPR and the actual auditor liability and pass the costs of the program directly to the MCPR members using this audit service. After MCPR attorneys develop the agreements we must sign we will move forward with those who request this program. One of the rationales that the MCPR Board used was that this alternative settlement program allows our members to invest some of the funds that would normally go to MDA to actually go back to their firm's regulatory compliance rather than MDA coffers.

In the News Notes you will notice information on the a mainstream agriculture effort to define and promote sustainable agriculture through the Field to Market® initiative. The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture announced the launch of a new agricultural supply chain program for U.S. commodity crops. The Field to Market metrics and benchmarks developed through a multi-stakeholder

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2014 CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show



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Save the Date: December 9-11, 2014 at the Minneapolis Convention Center and Minneapolis Hilton Hotel.

The MCPR and the University of Minnesota are already working on programming to make the 2014 Short Course and Trade Show the best show yet!

Watch for further information regarding programming, speakers and registration info coming to the MCPR website and further MCPR newsletters soon!

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process over the past several years will now become an important platform for measuring, promoting and reporting on continuous improvement in corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, rice, potatoes and other crops related to seven sustainability indicators: land use, soil conservation, soil carbon, irrigated water use, water quality, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The new program, which was approved at the organization's recent biannual board meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas, will focus on benchmarking current sustainability outcomes, catalyzing continuous improvement at the field and landscape level, and enabling supply chain sourcing claims.

This is evidence that agriculture is taking the initiative to meet the growing demand of consumers to demonstrate and measure our stewardship of our land and the crop inputs we apply. Why is this necessary? Agriculture has been given a "social contract" by everyday folks to raise their food, fiber, and fuel. Reading the press about agriculture and the demands on how our crops and animals are raised, we can no longer ignore the voices calling for change. Problem is, what change do they want? When asked, the extreme environmentalists simply don't know. But you can expect more pressure to artificially restrict crop inputs products, volume and timing. Which is why we must engage to lead the discussion and decisions on these critical topics.

Also, while many MCPR members ponder the reason for climate change, we do know and can measure the change regardless of why it is changing. We must engage on the climate change agenda or be left out of proposed solutions, some of which may have widespread implications for how we do our business. MCPR members, let's engage in the climate change policy discussion and implementation to protect our industry and offer positive, well informed solutions for the good of Minnesota.



Bill Bond
Executive Director

News Notes

MN Ag Overtime Study

A provision in the 2014 Supplemental Appropriations bill passed this legislative session was a Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) conducted study of Ag Overtime. The study focuses on Ag businesses with four or more employees working 13 or more weeks per year. DOLI's initial research will be a survey sent in August to businesses that fulfill the aforementioned criteria. If voluntary responses satisfy DOLI's threshold for statistical analysis, DOLI will not request employer records, which they are allowed to do under law. Looking at both hourly and salaried employees, DOLI will seek to determine whether or not Ag employees are compensated fairly for overtime work. DOLI's report is due back to the legislature by January 1st, 2015. MCPR will continue to monitor these issues as they move forward. MN Agri-Growth Council.

FAA Struggling to Deal with Drones

The FAA issued guidelines last week, saying the use of model aircraft (drones) by farmers is unlawful. If a farmer flies a model aircraft over his cornfield doing rolls and loops, that's legal. If an MCPR member uses the same model airplane for site specific agronomy decisions to determine how to conserve water or use less fertilizer that's illegal. Come on, FAA... commercial users will be *at least* as careful as a hobbyist, but the FAA is keeping them grounded. This isn't about safety; it's about bureaucrats flexing their muscles as they struggle to deal with new technologies. The FAA says their decision is all about safety. IFCA.

Brokaw Supply Company Announces Grand Opening of New Facility in Southern Minnesota

Family-owned, Brokaw Supply Company has expanded its supply of quality agriculture spray and fertilizer equipment to Redwood Falls, Minnesota. The Fort Dodge, Iowa-based company has announced it will host a grand opening July 29 and 30. The newly built facility, which encompasses over 11,000 square feet, includes a dedicated service and shop area, extensive parts inventory and elaborate showroom. Robert Varland, manager of the Redwood Falls location, stated, "Minnesota crop protection retailers and farmers have expressed a need for sales and service support of quality sprayer and fertilizer products. The Redwood Falls store meets those needs and allows us to better serve our customers." Brokaw Supply currently carries industry-leading spray and fertilizer equipment lines, including Apache, Blu-Jet and RayMan, all of which will be also be available at the new Minnesota location. Parts and precision agriculture specialists are also staffed in Redwood Falls, specializing in brands such as Raven, Banjo and Tee-Jet. Service of equipment has always remained a focus for Brokaw Supply Company. This rings true in Redwood Falls, as the shop area of the new facility will be large enough to handle all sizes of equipment and allow for service work on multiple sprayer and fertilizer application equipment at the same time. The Brokaw Supply Redwood Falls store is located on Airport Road, south of Highway 71 in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. All are welcome to attend the grand opening on July 28 and 29. For more information about Brokaw Supply, visit www.brokawsupply.com or call 507-617-3030.

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Climate Change May Be Good For Our Neighbors in Dakota Agriculture

The climate is changing, says Dennis Todey, South Dakota climatologist, and it might be a good thing for Dakota agriculture. Over the past 100 years, the growing season in South Dakota and North Dakota has increased by about nine days, he says. The annual average precipitation has increased. Summer's high temperatures are staying the same or even declining slightly. Nighttime temperatures are rising. All those changes are friendlier for agriculture than the alternative -- increased heat and drought like what southern and western parts of the U.S. are experiencing. There are some negative, of course. Sometimes the Dakotas are getting too much rain all at once. "We're not just setting records, we are blowing through them," Todey says. But farmers have tools to manage water so they can get crops planted and harvested. Tiling, ditching and planting cover crops, forages and grasses are some of the options. Overall, climate change looks fairly positive for agriculture in the Northern Plains. "If I were [farming] in the southern Corn belt, I'd be looking to sell and move north," Todey says. Hmmmm...we suspect this will equally apply to Minnesota. Farm Progress.

