



Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

Executive Director's Report

INPUTS

Dear MCPR Members:

For those of you who missed my message in MCPR's e-news publication back in late July, I am writing again to introduce myself as the new Executive Director for the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers. I am extremely honored to join such a highly respected agribusiness organization and am grateful for the opportunity to represent you. I look forward to carrying on the strong traditions that my predecessors had in providing MCPR's members with legislative and regulatory advocacy, educational offerings, and general support to the agricultural sector throughout Minnesota.

During my first few months on the job, I have had the pleasure of traveling the state to meet with the MCPR board, MCPR members, lawmakers, colleague organizations, and other stakeholders who MCPR collaborates with on a daily basis. This includes an MCPR Board Meeting, the annual MCPR Golf Outing, Farm Fest, a Minnesota Nutrient Stewardship Council meeting, an ARFEC board meeting, and attendance at a Soil Health and Nutrient Management Filed Day. It is safe to say that I have really enjoyed my travels crisscrossing the state in representing you and your fellow members of MCPR. If you would like me to visit you at your facility for a meeting or tour of your operations, please contact me directly so that we can determine days and times that work for your schedule. One of the things that I enjoy in my new role is traveling to visit members to hear what's on their minds and what's keeping them up at night. And while I understand things are going to get quite busy as we approach

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harvest, please do not hesitate in reaching out to me if it is possible to schedule a visit in the future. And if we aren't able to schedule a time for an in-person meeting, a phone call or email works great as well.

And as a reminder, registration is officially open for the 2021 Crop Pest Management Short Course & MCPR Trade Show. Please review the programming we have planned for you to learn cutting edge and powerful lessons about soil health and fertilizer, and training sessions in the Crop Pest Management Short Course and MCPR Trade Show that will be held December 7-9 exclusively at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Additional information on the agenda, how to register, reserve exhibit space, or sponsor the event, is featured in accompanying pages of this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to thank the MCPR Board of Directors and outgoing Executive Director Bill Bond for their support and confidence in bringing me on board to lead the organization. And I would be remiss if I did not mention how much I have enjoyed working with MCPR Vice President Jessi Brunelle during my first few months on the job. Her extensive knowledge of the organization, professionalism, familiarity with our members, and with our programs has proven to be invaluable as MCPR begins this new chapter. If I can ever be of assistance to you on any matter or you would like to set up a time for me to pay you a visit, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at patrick@mcpr-cca.org or (651) 238-0089!



Patrick Murray,
MCPR Executive Director

MCPR Seeking Board Member Nominations

The Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR) is accepting nominations for several seats on the Board of Directors with terms that will begin on January 1, 2022. Elections for the following seats will be held at the MCPR Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 7 in conjunction with the 2021 CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show:

- District 2 Director
- District 4 Director
- At-Large Director
- Custom Applicator
- Plant Food Representative
- Technology Representative
- Advisory Board Seats (3)

Eligibility for the District 2 and District 4 Seats requires that the candidate's ag retail facility must be contained within a geographic boundary that can be found at the following link. If you are interested in serving on the MCPR Board, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Arnie Sinclair at arnie.sinclair@heartlandag.com or (612) 718-7943. The deadline to express your interest in serving on the MCPR Board is Thursday, September 30.

2021 Crop Pest Management Short Course and MCPR Trade Show Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2021 Crop Pest Management Short Course and Minnesota Crop Production Retailers Trade Show set for December 7-9 at the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel. Brought to you by MCPR and the University of Minnesota Extension, attendees will experience timely educational programming over the course of this three-day event, as well as an unprecedented trade show experience. After the event was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, we are excited to be back together in-person at a location that will feature newly-remodeled and expanded event space to accommodate multiple training opportunities and industry receptions.

