



# Inputs

## 2015 CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show

The **BIGGER** and **BETTER** CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show December 8-10, 2015 at the Minneapolis Convention Center and the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel.

### “Will Agriculture be ALLOWED to feed 9 Billion People?”

Robert Saik will address that question as he presents a Keynote Address on Tuesday afternoon, December 8, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. His presentation entitled “Know GMO” is receiving rave reviews from agriculture all over North America will enable you to review the shocking facts about agriculture’s mighty battle with the opponents of GMO’s in our food.

Robert Saik, CEO of The Agri-Trend® Group of Companies is a Professional Agrologist and a Certified Agricultural Consultant. As founder of Agri-Trend, Robert has been involved in the development of many new business processes and spearheaded several advancements in technology integration in agriculture including the development of The Agri-Data® Solution which was a winner of Alberta’s 2002 E-business of the Year for on-line farm data management.

Robert was awarded the 2014 Canadian Agri-Marketer of the Year by the Canadian Association of Agricultural Marketers. He has travelled extensively through North America, South America, the EU, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East as well as Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan working on technology integration and agriculture advancements. In 2006 he was recognized as Distinguished Agrologist of the Year by the Alberta Institute of Agrology. He is passionate about pursuing business opportunities in the Agricultural Sector.

Robert Saik will deliver one of many outstanding presentations starting on Tuesday afternoon, don’t miss his electrifying presentation! More details will be on the MCPR website: [www.mcpr-cca.org](http://www.mcpr-cca.org) under the Short Course tab.



## Executive Director’s Report

Hello MCPR members,

Issues management. . .these two words describe much of what Jessi and I are involved with day in, day out as we work for your collective interests as MCPR members. The strength of MCPR is addressing troublesome issues you encounter in your business and professional duties that we can better address as a group than you can as individual companies. Of course, you belong to several, if not many, trade groups, all who try to attract your attention and resources as they define their mission and work plans in light of how well positioned they are to accomplish something positive for you.

Most of you know MCPR for the CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show on December 8-10, 2015 at the Minneapolis Convention Center and Hilton Hotel or the Golfing Outing on September 10, 2015 at the Little Crow Country Club just north of Spicer, MN, or lobbying your issues. But there is much more.

Here are a few of the issues we are currently working on:

1. To address the public demand for agriculture to be accountable for polluting the environment we are developing the Soil Fertility/ Environmental Risk Index Program

*(continued on page 2)*

### Inside this Issue

2015 Short Course	1
Executive Director’s Report	1&2
Reguletter	Insert
Golf Sign-Up	Insert
News & Notes	3
Craig’s View	4

# Executive Director's Report (continued from page 1)

to document sustainable Ag practices. The MCPR Board believes documenting both the optimal rate of nutrients that should be applied to a specific geo referenced field location in and documenting our efforts to protect the environment from the negative impacts of nutrient pollution remains a challenge for agriculture. To that end, MCPR seeks to design, implement, and administer a data collection software system that will interact with precision Ag software systems and can be integrated into emerging water quality assessment programs, and can be used for third party verification. Critically important for this software system is a design to accommodate Minnesota regional fertility BMP recommendations and dynamic enough to merge data elements from a variety of precision Ag data sources. The proposal envisions initially developing the software, selecting a secure web based data collection system, and developing and providing educational programs to train adult learners who plan to utilize the data system. This program will focus on crop advisors and consultants, Minnesota Ag producers, and cooperating environmental interests and public agencies as necessary. The project will be reviewed at strategic financial and development benchmarks as MCPR acquires a better understanding of the development and resources required for this software/training initiative. The program will cooperate, coordinate, and learn from what others have created and accomplished across the country so as not to waste any resources or time.

2. Coordinating with the MN Agrigrowth Council, MN Corn Growers Association, and the MN Ag Water Resources Center who have approached MCPR with similar concerns to those stated above. Combining visions and resources to get the job done takes time and careful communication between organizations leaders and staff to carefully accomplish more together than we can separately.
3. Coordinating with ResponsibleAg, The Fertilizer Institute and Ag Retailers Association's effort to utilize lessons learned and the expertise developed with the MCPR Stewardship Program. MCPR developed our program over several years in cooperation with Asmark Institute, auditing over 40 MCPR facilities for federal and state regulation compliance. Subsequent to the West, Texas explosion the national organizations saw the wisdom of the program we had developed and utilized many of the features to create a national regulatory compliance program. We have encouraged all of the MCPR members to enroll and engage in the ResponsibleAg (RA) program as we transitioned our program into the RA program.
4. Following through from the 2015 legislative session and the efforts by the MN County Assessors Association, key MN Senate leaders such as Sen. Rod Skoe who attempted and failed to repeal the property tax exemption for agricultural containment facilities which under current law exempts containment tanks, cache basins, and that portion of the structure needed for the containment facility used to confine agricultural chemicals. MCPR recently met with the MN Department of Revenue attempting to make these regulators aware of the consequences of continuing to formulate polices and legislative approaches about these complex issues and laws without consulting with MCPR and our members. This will be an ongoing effort as MCPR continues to bring the Cooperative Network and MN Grain and Feed Association into the effort these next few months.
5. Following through on several meetings between the MN Grain and Feed Association and MCPR to consider better coordination, cooperation, and possible merger as we attempt to continue to reduce resources and combine efforts for efficiency and effectiveness.
6. Operating the MN CCA program and providing the new ICCA 4R's certification program and examination as part of the MN CCA program in Minnesota. Jessi Brunelle became Executive Director of the MNCCA program and has been instrumental in arranging for testing to enhance the MN crop input credentials.
7. Continuing to develop and grow the partnership with the U of MN Extension and MCPR as the Short Course and Trade Show increases in numbers and quality educational offerings and trade show experiences.