Study of Pesticides and Autism is Junk Science

Recently CropLife America announced it is dismayed by the alleged connection that researchers with the University of California, Davis have made between pesticide applications and neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism among children. CropLife America condemns the repeated use of junk science that draws questionable associations from cherry-picked data. CLA encourages the public to review all scientific literature with a critical eye and consider criteria such as whether the raw data or if the study underwent sufficiently rigorous and comprehensive peer-review process. CLA.

More than 155,000 signed Oregon GMO Labeling Initiative

A petition initiative to require labeling of GMO foods delivered 155,611 signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State recently, nearly twice the number needed to qualify for the November ballot.

Barcodes

"Agriculture Secretary **Tom Vilsack** said he has been so impressed by **Nestlé's** barcode labeling system that he believes putting information about genetically modified ingredients that way on food labels could resolve the issue of labeling foods that contain GMO ingredients. In a wide-ranging discussion about U.S. food policy at the Aspen Ideas Festival, Vilsack also said that ending the use of antibiotics in meat production would lead to "astronomical" increases in meat prices, and discussed what the 2014 farm bill does for organic and local production. Vilsack said that the "challenge" in the GMO labeling debate is that food labels have either provided people nutritional information about products or warned them about possible allergies. Labeling for GMOS does not fit into either of those categories, Vilsack said, "but the consumer has a right to know." He said Nestlé officials have shown him an "extended bar code," which he believes consumers could read with their smartphones or on machines in grocery stores to determine whether a product contained genetically modified ingredients without sending any "misleading" messages." Fluence.

New Supply Chain Sustainability Program for U.S. Crops Supported by Stakeholders in Food and Agriculture

Recently, Field to Market®, the Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture announced the launch of a new agricultural supply chain program for U.S. commodity crops. The Field to Market metrics and benchmarks developed through a multi-stakeholder process over the past several years will now become an important platform for measuring, promoting and reporting on continuous improvement in corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, rice, potatoes and other crops related to seven sustainability indicators: land use, soil conservation, soil carbon, irrigated water use, water quality, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The new program, which was approved at the organization's recent biannual board meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas, will focus on benchmarking current sustainability outcomes, catalyzing continuous improvement at the field and landscape level, and enabling supply chain sourcing claims. "The announcement signals a major commitment among members to address supply chain sustainability in a manner that is transparent, grounded in science, focused on outcomes and open to a full range of technology choices while considering productivity, environmental quality and human well-being," said Rod Snyder, president of Field to Market. Field to Market's new program framework comes with the support and participation of some of the most prominent members of the food and agriculture sector. The membership of Field to Market includes many main stream Ag groups and environmental groups including: Agrium US, Inc.; American Crystal Sugar Company; American Farm Bureau Federation; American Soybean Association; Archer Daniels Midland Company; Bayer CropScience; BASF; Biotechnology Industry Organization; Bunge; Cargill; CHS, Inc.; Conservation Technology Information Center; Cotton Incorporated; CropLife America; CropLife International; Dow AgroSciences; Ducks Unlimited; DuPont Pioneer; Environmental Defense Fund; FleishmanHillard; General Mills; Indiana Soybean Alliance; Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy; International Plant Nutrition Institute; John Deere; Kellogg Company; Land O'Lakes, Inc.; McDonald's Corporation; Monsanto Company; National Association of Conservation Districts; National Association of Wheat Growers; National Corn Growers Association; National Cotton Council of America; National Potato Council; North Carolina State University; Penton Media; Procter & Gamble; Syngenta Corporation; The Coca-Cola Company; The Fertilizer Institute; The Freshwater Trust; The Mosaic Company; The Nature Conservancy; Thompson Coburn LLP; Unilever; United Soybean Board; University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture; University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences; US Soybean Export Council; USA Rice Federation; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Walmart; World Resources Institute; World Wildlife Fund – US.

"Over the next 40 years, the world is facing an unprecedented challenge to produce crops to provide for 9 billion people within the natural limits of our planet," said Snyder. "The nature of this challenge requires an unusual level of transparency and collaboration, and today's announcement is a pivotal step in achieving this vision at a necessary scale." *Field to Market®, the Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, brings together a diverse group of grower organizations, agribusinesses, food, fiber, restaurant and retail companies, conservation groups, universities and agency partners to focus on promoting, defining and measuring the sustainability of food, fiber and fuel production. For more information, go to www.fieldtomarket.org and follow on Twitter @FieldToMarket.*



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Brad's View

Hello MCPR members,

The challenging planting season weather has again had a major impact on MCPR members and our customers. The crops are looking very good in some portions of Minnesota while other fields are reflecting very poor planting and growing weather. The pressure of spring is behind us but the transportation challenges are impacting our ability to get product to market just as it impacted our ability to get crop inputs in a timely fashion. A combination of severe weather, the pressure of a recovering economy, and a thriving oil and coal market in neighboring states all places pressure on the transportation system upon which we depend. As we work to meet our customers' needs, let's take a minute to place the CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show on your calendar for December 9-11, 2014 in Minneapolis and also include the MCPR Golf Outing September 4, 2014 in Spicer, MN. See you there!

Brad Englund
MCPR Board Chair