Once again, you can expect one of the biggest programs of its kind in the Upper Midwest that is geared towards agronomy professionals and the industries that serve and support them. We will also offer our members an excellent opportunity to learn more about complex legislative and regulatory issues facing the agricultural community today. We are thrilled to announce that Collin Peterson, the former U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee Chairman, will be joining us as our keynote speaker on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 7. For more information on how to register, reserve exhibit space, or sponsor the event, please see the following link. If you have any questions, please contact MCPR Executive Director Patrick Murray at patrick@mcpr-cca.org or (651) 238-0089. Thanks in advance for your continued support of this critical gathering and we look forward to seeing everyone in December!

Former Congressman Collin Peterson to be Featured as Keynote Speaker at 2021 CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show



What is it like to be one of the chief architects of key federal legislation that affects American farmers, ranchers, and growers on a daily basis? MCPR is thrilled to have one of Capitol Hill's most influential agricultural policymakers from the past several decades join us at the 2021 CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show for a discussion on the finer points of how agricultural related legislation is crafted in Washington, D.C.

As one of the key authors of the current Farm Bill, former Minnesota Congressman and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson will discuss the various titles and commodity programs that make up the Farm Bill, as well as what may be in store for the next Farm Bill. In addition, Peterson will discuss what life is like after serving in Congress for thirty years, as well as what the future of agriculture policy making will look like in a Congress that seems to grow more and more divided as the years go by. This keynote speech by former Congressman Peterson will be one that you will not want to miss!



Minnesota
Crop Production Retailers

This is information is 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.



Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

REGULETTER

Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Delayed Again

DOT has [delayed](#) the compliance date for several provisions of the 2015 Medical Examiner's Certification Integration final rule again. The regulation's compliance date is extended from June 22, 2021 to June 23, 2025. This final rule will provide DOT time to complete certain information technology system development tasks for its National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners and to provide the state driver's licensing agencies sufficient time to make the necessary IT programming changes when the new National Registry system is completed and available.

The existing process of submitting medical certifications to the state remains intact for four more years. Drivers need to continue to provide state driver's licensing agencies a copy of their Medical Examiner's Certificate and carry proof of the medical certification for 15 days. The motor carrier needs to continue verifying that drivers were certified by a certified Medical Examiner listed on the National Registry and obtain a Motor Vehicle Record within 15 days of

the exam that shows the most recent medical exam. (*Asmark Institute*)

DOT Cautions Drivers About CBD Products

More than 75,000 drug and alcohol program violations have been reported to DOT through the Clearinghouse since January 6, 2020. Positive drug tests account for over 80% of these violations, and marijuana has been detected in over half of all drug tests that have been filed in the Clearinghouse. It is important for all employees who perform safety-sensitive functions, including CDL drivers, to know the labeling of many CBD products may be misleading because the products could contain higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) than what's stated on the product label.

DOT's Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulation does not authorize the use of Schedule I drugs, including marijuana, for any reason. CBD use is not a legitimate medical explanation for a laboratory-confirmed marijuana positive result. Therefore, Medical Review Officers will verify a drug test confirmed at the appropriate cutoffs as positive, even if an employee claims

they only used a CBD product. Since the use of CBD products could lead to a positive drug test result, DOT-regulated safety-sensitive employees should exercise extreme caution when considering using CBD products. (*Asmark Institute*)

WOTUS To Be Redefined Again

EPA and Department of the Army have announced their intent to revise the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS). Upon review of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, the agencies have determined that the rule is significantly reducing clean water protections. The lack of protections is particularly significant in arid states, like New Mexico and Arizona, where nearly every one of over 1,500 streams assessed has been found to be non-jurisdictional.