And these are but a few of the items we are working on today, as I write this column. Thanks for being a part of this great campaign to improve and enhance the opportunities to grow this great industry and profession.

Until next time,



Bill Bond

# News & Notes

## 5 Reasons to Support the GMO Labeling Act

The anti-GMO forces have worked through many states to get mandatory labeling of GMO products. They've been successful in Vermont. Complying with that Vermont law—set to take effect in 2016—will be a nightmare. If a company decided to continue to sell a GMO product, without reformulating ingredients—and that's a big if—it would require a special unique identifying number for the product. It would also mean segregating these products throughout the supply chain. That means more costs to do business and more cost for the consumer.

Multiply that by the potential of 50 different states with 50 different labeling schemes and I see a nightmare for consumers—one that I think anti-GMO forces wish would come true.

The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act would prevent a patchwork of state laws mandating GMO labeling by allowing companies to label their products as GMO-free through a certification process. Five reasons you should encourage your customers and family and friends to support the GMO labeling bill in Congress now:

1. **Fear.** The legislation takes the fear out of food. Anti-GMO advocates scare consumers in pursuit of their goals. The proposed bill reinforces the existing requirements applied to labeling food products developed through genetic engineering. Misleading labels are not allowed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). If a claim is not backed by facts, no label required. Labeling foods solely because they were developed through biotech breeding methods misleads consumers into thinking the product is less safe.
2. **Health.** So far, the most significant advances in biotechnology have been made in insect or herbicide resistance to plants. This helps the farmer grow food more efficiently, but is not something consumers readily identify with. But look at what's in the pipeline. Plants that produce oils with less trans fats. Improved vitamin content in foods. Lowered risk of carcinogens and foodborne illnesses. It's all achievable. But only if we embrace the technology.
3. **Assurance.** Certified organic. It's a government program with guidelines that have to be met by the grower that gives consumers assurance their food has been raised without synthetic chemicals. The proposed legislation uses certified organic as a model for GMO-free rules and regulations. It will provide consumers the same assurance.
4. **Choice.** The American food system is built around choice from conventional to organic. Voluntary labeling differentiates markets. It can work as assurance for the customer and as an incentive for those who want to pursue those markets—without imposing additional costs on everyone else.
5. **Cost.** As many as 175 laws have been introduced by GMO activist groups in more than 30 states in the last few years. Those laws could be costly to consumers, farmers, retailers and processors. Studies have shown that additional costs could range from \$500 to \$1,500 a year for families. That's not chicken feed.

There will be challenges ahead for the bill for sure. Anti-GMO types will object, bringing up the “dangerous to your health” argument.

But their arguments ring hollow. Stripped to the bare bones, the case against GMOs is full of errors, fallacies, misconceptions and lies. Study after study shows that genetically engineered foods are safe to eat. Those studies are endorsed by the World Health Organization, the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. And ignored by activists. And corporations who want to make a buck by playing to fear.

Anti-GMO activists wanted a labeling law. Until confronted with a workable solution that would give consumers a qualified source of GMO-free food. And now they don't.

What they want is the end of genetically engineered food. (Mike Barnet. Ag Pro)

## MDA Releases 2014 Pesticide Monitoring Report

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has published their 2014 Water Quality Monitoring Report summarizing groundwater and surface water sampling, primarily focused on agricultural pesticides. The MDA coordinates one of the top pesticide monitoring programs in the country.

The report provides analysis of 560 groundwater samples from 167 sites across the state, and concludes that “no groundwater pesticide detections exceeded any human health-based drinking water standards or reference values in 2014.”

Surface water monitoring results from nearly 1000 samples shows 25 samples in which pesticide concentrations exceeded water quality standards, a slight increase from previous years. It should also be noted that several of these standards also contain a duration requirement, i.e. the concentration must exceed the standard for a certain number of days to actually exceed the standard, and the analysis of concentration duration was not included in the report.

The data show that crop protection products continue to be used effectively and safely by Minnesota farmers and commercial pesticide applicators, while also serving as a reminder to continue to follow label requirements and handle pesticides with care. Find the full report here: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/pesticides/~media/Files/chemicals/maace/wqm2014rpt.pdf>. (MAWRC)



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## Craig's View

MCPR Members,

The Annual 2015 Golf Outing is Sept. 10th at the Little Crow Country Club in Spicer MN. Registration starts at 10:30 so polish up those clubs and get a foursome together for a day of fun and relaxation. On the serious side of business your board is working hard to develop the Soil Fertility/ Environmental Risk Index Program. This program will provide tools to assist dealers, consultants and farmers in the development of fertilizer recommendations. This program is a major undertaking by our BMP Task Force. With the help from many of our dedicated partners we hope to bring a software program that will educate the Ag industry to make recommendations that fit the guidelines for the inputs we can apply in the future.

Hope to see you on the Golf Course  
Craig Maurer, MCPR Board Chair