



Inputs

The Minnesota Crop Pest Management Short Course
and Minnesota Crop Production Retailers Trade Show

December 9th - 11th, 2014 at the Minneapolis Convention Center

REGISTRATION AND LODGING

Information can be found on the MCPR website for registering for the Short Course and Lodging accommodations. Visit: www.mcpr-cca.org under the Short Course tab.

TUESDAY PROGRAMMING:

The NRCS will provide Comprehensive Nutrient Management: An Update for Technical Service Providers (TSPs) on Tuesday, December 9th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This is the annual continuing education opportunity to maintain TSP certification. The session will focus on Soil Health in Minnesota and how technical service providers can help producers implement soil health practices. We will update TSPs on Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) development process and procedures for 2015. There will also be an update on what conservation practices are available through federal programs to assist producers. This session will furthermore provide an opportunity to learn more about the TSP recertification process

The Minnesota Crop Production Retailer's Tuesday, December 9th program "Precision Ag and Market Place Considerations" is scheduled from 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM. and will include the following topics:

- **Field To Market®: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture** presentation from *Steve Peterson, Director Sourcing Sustainability, General Mills, Inc.*; MN Agri Growth Council Board Chairman and Field to Market Board member. The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. Field To Market® is a diverse alliance working to create opportunities across the agricultural supply chain for continuous improvements in productivity, environmental quality, and human well-being.
- **Agricultural UAVs- Remote Sensing, in Drones, Manned Aircraft and Satellites and Practical Applications** presentation from *Dr. Kevin Price* who is with the firm *RoboFlight*. Previously Dr. Price served as a Professor in the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University. This presentation will review the issues around big data within the activity of remote sensing including recommending data privacy policies. In addition the presentation will outline the practical applications of remote sensing and their return on investment stories as well as how collected data can impact the farmer's bottom line through the growing season.
- **Delivering on the Promise of Precision Ag** presentation from *Dan Freiberg, CEO, Premier Crop Systems LLC* who will address the elements of a successful, productive site specific agronomy business. Dan will lead a panel discussion of practitioners including *Kevin Anderson of FarmRx* talking about how they do their service and why, and *Kevin Kruize, program lead with Central Valley Coop* to describe their processes.

The Pesticide Applicator Recertification: Category H -- Seed Treatment session, 2 PM - 3:30 PM on Tuesday, Dec 9th: This MDA approved session is for applicators who need recertification credit in Category H. To receive Category H: Seed Treatment recertification you must attend this December 9th afternoon session and also the Category A: Core and Category C: Field Crop Pest Management pesticide recertification morning and afternoon sessions on December 11th from 8:00 am to 2:45 pm.



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Executive Director's Report

Hello MCPR members,

The 2014 season draws to an end. We have been working for over a year to put together an outstanding Crop Pest Management Short Course and MCPR Trade Show. Please review the many tremendous programs, educational sessions, and the robust trade show second to none. Please join us this December 9-11...you don't want to miss this once a year gathering of Minnesota's crop input industry! For those of you who have not attended this show for a few years...you must come to see how much every aspect of this program has improved and why we are setting new attendance records each year.

December this year also marks a new era for our industry...ResponsibleAg. I encourage all MCPR members in fertilizer distribution and retail to register starting December 1, 2014 at responsibleag.com. Follow the example of over 40 MCPR members facilities who pioneered ResponsibleAg by helping MCPR develop and operate the Stewardship program which in many ways became the prototype for ResponsibleAg. Participation in ResponsibleAg is voluntary. Participating facilities will receive an assessment every three years. Assessments must be conducted by auditors who are credentialed on ResponsibleAg protocol. Upon enrollment, companies may choose to use an independent auditor certified by ResponsibleAg or their own internal auditor. Companies choosing to utilize internal auditors must ensure their auditors are credentialed on ResponsibleAg's protocol before conducting an assessment. A statistically-valid sample of assessments performed each year will be randomly selected to receive a quality assurance verification designed to evaluate the auditor's work and ensure a reliable and trustworthy end-product. ResponsibleAg is focused on federal regulations pertaining to fertilizer storage and handling, especially ammonium nitrate and anhydrous ammonia. However, ag retailers can elect a complete audit rather than just the fertilizer audit...and why wouldn't they? There are only a few additional questions so that you can have an audit similar in scope to the more complete MCPR Stewardship Audit which covered all crop inputs. The complete audit will not cost any more! Moreover, I anticipate discussions to ultimately merge the three year bulk chemical audit with ResponsibleAg. Stay tuned on that one.

Registrations and assessments are handled by physical location. ResponsibleAg has developed an assessment checklist and auditor training curriculum based on current federal regulation. The intention is to create culture of compliance within our industry. Facilities passing the three year assessment will be listed as "certified" in the ResponsibleAg database. Third-party auditors work as independent contractors through an agreement with ResponsibleAg to conduct audits for those companies with agricultural facilities that registered and participate in the program. Third-party auditors will be assigned by geographical area, or other means, and are subject to ResponsibleAg protocols for training, audit procedures and Quality Assurance verification. For those electing to perform an internal Certification, companies with agricultural facilities registered with ResponsibleAg may elect to utilize their own internal staff, provided they are eligible to be qualified, to conduct assessments according to ResponsibleAg protocols. Internal auditors are subject to the same training, audit procedures and Quality Assurance verification as third-party auditors. To ensure accountability, a report on progress and sharing knowledge through an annual accountability report will include the number of registered facilities, credentialed auditors, completed assessments and random verifications. ResponsibleAg is establishing procedures for appeals and dispute resolution to ensure transparency and fairness. An industry developed accountable, third party audit to assure a culture of compliance...now that is a new era in ag! And MCPR led the way...congratulations MCPR members!

