



Inside This Issue

Capital Update	Pages 1, 2
Executive Director's Report	Pages 2, 4
News Notes	Page 1, 3
Dale's View	Page 4
Reguletter	Insert



Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

INPUTS

News Notes

Proposed MDA Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Update

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture collected public comments on the Draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule throughout the fall of 2017. While many expected the proposed final rule to be released by the end of January, 2018, MCPR Executive Director Bill Bond learned in a meeting with MDA staff that the rule may not be released until April and maybe as late as June 2018. At that point, there will be another 30-day comment period. It's going to be very important for MCPR members to watch for that rule. The MCPR along with fellow ag organizations will help get the word out.

Once they publish the final rule, the clock starts ticking on the admin law judge process which involves testimony at hearings, etc. - all on the record. Once the administrative law judge makes the final determination on the rule, IF there are no law suits (which there may be) this process could take several months. With law suits, maybe 2-3 years. Because ag groups will contest the rule, the earliest the rule will go into effect on your growers may be late this fall or more likely next winter/spring. But - don't forget, elections this fall will bring a new governor and new legislature which may change everything. It may be months before we get an idea of when the rule will be effective. MCPR.

(continued on page 3)

Capital Update

Because the Legislature does not convene until Feb 20 this year, the session should be short...but no guarantees. It may be an entertaining (or irritating) year in Minnesota politics. For the first time in state history, all 201 lawmakers will convene session without a budget for their own operations. Gov. Mark Dayton line-item vetoed two years of funding for the House and Senate in May as a negotiating ploy to get Republicans back to the table over a handful of provisions in budget bills. That didn't work, and the Legislature took Dayton to court. But the Minnesota Supreme Court upheld Dayton's veto, and instead of going back into negotiations with Dayton, the Legislature has managed to stay afloat by transferring funds from a nonpartisan commission. But the issue of funding will need to be addressed at the start of the session. Lawmakers plan to quickly pass a budget to fund the House and Senate, and Dayton has said he'll sign it. But the wounds of that fight are likely to last awhile, and some lawmakers are mulling possible constitutional amendments to limit the governor's power to veto funding for separate branches of government.

The lieutenant governor mess isn't going to be resolved anytime soon. You will recall former Lt. Gov. Tina Smith was appointed by Gov. Dayton to take the place left by Al Franken's resignation. That leaves a vacancy in her office that, at least according to the Constitution, "shall" be filled by the president of the Minnesota Senate. That person is eight-term Republican Sen. Michelle Fischbach, who is referring to herself as "acting lieutenant governor." The succession is significant on several points. Fischbach will be the first lieutenant governor to serve with a governor of an opposing party in decades, and she's arguing she doesn't have to leave her job in the Senate to fill the one in the Dayton administration because a 1898 Supreme Court ruling allows the Senate president to serve in that role and lieutenant governor at the same time. Democrats say an amendment to the Constitution in the 1970s took away the dual role of the lieutenant governor to also preside over the Senate, making Republicans' argument moot.

For now, Fischbach plans to do both jobs, though she won't take the \$83,000 salary that the lieutenant governor gets on top of her \$45,000 legislative salary. The whole mess might have to be resolved in the courts, which is becoming a familiar stage for political battles. And what happens if a judge doesn't rule in Republicans' favor? Fischbach has said she could resign from the lieutenant governor job and run for her Senate seat. Hmmm....interesting.

(continued on page 2)

Capital Update *(continued from page 1)*

Depending on how things go down with a court case over the lieutenant governor situation, there's the possibility there could be a tie in the Minnesota Senate at some point this year, which would be the first time in decades that's happened at the Legislature. Why? The Senate is currently controlled by Republicans on a 34-32 vote, due to DFL Sen. Dan Schoen's resignation in December in the wake of a sexual harassment scandal. Democrats hung on to the seat in the February 12th special election by electing Karla Bigham in Senate District 54. If a court case over Fischbach's dual role in state government is brought forward, as expected, it could be expedited and resolved sometime

before the Legislature adjourns in May. But if the courts don't rule in Fischbach's favor, she would potentially have to temporarily vacate her seat in order to run in a special election to return to the Senate. The possibility of a temporary tie in the chamber until after a special election could make passing bills difficult. There hasn't been a tie in the Legislature since 1978, when the Minnesota House was tied 67-67, leading to a complicated divided power contract that gave Republicans the Speaker of the House spot but gave top committee gavels to Democrats. Besides Sen. Franken and MN Senator Schoen, Republican Rep. Tony Cornish also resigned after allegations surfaced that he sexually harassed



Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

multiple women. Cornish was replaced by Republican Jerry Munson in District 23B.

