



Missouri Agribusiness Association Wrap-Up

In This Issue

- [MEMBER NEWS](#)
- [NEWS YOU CAN USE](#)
- [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

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October 21, 2009

MEMBER NEWS

MO-AG Regional Meeting Wrap Up

For those of you that missed the MO-AG Regional Meeting, you missed a great time. Prior to the Golf Tournament, we held a Membership Task Force meeting where we strategized on how to increase MO-AG's membership. Thanks to those task force members that attended the meeting. Your assistance is vital to the future of MO-AG. The Golf Tournament was held at the Country Club of Missouri in Columbia. Despite threats of rain, it was well-attended and turned out to be a great October day.



Pictured left: Mike Nordwald, Ray Carroll County Grain Growers, Richmond, MO

NH3 Nurse Tank Testing Workshop to Be Held December 10-11 in Columbia, MO

Mike Nordwald
Ray-Carroll Co. Grain
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t**
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Join Our List

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Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG), in partnership with the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), will be offering a workshop to provide you with the training your company needs to test NH3 nurse tanks and comply with U.S. DOT regulations. The workshop will be held December 10-11 at Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia, MO. The brochures have been mailed and can also be accessed by [clicking here](#). Please register by December 1, 2009 to participate in the workshop.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

MO-AG Promotes Nutrient BMPs in Response to Gulf Hypoxia Concerns

Trustees of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District tentatively agreed to provide \$50,000 as the District's share of a two-year, \$150,000 statewide study on nutrient trading. The trading would be similar to wetland mitigation, said Lance LeComb, a District spokesman. The District's effluent would continue to contain nitrogen and phosphorous, nutrients which contribute to a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. It would pay people, mainly farmers, upstream to offset these nutrients by reducing the amount they produce.

Among organizations involved in the study are Missouri Corn Growers Association, Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG), the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the federal Agricultural Research Service. [*Source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch*]

EPA Administrator Announces Plan to Step Up Enforcement

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson announced at a recent House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing that the agency is stepping up its efforts on Clean Water Act enforcement. "The safety of the water that we use in our homes -- the water we drink and give to our children -- is of paramount importance to our health and our environment. Having clean and safe water in our communities is a right that should be guaranteed for all Americans," said Administrator Jackson. "Updating our efforts under the Clean Water Act will promote innovative solutions for 21st century water challenges; build stronger ties between EPA, state, and local actions; and provide the transparency the public rightfully expects."

The Agency will strengthen the way it addresses the water pollution challenges of this century. These challenges include pollution caused by numerous, dispersed sources, such as concentrated animal feeding operations, sewer overflows, contaminated water that flows from industrial facilities, construction sites, and runoff from urban streets.

[Source: EPA]

Eternal Atrazine Studies

The Environmental Protection Agency said last Wednesday that it will re-evaluate the health effects of a popular weed killer that has been found in drinking water supplies in the United States. The EPA will take another look at the science on atrazine, a herbicide commonly used on corn (maize) and other crops, and decide whether further restrictions are needed to protect human health. Research has shown that runoff after rainstorms can wash the chemical into streams and rivers, where it can enter drinking water supplies.

EPA monitoring of 150 drinking water systems in the American Midwest, where the chemical is used most heavily, have not detected it at concentrations that would trigger health problems, including cancer. But new studies have shown that, even at low levels, atrazine in drinking water can cause low birth weights, birth defects and reproductive problems. In 2003, under the George W. Bush administration, the EPA allowed the continued use of atrazine with few restrictions.

Environmentalists hoped the new review would lead to the chemical being phased out. "The hope is that they will decide at the end of the day that they should be regulating it more stringently, or they will just take it off the market," said Mae Wu, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The NRDC sued the EPA in 2003 for failing to evaluate adequately atrazine's effects on endangered species. [Source: Associated Press]

Atrazine Backed by Decades of Safe Use, Scientific Review

The facts regarding atrazine:

- Sound science has always governed regulation of atrazine.
- Atrazine is one of the best studied herbicides available today.
- Emerging studies offer no direct scientific link between atrazine and health effects.
- Atrazine helps farmers grow crops sustainably and be successful.

For 50 years and through many administrations, sound science has governed US regulatory decisions on atrazine, a well-studied herbicide that farmers rely upon worldwide to produce safe, healthy and abundant crops. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent announcement of its ongoing evaluation of atrazine is part of the

normal regulatory process. With its recent re-registration by EPA in 2006, atrazine science is fresh, current and definitive, with nearly 6,000 studies supporting its continued availability and safe use. Syngenta stands firmly behind the safety of atrazine, which has been used safely by American farmers for five decades. Safety reviews around the world by the US EPA, World Health Organization, Canada, Australia and the UK have all come to the same science-based conclusion - atrazine, as labeled, can and has been used safely.

