



Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

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INPUTS

Executive Director's Report

For several months now I have been working with the MCPR Board to plan my eventual slowdown in my career and service with MCPR. The MCPR Board had enough confidence in me to assist them in this endeavor by allowing me to present my best candidate for the Board to consider and hire within their wisdom and pleasure. I am happy to report to you that I have found an outstanding candidate who can take the MCPR and subsidiaries to a new higher level of service, accomplishment, and leadership here in Minnesota and throughout the USA agricultural public policy world and in growing current programs and developing new, exiting leadership roles.

The MCPR Board has selected Patrick Murray as the new executive director who will start July 26. As MCPR rotates to a new leader, expect the balance of 2021 to be a time of transition, and exciting new leadership and developments. We have accomplished much together at MCPR. I expect that will be true now and long into the future. Welcome, Patrick! Take a look at the announcement and join me to recognize MCPR's new Executive Director.

Bill Bond



The Minnesota Crop Production (MCPR) Retailers Names a New Executive Director

The Minnesota Crop Production Retailers announced Patrick Murray as its new Executive Director. Murray will assume his new role July 26, 2021.



Murray is currently the Director of Government and Member Relations for the Minnesota Agrigrowth Council based in St. Paul, MN. In his current role at the MN Agrigrowth Council Patrick has demonstrated executive leadership as a motivated, organized, and detail-oriented professional.

MCPR Board Chair, Rick Walker, West Central Ag Services, praised Patrick for his “extensive association management and government affairs experience in both the public and private sectors.” Walker also stated that, “Patrick possesses strong working relationships with the agri-business community, lawmakers, legislative staff, and members of the business community throughout the Midwest that will be very beneficial to MCPR and its members.”

Bill Bond, the current Executive Director of MCPR, will continue in an advisory role until the end of 2021.

Murray earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. His emphasis throughout his career has been in the public policy and government relations arenas with an emphasis on issue areas that include agriculture, cooperatives, energy, Farm Credit, transportation, and utilities.

“I am excited to join this well-respected agribusiness organization in representing Minnesota’s agricultural ag retailers as the suppliers of crop input products and services to Minnesota growers.” said Murray, “MCPR plays an essential role in advocating for its member companies with policy makers at both the state and federal level. I’m grateful for this new opportunity with MCPR and look forward to working to support and enhance the economic wellbeing of the members.”

2021 Annual Golf Outing Information

2021 MCPR Annual Golf Outing Thursday, August 19th, 2021

The 2021 MCPR Annual Golf outing will be held Thursday, August 19th at the Dacotah Ridge Golf Club, located in Morton, MN.

Registration and lunch at the Wabasha Creek Clubhouse will begin at 10:30 AM. After lunch, the shot gun start will take place. Dinner and awards will conclude the days event.

MCPR has also reserved a room block at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel for Wednesday, August 18th and August 19th. Room reservations can be made by calling 800-WIN-CASH (946-2274) and booking under MN Crop Production Retailers.

Interested in sponsoring? See the sponsorship opportunities still available below or contact Jessi at (763) 235-6473/jessi@mcpr-cca.org.

PRICING: \$150 per golfer includes: golf, cart, lunch, dinner, refreshment ticket and raffle ticket. \$600 for foursome – includes same as above.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES STILL AVAILABLE

- HOLE SPONSOR WITH FOURSOME - \$800

Includes: signage on a hole, recognition in the program and a foursome.

- HOLE SPONSOR - \$450

Includes: signage on a hole and recognition in the program.

Registration form and sponsorship form along with further information is available on the MCPR website: mcpr-cca.org or call Jessi with any questions!

Come meet the NEW MCPR Executive Director and enjoy a day on the golf course!



Minnesota
Crop Production Retailers

This is information believed to be reliable by MCPR. However, because of constantly changing government regulations, interpretations and applicability or the possibility of human, mechanical or computer error, MCPR does not guarantee the information as suitable for any particular purpose.



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REGULLETER

TFI Releases 2020 State of the Fertilizer Industry Report

The Fertilizer Industry (TFI) recently released its 2020 State of the Fertilizer Industry Report. Since 2013, TFI has collected data that provides insight into the industry's efforts to improve safety, security, sustainability, stewardship and efficiency, and serves as a valuable resource to not only those in the industry, but also for lawmakers and regulators in Washington, DC, and around the country. Areas covered in the report include worker safety, the environment, energy use, water, agronomic professionals and enhanced efficiency fertilizers (EEFs).

TFI represents the nation's fertilizer industry by serving member organizations through legislative, educational, technical, economic information and public communication programs. Read the full [TFI report](#) to see all of the good work being done by the fertilizer industry in regards to safety performance, reducing environmental impacts and increasing sustainable fertilizer use. (*Asmark Institute*)

OSHA Turns 50

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) celebrates 50 years of protecting the American Workforce. In its first five decades, OSHA has helped improve America's workplaces in many ways that have reduced workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses. While [every decade](#) has presented its challenges, dedicated OSHA staff have worked alongside their federal, state and local partners to protect the safety and health of the American workers.

In 2020, a new decade began with unique challenges unlike any others faced by the American workforce as the coronavirus pandemic impacted workplace safety and health in unprecedented ways. OSHA acted quickly to protect the nation's workers through outreach and education efforts, ensuring compliance with agency standards, and collaborations with federal, state and local authorities.