There's also an open race for Minnesota governor that's already attracted many candidates. All other state constitutional offices are on the ballot too, including an open race for state auditor.

Related to actual legislative issues, the Governor proposed borrowing \$1.5 billion for 218 projects across the state in his

(continued on page 3)

Executive Director's Report

Hello MCPR Members,

The MCPR tries to monitor and be responsive to developments that impact the economic well being of our members. Often, the major issues develop over several months. The middle of last summer I began to hear from MCPR leaders that Dicamba was performing in perplexing ways. Over the next few weeks I learned that the experiences reported to me were being experienced by folks in other states. By now you all are aware of the developments that precipitated EPA and ultimately MDA label changes in Dicamba. Once we heard from many members and the MDA staff and U of MN researchers, the idea of a special Dicamba update specific to Minnesota during the CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show was developed.

MCPR worked very hard to create a two hour session at the start of the meeting to allow MCPR members to learn the latest information on the regulatory developments which would impact plans for 2018. The meeting agenda allowed the MDA and Monsanto, BASF, and DowDuPont to explain their plans to respond to the EPA label requirements. The EPA added requirements and restrictions included on the federal label for the new Dicamba products in 2018. They were:

- Classification as Restricted Use Pesticides

and permitted use only by certified applicators;

- Required Dicamba training for applicators to reinforce product stewardship;
- Records of use consistent with content and format specified on the federal label;
- Limit application to conditions where maximum wind speed is below 10 mph;
- Applications made only between sunrise and sunset;
- Tank clean-out in a manner that prevents cross contamination; and
- Susceptible crop language and sensitive crop registries to increase awareness of risk to especially sensitive crops nearby.

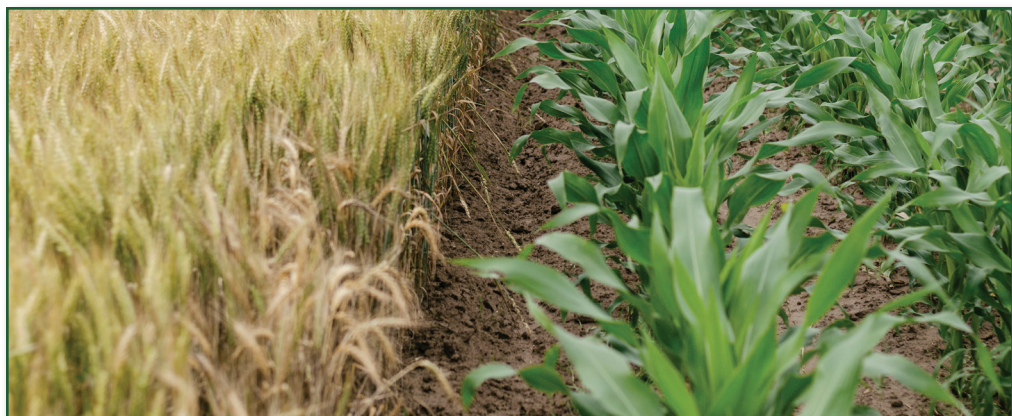
Many states added requirements for a state label, but some simply approved the federal label without additional stipulations. Other states started making plans for training after their state announced their plans for Dicamba. However, the week before the short course MDA still had not announced their label decisions. Commissioner Dave Frederickson phoned me the night before our special Dicamba update session to explain their decision. The MDA announced this decision at our Dicamba special session as MDA press conferences and press releases let the state and country know what it had decided. The MDA added this to the label requirements:

- May not be applied after June 20
- May not be applied if the air temperature of the field, at the time of application, is over 85 degrees Fahrenheit or if the National Weather Service's forecasted high temperature for the nearest available location for the day exceeds 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

The MDA Commissioner set this cutoff date based on the review performed and in part completed by the U of MN. The reasoning was that the majority of Minnesota soybeans will still be in the vegetative growth stage by June 20. Research showed that non-DT (Dicamba tolerant) soybeans in the vegetative stage are less affected by Dicamba than those in the reproductive stage.

