



Inputs

2014 Crop Pest Management Short Course and MCPR Trade Show

December 9-11 at the Mpls Convention Center and Hilton Hotel

Ag: Big Data's New Frontier

Join over 1400 ag professionals who are exploring "Big data" and Agriculture. "Big data" brings to mind Google and Amazon. However, if big data is high volume, high velocity, and a highly variable stream of information being gathered from as many different sources as possible to change a business process, then initiatives like Climate.com or Pioneer Hi Bred FIT tools fit that description very well. As Big Data enters the realm of agriculture, questions like ownership, privacy, quality control, program compatibility, and data management are paramount. Besides focusing on these issues, you will also learn the latest research in crop production and pest management. You can also participate in educational tracks to maintain certification for commercial pesticide application (PAT) and updates for technical service providers (TSP).

December 9, 1-2 PM

Agricultural UAVs- Remote Sensing, in drones, manned aircraft and satellites and Practical Applications

Dr Kevin Price, a Ph.D with 33 years in the field of remote sensing and a pioneer of UAV use in agricultural academics will present the various platforms, methods, and purposes of remote sensing data. Remote sensing platform evaluations will cover drones, manned aircraft, and satellites. Integration of "actionable remote sensing data" via variable rate technologies through existing farm management solutions will be shared. He will be providing an education on the secondary issues around big data within the activity of remote sensing including recommending data privacy policies the grower should consider, thoughts on how and why data can be used and shared by both the grower and third parties, practical applications of remote sensing and their ROI stories as well as how collected data can impact the farmer's bottom line through the growing season

Participate in the largest, most successful indoor trade show in the Upper Midwest. Register now at www.mcpr-cca.org or watch your mail and E News for further registration info.



2-3:30 PM Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

Delivering on the Promise of Precision Ag -

Back by popular demand, Dan Frieberg, CEO, Premier Crop Systems LLC, will drill down into the elements of successful, productive site specific agronomy. Drawing on his vast experience advising Minnesota and Upper Midwest agronomists on the strengths and weaknesses of their programs, 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. If you are servicing or plan to service growers with behind-the-scenes data analysis and seek to enable agronomic advisors to 'think deeper' with growers by identifying and correcting yield limiting factors, you cannot miss this program. By providing detailed data, customers can make better decisions, easier. You will review methods of collecting the big data growers record every time they cross their field with a GPS device and put it together in a format that an advisor and grower can use to make better agronomy decisions and avoid the pitfalls of precision ag practices that do not deliver. Do you want to give growers a window into their fields that lets them and their advisor see relationships between yield and every decision they face in the course of a crop year? Learn how precision ag applied complex computer programming and database management help in making difficult agronomic decisions. The panel discussion will enable you to interact with professionals with years of experience "in the field."

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Executive Director's Report

Hello MCPR members,

Democracy is a magnificent government structure which has provided freedom, prosperity, and security for our nation for over 200 years. The U.S. Constitution provides checks and balances through the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of the federal government and also delegates power to the states. However, many of our citizens are openly hostile to those who run and serve in elected office. The divisive political climate at the state and federal level has poisoned the attitudes of many. One of them was my late father who was an outspoken critic of politicians and government. Imagine his surprise when I entered politics being elected a Dodge County Commissioner and later went to work for then Governor Al Quie.

I defend and support politics. My reasoning is simple and straight forward. When the politics breaks down and government institutions fail, an inevitable strife and ultimately warfare results. In a democracy we may bitterly contest our political opponents, but we know we have "say so" at the election box and in contacting our elected representatives and through the guarantees of a free press. In third world countries and other parts of the world, freedom of thought and the press is not allowed and the result is a debate spoken through the barrels of guns and weapons.

So my message to you, MCPR members, as we face a very critical election this November; is get involved in politics. In Minnesota, agriculture has a very unfortunate situation. One political party controls the executive branch and both the Senate and House of Representatives in St. Paul. But of more concern, many of the critical legislative positions are held by folks from Minneapolis and St. Paul. For instance, House Speaker Paul Thissen (61B, DFL) is from Minneapolis, Majority Leader Erin Murphy (DFL) District: 64A is from St. Paul, and Governor Mark Dayton is from Minneapolis. But more directly, the powerful House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee is Chaired by Representative Jean Wagenius (DFL) District: 63B, from Minneapolis. Not good!

What can you do?

STOP – if you want to impact the Minnesota Election this November for Agriculture – do this ONE THING!

Call your House legislative candidates and ask them if they have taken the 5 point Minnesota Farm and Food pledge. (To view the pledge go to: farmandfoodmn.org) Over 80 candidates have already taken the pledge – but we need to draw more attention to this ag coalition agenda. Has your legislator or legislative candidate taken the pledge? Find out by going here: www.farmandfoodmn.org/candidates/. Don't know which legislative district you are in? To find out go here: <http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/>.