The agencies are also aware of 333 projects that would have required Section 404 permitting prior to the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, but no longer do. Further details of the agencies' plans, including the opportunity for public participation, will be available at <https://www.epa.gov/wotus>. (*Asmark Institute*)

COVID Waiver Again Permits CDL Extensions

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 November 30, 2021 in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

While many States have now reopened their State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLA), the delta variant has impacted the pace of return to normal customer service levels in some States. As a result, some CDL holders may be unable to renew their CDLs or provide medical certificates to their SDLA. DOT intends to review the status of this waiver as of October 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. **Please Note:** Drivers are strongly encouraged to obtain their renewed licenses and medical certificates as soon as possible. (Asmark Institute)

EPA Sunsets Temporary Respirator Guidance

In June 2020, EPA issued temporary guidance that offered flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency to agricultural employers and pesticide handlers regarding respiratory protection requirements related to pesticide uses covered by the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS). Due to improvements in access to NIOSH-approved respirators, fit testing supplies and related services, EPA is terminating the June 2020 guidance and its May 2021 amendment, effective August 19, 2021.

The decision to end these flexibilities is in alignment with federal agency

guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that entities should no longer use crisis capacity strategies for respirators and should promptly resume conventional practices. (Asmark Institute)

USPS Rates Go Up

The Postal Service has scheduled a second postage rate increase for mailing services that were implemented on Sunday, August 29, 2021. This is the second USPS postage rate increase of 2021, with the first rate increase going into effect on January 24, 2021. There are a number of products and services affected by the rate increase but the most commonly used services in our industry are listed below:

- First-Class Mail Forever stamp will increase from \$0.55 to \$0.58.
- First-Class Mail Metered rate will increase from \$0.51 to \$0.53 for a 1 oz. envelope. The rate for each additional ounce will remain the same at \$0.20.
- First Class Mail Flat Envelope rate will increase from \$1.00 to \$1.16 for a 1 oz. envelope.
- First Class Mail Postcard rate will increase from \$0.36 to \$0.40.
- Priority Mail Regular Flat-Rate Envelope will remain the same at \$7.95.

(Asmark Institute)

Are Your Federal Drug Testing Forms Current?

On August 17, 2020, DOT released a revised Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form (CCF). One of the updates in the revised CCF is the addition of "CDL State and No." to the line that captures donor identification information (Step 1-C). Including a driver's commercial driver's license (CDL) number and State of issuance for all DOT-regulated tests assists medical

review officers (MROs) in reporting violations in the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse.

As of August 30, 2021, DOT-regulated employers must use the revised CCF. If you use a drug testing company, they will be able to provide this form upon request. (Asmark Institute)

EPA Bans Chlorpyrifos Use on Food

EPA announced it will stop the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos on all food. EPA is revoking all "tolerances" for chlorpyrifos and will issue a Notice of Intent to Cancel registered food uses of the pesticide. This follows an order in April by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that directed EPA to halt the agricultural use of chlorpyrifos unless it could demonstrate its safety. This new rule will take effect in 6 months.

Chlorpyrifos has been registered for use in the United States since 1965. The agency will proceed with registration review for the remaining non-food uses of chlorpyrifos. (Asmark Institute)

Increased Safety Measures for Paraquat

As part of the registration review for the pesticide paraquat dichloride, EPA is finalizing new, stronger safety measures to reduce exposure. These measures include:

- Limiting aerial applications and requiring residential buffers.
- Prohibiting pressurized handgun and backpack sprayer applications.
- Requiring enclosed cabs or respirators for groundboom applications.
- Increasing the Restricted Entry Interval (REI) for several crops.

In addition, EPA is updating the Restricted Use Pesticide statement on paraquat labels to allow truck drivers who are not certified applicators to transport paraquat when certain conditions are met. (Asmark Institute)

MCPR Participates in Soil Stewardship & Nutrient Management Field Day Highlighting 4R's

On September 1, MCPR participated in a Soil Stewardship & Nutrient Management Field Day held near Albany, MN that was organized by the Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District in partnership with the Minnesota Ag Water Resource Center, 4R Alliance, the Nature Conservancy, University of Minnesota Extension, and MCPR member Centra Sota Cooperative.

This full-day event included presentations on soil health, 4Rs of nutrient and manure management, ag data stewardship, a farmer panel, and equipment demonstrations in the field. Key themes included how soil health and nutrient management plays a large role in making sure farmers can achieve sustainability and profitability. In addition, several local lawmakers also participated including Minnesota House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee Ranking Member Paul Anderson (R – Starbuck) and Senator Jeff Howe (R – Rockville).