The challenge that became apparent after the Dicamba update session was completed was that immediately someone had to take the lead to coordinate information on EPA and MDA approved training sessions. MCPR set up and scheduled a planning and decision making session the four days before Christmas after an exhausting week of short course and trade show operations. Not only did we get everyone to agree on an approach MCPR could coordinate through our web page, MCPR agreed to an nearly impossible goal of having the Dicamba web page up with

(continued on page 4)



Capital Update *(continued from page 2)*

bonding bill which the House and Senate Republican majorities are very concerned about because in part they just passed a

\$1 billion dollar public projects bill in 2017. MCPR will be working to assist the Ag Fertilizer Research and Education Council

(AFREC) in moving the sunset date for AFREC from 2020 to 2030 at the request of the AFREC Board. Should be interesting.

News Notes *(continued from page 1)*

CFANS Attracting More Students

Enrollment at the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) has been on the uptick. The trend is promising for the future of agriculture, as more bright, young minds choose a career in the field. Applications and overall enrollment in CFANS have increased steadily over the last three years. A major driver of that growth has come from external transfers, which have increased approximately 5 percent . . . Often, students who enroll in more widely known majors, like engineering or biological sciences, are stuck in lecture halls for years before they can apply what they have learned to real-world situations. CFANS offers its students those opportunities early on in their college career. The ability to get in the lab (or field) early has been a strong selling point to enrollees and transferees. Fluence

Third Generation Farmer is His

Granddaughter: "Kent Limousin, located just three and one-half miles south of the Canadian border near Lancaster, Minn., looks to continue a successful operation as third generation granddaughter Danika Kent takes over the operation. 'She's the boss,' said her grandfather Ron Hanson who, at age 84, is very happy that his granddaughter is home to take on much of the farm responsibilities. He said he'll help out the first year and then would like to do some traveling. 'He won't quit

working,' predicted Danika, in response to her grandfather's statement about taking life easier. Ron Hanson grew up in the nearby, currently unincorporated town of Orleans where his father worked as a rural mail carrier, first making deliveries with horses. Ron followed in those footsteps, first delivering mail out of Orleans and eventually becoming the postmaster at Lancaster. He began farming and built a house at his current location, first raising sheep and polled Hereford cattle. In the 'late 80's or early 90's' he, along with his daughter Kathy and son-in-law Terry Kent began buying and breeding with Limousin bulls. He served as a director for the Minnesota Cattlemen's Association for several years and enjoyed the 'mixing with cattlemen' which came with that involvement. Fluence

Minnesota Agriculture Teachers & Stakeholders Recognized for Accomplishments

The National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) recently awarded several Minnesota agriculture teachers and stakeholders for their outstanding work in Agricultural Education. Congratulations to these individuals and programs!

- Becky Haddad (Glencoe-Silver Lake HS) - Outstanding Young Member,
- Martin County West - Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agricultural Education Program
- Ridgewater College - Outstanding Post-

Secondary/Adult Agricultural Education Program

- Wes Anderson (Lac qui Parle Valley HS) - Teacher Mentor Award
- Ginny Karbowski (Minnesota State) - Outstanding Cooperation Award
- Julie Mellum (Chisago Lakes HS) - Teacher Turn the Key Award

More information about the award winners can be found on the NAAE website. NAAE.

Free Workshops Teach Agricultural Advisors to Reach Out The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will offer "Down on the Farm: Supporting Farmers in Stressful Times" trainings in February and March. The professional development free 3 hour workshop will be offered in six different cities across Minnesota; it is designed to help people who work with farmers on a regular basis recognize and respond when they see farmers experiencing stress, anxiety, depression and other challenges.

- Wednesday, February 21 - Austin, Riverland College
- Thursday, February 22 - North Mankato, South Central College
- Wednesday, March 14 - Grand Rapids, Itasca Community College
- Thursday, March 15 - Thief River Falls, Northland Community & Technical College

(continued on page 5)



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Executive Director's Report *(continued from page 2)*

training sessions on the calendar and MCPR members being able to register online for these free trainings sessions. Jessi Brunelle was tasked with working with our web page vendor to get this page "live" by the first week in January. She did!