On December 29, 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, which was enacted on April 28, 1971. With the OSHA Act of

1970, Congress created OSHA to ensure safe and healthful working conditions for workers by setting and enforcing standards, and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance. With the improvements made to workplace safety over the first half century - and now facing the challenges of a global pandemic - OSHA's mission is as important as ever. We encourage all of our clients to join OSHA in making a renewed commitment to keeping their workers safe and healthy in the workplace. (*Asmark Institute*)

Top 10 Most Cited OSHA Violations

OSHA's Top 10 most frequently cited violations for fiscal year 2020 have been announced. Federal OSHA publishes this list to alert employers about these commonly cited standards so they can take steps to find and fix recognized hazards addressed in these and other standards before OSHA shows up. Fall protection continues to top the list with other standards swapping positions.

1. Fall Protection - General Requirements (1926.501)
2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200)

3. Respiratory Protection (1910.134)
4. Scaffolding (1926.451)
5. Ladders (1926.1053)
6. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147)
7. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178)
8. Fall Protection - Training Requirements (1926.503)
9. Eye and Face Protection (1926.102)
10. Machine Guarding (1910.212) (*Asmark Institute*)

COVID Waiver Rolls On

DOT has extended the [waiver](#) for expiring Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) and permits, as well as Non-CDL licenses for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers, until August 31, 2021 in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Some CMV drivers have been unable to renew their licenses and are unable to provide medical certificates to their State Driver Licensing Agencies, due to the states experiencing backlogs or reduced hours of operation. The pace of return to normal operations has varied across the country. DOT intends to review the status of this waiver as of July 1, 2021 and may act to terminate the waiver sooner if conditions warrant.

Drivers claiming relief under this waiver must continue to carry a paper copy of their expired medical certificate. Drivers are still encouraged to obtain their renewed licenses and medical certificates as soon as possible. (*Asmark Institute*)

OSHA Proposes WWS Clarifications

OSHA is proposing updates in the handrail and stair rail system requirements for the Walking-Working Surfaces (WWS) standard. Since the final rule in 2016, the agency has received numerous questions asking when handrails are required, and about the height requirements

for handrails on stairs and stair rail systems. One clarification is that a stair rail system with a handrail is required on the open side of certain stairways. Another eases a restriction on previously-installed stair rail systems by allowing the top rail of those systems to serve as a handrail when it is as low as 30 inches.

This proposed rule does not reopen any of the regulatory decisions made in the 2016 rulemaking for discussion. It only seeks to clarify the requirements for handrails and stair rail systems finalized in 2016, and provide flexibility in the transition to OSHA's newer requirements. (*Asmark Institute*)

A Procedures Questioned in 2018 Dicamba Registration Decision

The EPA Office of Inspector General recently released a [report](#) detailing how EPA deviated from typical procedures in its 2018 dicamba pesticide registration decision. Report highlights conclude that EPA did not conduct the required internal peer reviews of scientific documents created to support the dicamba decision and staff felt constrained or muted in sharing their concerns about the registrations. The report recommendations and planned agency corrective actions are:

- Implement a procedure requiring senior managers or policy makers to document changes to scientific opinions, analyses, and conclusions in pesticide registration decisions as well as their basis for such changes.
- Require verification from EPA administrators that Scientific Integrity Policy requirements were reviewed and followed during pesticide registration decisions.
- Annually conduct training for all staff on the agency's commitment to the Scientific Integrity Policy.

(*Asmark Institute*)

Annual Fit Test Delay Extended Until September

Due to the continued concerns regarding personal protective equipment shortages, EPA is extending the "annual fit test delay" to September 30, 2021 as part of the previously issued guidance on respiratory protection requirements for agricultural pesticide handlers.

This [revision](#) is in alignment with OSHA memos on respirators and addresses Worker Protection Standard (WPS) requirements. If there is a delay of an annual fit test caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, handlers must have received an annual fit test during calendar year 2019 or 2020 on the specific make and model of respirator they will continue to use. Handlers must have not had a physiological change that affects the seal between the face-piece and the user's face. The employer must demonstrate that the handler has received respirator training in the previous 12 months and inform the handler of the time-limited change to the annual fit test requirement. (*Asmark Institute*)



Capitol Update

As the regular legislative session ground to a halt without a final budget bill for the next state fiscal year (FY 2021-2023), hopes were dashed that the Minnesota legislature could end the session without requiring once again a special session to finally get the legislative work done.

It has been frustrating legislative session this year. Despite a huge \$4 + billion surplus (yes, it has increased!), the House and Senate leadership finally agreed to budget targets the final days of the regular legislative session but could not agree on a single budget bill. With the targets, the Conference Committees used "working groups" to finish their work in preparation for a special session because the legislature ran out of time to physically get the bills drafted and passed. House Republicans complain

they have been completely left out of these negotiations.

The Constitutional deadline for adjournment which this year was Monday, May 17th at midnight, which came and went without a budget bill being passed. Without a budget agreed to prior to June 30, 2021, at midnight, state government would have been legally unfunded and would start the process of shutting down all option state programs and services except for those the courts order as essential.

Adding to the frustration was that the legislature had not passed tax relief for small businesses who received PPP loans and people who got federal supplemental unemployment benefits. Despite multiple efforts to bring this to the House floor, politics

prevented it from being passed. Of course, much criticism has been leveled at the legislature for not getting this done before Minnesotans filed their taxes. In the broad financial agreement announced last month, lawmakers created two self-imposed deadlines to keep their work on track prior to the June special session.

Fortunately, during the special session the legislature finished it's work before midnight on June 30th to avoid a state shutdown. To resolve the remaining disagreements which were almost exclusively policy-related, so a budget could be passed, the budget deal had far less policy than usual. That was particularly good for MCPR members as several negative and punitive agricultural measures reported in MCPR newsletters were proposed but did not make it into law this year.



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