I encourage you to visit the page, located at: farmandfoodmn.org, and take a look around and help spread the word to all of your customers in your electronic newsletters and on your web site.

One more thing – find out who is running for your township supervisor and county commissioner positions and ask them if they support the farm and food mn agenda described above. Many local fertilizer plant projects are under increasing attack by activists elected to these positions. Ask one of your staff to run for these offices and then let me know if you are elected. If not this election, plan ahead for the next. We must get more sophisticated and pay attention to local elections, MCPR members!

Get into politics or get out of agriculture....it's THAT IMPORTANT.

Until next time,



Bill Bond

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

Dan Frieberg, grew up on a farm in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University with a BS degree in Farm Operations. His career includes wholesale fertilizer sales, retail management, serving as CEO of the Iowa Fertilizer and Chemical Association and later the Agribusiness Association of Iowa and business consulting. Since 1999, his firm, Premier Crop Systems has been a behind-the-scenes data analysis backbone that has enabled hundreds of agronomic advisors to 'think deeper' with thousands of their growers.

Kevin Anderson is a GIS Data Management Specialist at FarmRx, L.L.C.. He has been Chief Manager of FarmRx which is a partnership between three farmer owned cooperatives in Minnesota including WFS, NuWay Coop, and UFC. Prior to this position he worked with SST Software and Blue Earth Agronomics / GeoFarm, Inc. Kevin has a B.S. in Geography from Mankato State University and has developed expertise in Precision Ag working at the field level with growers around Minnesota.

Kevin Kruize is Precision Ag Manager for Central Valley Coop (CVC). Previously he served CVC for 9 years in agronomy sales. Kevin has a B.S Ag Education from the U of MN with an emphasis on training development.

Tuesday 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM on Trade Show Floor MDA Quick Coupler Installation Workshop

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.

December 10, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

For the Wednesday General Session, three speakers will address important issues affecting Ag professionals including **Dr. Michael Schmitt, Associate Dean and Professor with the University of Minnesota**, 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 crop producers regarding fertilizer management and how risks fit into this decision-making process.

Aaron Ault, OADA Project Lead, Senior Research Engineer at Purdue University, will discuss the new Open Ag Data Alliance which is an open project for farmer-focused crop data privacy, interoperability, and security trend. The Open Ag Data Alliance is designed to enable the Ag industry to better manage the new 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. Dr. Dively's current research projects focus on the comparative

risk assessment of transgenic insecticidal crops and conventional insecticides on non-target beneficial arthropods, including honey bee; efficacy evaluation of new transgenic corn events; testing of new insecticide formulations and active ingredients and studies addressing information gaps in the biology and management of emerging pest species.

December 10, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM and December 11, 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Crop Pest Management Short Course Concurrent Sessions

The concurrent sessions on Wednesday and Thursday continue the strong educational program with a wealth of pest, crop and fertilizer management topics including using soybean seed treatments for the control of soybean aphids; monitoring crop insects using remote sensing; giant ragweed biology and control; big equipment and sprayer technology; weed seed bank management; corn stover removal and soil fertility; corn yield potential as effected by weather and water; revised nitrogen best management practices; understanding soybean physiology to increase yields; and sulfur management for corn and grain markets – prices for 2015. These sessions and more will build upon the idea that we have control of our destiny and the long-term success of our industry.

Tuesday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

TSP Section

This training is to provide Minnesota's Technical Service Providers (TSPs) with the latest information from the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). The session will focus on Soil Health in Minnesota and how you 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.

PAT Recertification

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

DO YOU NEED TO RECERTIFY? If you last attended a recertification workshop in 2011 or were newly licensed in 2013, you need to attend an MDA-approved workshop in the correct categories in 2014. If you don't attend a required recertification workshop, you must retest to be eligible to renew your license for 2015. Please contact MDA at 651-201-6615 with recertification or license questions.



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Brad's View

Hello MCPR Members,

I'm glad some MCPR members were able to take advantage of the annual MCPR golf outing; and that the rain held off. We were able to share the most recent MN Department of Agriculture's newly announced nitrogen management plan and proposed rules on nitrogen application in certain areas of Minnesota...information vital to MCPR members and our customers. Participants were able to gather for lunch and dinner to discuss emerging issues, catch-up with old and new friends, and of course enjoy a day of golf and prizes/awards. Congratulations to Dan Dolan of the Farmers Union Coop Oil in Montevideo, for his hole in one during or best ball tournament!

MCPR staff and the U of M are now working on planning the 2014 Short Course, titled: AG: Big Data's New Frontier, which will be held December 9-11 at the Minneapolis Convention Center and Minneapolis Hilton Hotel. Registration is up and running and we're working hard to make this year the best short course so far. Please pay close attention to the contents of the newsletter as it contains programming information for what attendees can expect in educational programming. I hope you can all take some time off in December to join us.

See you in December,

Brad Englund
Board Chair