Until next time,



Bill Bond

2014 Crop Pest Management Short Course/ continued from pg. 1

MDA Quick Coupler Installation Workshop - December 9th, 3:15- 4:15 PM (Trade Show Floor)

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will be offering a workshop on the proper installation of quick couplers on toolbars on Tuesday afternoon from 3:15-4:15 PM on the trade show floor. In response to anhydrous ammonia releases over the past several years which involved the failure of the quick couplers on a tool bar due to improper installation, this session will provide a unique opportunity to bring equipment manufacturers and agronomy staff together to review proper installation and maintenance to ensure proper operation and safety.

MCPR Annual Meeting - 4:30-5:00 PM (Trade Show Floor)

Hear MCPR's annual update and elect the 2015 MCPR Board members.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMMING:

In this year's Wednesday morning **General Session, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM**, three speakers will address important issues affecting Ag professionals in 2015.

- *Dr. Michael Schmitt, University of Minnesota Associate Dean and Professor*, will provide insight into the decision-making process regarding fertilizer management from a producer perspective. This presentation will share results from a recent survey of Minnesota crop producers regarding fertilizer management practices and what factors are considered in fertilizer N decision-making. Often times many factors are integrated into this decision process with the goal of minimizing risk.
- *Aaron Ault, OADA Project Lead, Senior Research Engineer at Purdue University*, an active farmer and project lead for the Open Ag Data Alliance (OADA), will discuss the state of data in the agriculture industry and how OADA is helping the ag industry to move toward better privacy, security, and interoperability that will enable the next frontiers of big data science while reducing the hassle of data management for both farmers and ag professionals.
- *Dr. Galen P. Dively, Professor Emeritus University of Maryland*, will review and discuss neonicotinoid insecticides, their history, current use and potential unintended consequences. This presentation will cover the potential routes of pesticide exposure to bees, exposure of imidacloprid to bees via different application methods, and results of a three-year study of the chronic sublethal effects of imidacloprid on whole honey bee colonies.

Pesticide Applicator Recertification (December 9th, 2 PM -3:30 PM and December 10th, 8 AM – 5 PM)

These MDA-approved sessions are for applicators that need recertification credit in Categories A (Core), C (Field Crop Pest Management), and/or H (Seed Treatment).

- Category A + C: Attend all December 10th recertification sessions.
- Category A + H: Attend December 9th from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm and December 10th recertification sessions from 8 am to 2:45 pm.
- Category A + C + H: Attend all Tuesday, December 9th and Wednesday December 10th recertification sessions.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND THURSDAY PROGRAMMING:

The concurrent sessions continue the strong educational program with a wealth of pest, crop and fertilizer management topics including sessions such as: using soybean seed treatments for the control of soybean aphids; monitoring crop insects using remote sensing; giant ragweed biology and control; new sprayer technology; successful corn & soybean weed management strategies; update of nitrogen best management practices; corn foliar disease update; maximizing soybean yield via genetics, nutrition, and management; sulfur management for corn; research results of using winter rye as a cover crop within a corn - soybean rotation and why grain prices are at 5 year lows. All concurrent sessions will run for 50 minutes and offer 1.0 CCA CEU/topic. The full program can be reviewed by visiting the MCPR website: www.mcpr-cca.org under the 2014 Short Course tab. Certified crop advisors will be able to collect a total of 15 CCA continuing education credits over the course of the 3-day program.

TRADE SHOW FLOOR

The Trade Show floor will be open during the following times:

Tuesday, Dec. 9th 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm (Includes Break and Ice Breaker Reception - in the exhibit hall)

Wednesday, Dec. 10th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Includes Breaks and Lunch - in the exhibit hall)

Thursday, Dec. 11th 9:00 am - 11:00 am



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Brad's View

Hello MCPR Members,

2014 has been a challenging year...nothing new for Minnesota Agriculture. The recent band of heavy snow across central Minnesota has created challenges for all of us in ag. Surmounting obstacles is an everyday occurrence for MCPR members in times like these...we build our capacity to serve our customers in spite of the conditions. Allocating scarce resources, putting out extra effort, working long hours, not making excuses...we get things done that must get done. With that in mind, plan to join us for the great annual Minnesota Crop Input Gathering December 9-11 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. You can get recharged, learn from the biggest and the best, and greet friends and customers as we take a couple of days to set plans for next years' inevitable challenges. If our crop input work was easy, everyone would be doing it. The Crop Pest Management Short Course and MCPR Trade Show is not for everybody – it is for you, MCPR members. Hope to see you there.

See you in December,

Brad Englund
Board Chair