Many folks are using the MCPR Dicamba page to address their needs for information and training. That why MCPR is here – to

meet your needs and respond to the challenges of our industry.

I may be biased but I believe no one does it better than MCPR.

Until next time,

Bill Bond

Bill Bond



Dale's View

We had a tremendous and very successful CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show. We had many compliments and also some suggestions on improvements we can make for the 2018 Trade Show which will be held December 11-13, 2018 at the Mpls Convention Center and Mpls Hilton Hotel. During the MCPR Annual Meeting in December all current Board members running for reelection were elected. Congratulations to each one. However, the Board of Directors developed an idea to add advisors to our board team for increased communication and representation throughout Minnesota. At the January Board meeting the MCPR Board exercised the MCPR Bylaws authority to appoint two Honorary Advisory Board members who will serve on the Board without vote. K. C. (Kevin) Graner, Pine Island, who is employed by WinField United and Jeff Moon, Sauk Rapids, who works for DowDuPont, were appointed. Both were candidates in the December 2017 Annual meeting election, demonstrating they have an interest in serving you by this participation on the Board. Welcome, K.C. and Jeff.

Dale Johnson



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News Notes *(continued from page 4)*

Continuing education credits are available. Registration is now open on the MDA website. For more information, including a printable workshop brochure, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/farmsafety.aspx or call 651-201-6012. MDA.

Des Moines Council Supports Bill Dismantling Water Utilities

The Des Moines City Council voted to continue its support of controversial legislation that would dismantle Des Moines Water Works Monday night despite a room full of angry citizens who spoke against it. The vote was four against, two in favor and one abstaining on Councilman Skip Moore's motion that the city opposes bills in the Statehouse that would place water utilities and its assets under the control of local city councils. Both bills have passed Iowa House and Senate committees and are eligible for floor debate. The City of Des Moines directed its lobbyists to register in favor of the legislation on Feb. 15, the day the bill was introduced, but claims it took no formal vote at that meeting. Residents complained

city leaders were backing the issue without first holding a public discussion and vote. (Des Moines Register)

Soybean vs. Corn Acres - According to the USDA planting intentions report, U.S. farmers intend to plant a record 89.5 million acres of soybeans this spring. That's an increase of seven percent from last year's record. Corn acres are forecast at 90 million acres, which is four million acres lower than last year. The all-wheat planted areas are estimated at 46 million acres, down eight percent from 2016. The area planted to spring wheat is expected to be three percent lower with spring wheat seedings at 10.6 million acres. Durum acres are expected to be down 17 percent to two million acres. (RRFN)

Midwest Business Economy - Economic conditions in nine Midwest and Plains states remains healthy, despite a slight slip in a monthly survey of business supply managers, an economist said in a report released Monday. The Mid-America Business Conditions Index report said the overall economic index for the

region dropped to 60.1 in March from 60.5 in February. It's the first index decline in five months.... Economic optimism remained high, although the index declined slightly to 70.2 in March from 71.3 in February. The jobs outlook was among the encouraging signs. The March employment index soared to 62.6 from February's 55.6.... The regional new export orders index fell to a still healthy 61.6 last month from 63.6 in February, and the import index climbed to 62.8 from February's 54.1." The March Business Conditions Index for Minnesota advanced to 61.8 from February's 54.3. Components of the overall March index from the monthly survey of supply managers were new orders at 65.3, production or sales at 60.3, delivery lead time at 54.9, inventories at 63.8, and employment at 64.5.

2017 Trade Show Winners

AGRONOMY SUPER BOWL CHALLENGE:

First Team Place Prize | \$1000 for the Team

- 1) Trisha Demaris CHS Prairie Lakes
- 2) Guy Bray, CHS Prairie Lakes

Second Team Place Prize | \$500 for the Team

- 1) Jeremy Drewitz, CHS Prairie Lake
- 2) Laina Nichols SMSC, Agronomy Student

BEAN BAG BOARD GAME WINNER:

Harlon Solma, Express Ag

Congratulations Winners!