Forty percent of the world's food supply would not exist without crop protection products like atrazine, which helps farmers fight weeds that attack their corn, sorghum and sugar cane crops. EPA estimates that atrazine saves corn farmers \$28 per acre in herbicide costs and yield advantages.

Atrazine is a critical tool in conservation tillage and no-till systems - farming methods that eliminate plowing and/or reduce tillage. Conservation tillage helps reduce soil erosion by as much as 90 percent when compared to intensive tillage. When soil erosion is prevented, so is the runoff into our waterways of sediment identified by EPA as the top pollutant in US streams and rivers. Please [click here](#) for more information. [Source: Syngenta]

Agriculture Producers

A recent survey of U.S. agricultural producers shows more are distressed regarding their income. Approximately 40 percent believe their income will be worse next year, when compared with previous surveys. Additionally, higher input costs continue to be the most frequently mentioned economic challenge facing U.S. farmers. Three in five farmers rank it the primary factor that has contributed most to the economic challenge they are confronted with. Additionally, there is an increasing concern regarding reduced demand (55 percent) and weather conditions (57 percent). Nearly all surveyed (94 percent) are concerned about price fluctuations. What seems somewhat positive is that the degree of concern has lessened - those extremely concerned dropped from 62 percent to 48 percent. To manage that concern, 45 percent have implemented or plan on investing in risk management or marketing strategies. [Source: Rabobank]

Graham's Surprise Support May Not Be Enough

The chances of climate change legislation passing this year may have improved with the surprise endorsement of Republican Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina. Graham says he's willing to join with Senator John Kerry to promote a bipartisan compromise plan to reduce greenhouse gas emission in the U.S. But major concerns still exist - in coal producing states and the Midwest - about a cap and trade system increasing energy costs. And, there may not be enough time for Congress to get something passed by the Copenhagen climate conference in December, a goal of the administration.

Senator Barbara Boxer reportedly has tweaked the climate change bill she and Senator Kerry introduced two weeks ago. The legislation has

been sent to the EPA for analysis, according to Politico.com. Senate Finance Committee Chair Max Baucus also plans to draft legislation "dealing with pollution allowances." [Source: *Brownfield*]

MACA Takes Proactive Stance on Traceability

In case you have not already seen it, view Mid America CropLife Association's (MACA) new "*Traceability: Where do we Stand?*" video by [clicking here](#). The new video describes MACA's proactive creation of the Traceability Implementation Project (TIP), a standardized system for tracking seed, fertilizer and crop protection products from formulator to field.

TIP will help ag retailers and crop producers provide the proper records in the event of a food borne illness outbreak or other safety issue. This is important in light of FDA warnings about food contamination from outbreaks of salmonella and E. coli bacteria, and the government's decision to rewrite regulations concerning the practices and applications of crop production products. If and when those regulations come, MACA aims to be ready with TIP.

In fact, the MACA TIP committee took the first steps three years ago when it selected a computer software company and ag retailers to test a system that tracks product from the supplier to the retailer to the field. They adapted an existing software system that collects bar code data using a warehouse manager and a batch broadcaster (or BB gun) that are capable of collecting wireless remote data.

A grower web-based application also allows growers to input production information by field, including fertilizer, seed and crop protection products. This will help growers develop databases of inputs and results to improve agronomic decision-making. [Source: *MACA*]

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER, 2009

19 ALOT Annual Meeting and Seminar
 Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia, MO

DECEMBER, 2009

2-3 2009 MU Ag Crop Management Conference
Columbia, MO

6-8 Missouri Farm Bureau Annual Meeting; Tan Tar A;
 Camdenton, MO

10-11 NH3 Nurse Tank Testing Clinic, Stoney Creek Inn,
 Columbia, MO

11-12 Missouri Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting and

Convention; Springfield, MO

JANUARY, 2010

- 6-7 **MO-AG Winter Convention; Lodge of Four Seasons; Lake Ozark, MO**
- 7-8 Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture; Hyatt Regency; St. Louis, MO
- 8-9 Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Winter Convention; Isle of Capri Hotel; Boonville, MO

FEBRUARY, 2010

- 10-11 Missouri Pork Expo

Note: Items in **red** are new postings since the last Wrap-Up issue.

Letters to the Editor

Do you have a response to the Missouri Agribusiness Wrap Up? Let us know! The Missouri Agribusiness Wrap Up is a bi-weekly publication of the Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG). MO-AG is a member-owned association based in Jefferson City, Mo. which protects members' interests in state legislation and provides educational opportunities.

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