If you have any questions about the Field Day or the role MCPR plays to promote the Minnesota 4R Nutrient Stewardship Council Certification Program, please contact MCPR Executive Director Patrick Murray at patrick@mcpr-cca.org or (651) 238-0089.



Peter Mead of the Nature Conservancy and Minnesota Nutrient Stewardship Council Member Amy Robak-Bruce of Centra Sota Cooperative discuss the 4R certification process to attendees during the Field Day.



MCPR Executive Director Patrick Murray catches up with Rep. Paul Anderson (R – Starbuck) and Sen. Jeff Howe (R – Rockville) during the Field Day.



Minnesota Nutrient Stewardship Council Approves Certification of Nutrien Ag Solutions Facility in Big Lake

Last month, the Minnesota Nutrient Stewardship Council (MNSC) unanimously approved certification of the Big Lake Nutrien Ag Solutions facility in Big Lake. The Minnesota Crop Production Retailers and MNSC would like to congratulate Nutrien Ag Solutions for their commitment in working with the Minnesota 4R team to accomplish this achievement. The Nutrien Ag Solutions Big Lake facility is now the very first Minnesota ag retailer to have reached certification through the 4R program. The certification comes on the heels of MCPR staff observing the first ever audit conducted in Minnesota on behalf of the MNSC. As the administrator of the state program, MCPR looks forward to seeing more ag retail facilities participating in the

program with the goal of also being certified by the council.

For background on the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program, it is a proactive, responsible commitment aimed at the long-term improvement of water quality throughout the state. The program encourages agricultural retailers, service providers, and other certified professionals to adopt proven best practices through the 4Rs, which refers to using the Right Source of Nutrients at the Right Rate and Right Time in the Right Place. This approach provides a science-based framework for plant nutrition management and sustained crop production, while considering specific individual farms' needs. The partnership between the 4R Program and MCPR was solidified in

2020 when the program was officially launched in Minnesota. Several other states and Canadian provinces have similar programs, with the first one being launched in March 2014 to address water quality concerns in Lake Erie. Originating in the Western Lake Erie Basin in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, the 4R Program expanded to the full state of Ohio in 2017, and internationally in 2019.

If your ag retail facility is interested in learning more about the 4R program or participating to obtain certification by the MNSC, please contact MCPR/ Minnesota 4R Executive Director Patrick Murray at patrick@mcpr-cca.org or (651) 238-0089.

MCPR Hosts Annual Golf Outing in Morton, MN



In August, over sixty-five golfers descended on Dacotah Ridge Golf Club in Morton, MN for the annual MCPR Golf Outing. After the event was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, MCPR members were thrilled to re-connect in person while enjoying each other's company and a round of golf in a beautiful prairieland setting located in southwestern Minnesota. The day featured a host of MCPR members who sponsored the outing including Abner Sales, BASF, Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC, Heartland Ag Systems, Kibble Equipment, Koch Agronomic Services, Nutrien Ag Solutions, TDS Trucking, Inc., and Verdesian Life Sciences. MCPR's Board of Directors and staff are thankful to all who turned out for the outing, as well as to our generous members who sponsored the event.



Rick's View

Hello MCPR Members,

I'm glad some MCPR members were able to take advantage of the annual MCPR golf outing. We had a great time. 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.

MCPR staff and the U of M are now working on planning the 2021 Short Course, entitled "Let's Get Real." It will be held December 7-9 and Minneapolis Hilton Hotel. Registration is up and running and we're working hard to make up for lost time after we had to cancel the event last year due to the pandemic. Please pay close attention to the contents of the newsletter as it contains programming information for what attendees can expect in educational programming. There is a good reason so many folks attend our meeting each year and the Hilton sells out their rooms. Please plan to join us!

See you in December,

MCPR Board Chair,
Rick Walker



MCPR Board

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