There were over 1100 attendees at the 2015 AM/PIC. For all those who attended in Sioux Falls, I hope you have recovered. The days were long and the schedule was hopping. For those who were unable to go or who have yet to attend an AM/PIC you missed a great educational program and an enthusiastic time. Missouri specialists have once again represented our state well, setting examples for others to follow.

Tim Baker gave a presentation, Teaching Growers about Herbicide Damage in Horticulture Crops, on a timely issue in Missouri in 2015. This sparked lively discussion in the crowd with many questions.

Patrick Byers was a national finalist in Communication: publication. Nice representation of Missouri extension. Thank you to Pat for agreeing to judge posters as well.

Although the poster sessions were conducted differently this year we still had several on display at the conference. Donna Aufdenberg (Journaling to a Better Garden) was our state winner in extension education, going on to judging at the national level.

Others who presented posters in extension education included Tim Baker (Teaching Growers About Herbicide Damage in Horticultural Crops), Max Glover (Pesticides and Water Quality Program), Kendra Graham (Measuring Learning and Implementing Changes Through Evaluations of the Pearls of Production Conference), Kate Kammler (Vegetable Grafting for Home and Market Growers), Ted Probert (The Value of 4-H Judging Teams – Missouri Dairy Judging Alumni Survey), Tim Schnakenberg (Hay School) and James Quinn (Development, Marketing and Usage of the Online Training of the Missouri Master Gardener Program).
Congratulations to Wayne Flannery who was a regional finalist for posters in applied research (Improving Tall Fescue Production Using Legumes and Nitrogen Application Timing) and who also took high honors as Missouri’s Distinguished Service Award winner, being recognized in front of a large banquet of his peers.

Joni Harper did an outstanding job of keeping all winners organized for the banquet even as she excepted an award of her own as Missouri’s Achievement Award winner. Nice job Joni!

Socially speaking Brent Carpenter did an outstanding job selecting the meal for states night out. Thank you Brent! You will make a great president next year.

Missouri had 66 members, guest, families and retirees attending in Sioux Falls. Not only did have enough cake to feed everyone during the state themed cake social but we shared with a few others.

The hospitality room played host to all who needed to relax, had questions or were new to the experience bringing retiree together with first timers and throwing in a few visitors from others states.

Although Dave Baker was unable to make the conference for the first time in many years, he was almost always present via 24 hour texts or by skype for a night. Thank you to Todd Lorenz for keeping Missouri’s hospitality going during the conference.
Explore Missouri 2015

If you have not spent much time around Jim Crawford, the Explore Missouri ISE provided an excellent opportunity to find out what moves and challenges him in extension.

As past president, Jim was a fantastic host for the annual educational tour of regional agriculture which provided a wonderful professional development opportunity for the membership and a great chance to connect with other agriculture professionals throughout Missouri.

Highlights included: Rock Port, the only city in America to be 100% wind powered providing unique experiences related to energy; Hurst Greenery, an oasis of ornamental plant growth near the Iowa border serving Hy-Vee and Earl May to name a few; Advanced Pork Systems, a model hog farm that clears the air and is a community leader; Golden Triangle Energy is able to keep its doors open and turn profit through distillation of a value added product; and Graves Chapple-Research Center where local area growers get relevant, research based information on agriculture.

To top off the great education, Jim provided more than enough great food to feed the group showcasing the support that extension has in the northwest region. Thank you Mr. Crawford.
Encourage Membership in MAEP

Our organization is only as strong as the members who serve. You may find there are agriculture professionals who will not join MAEP but that does not mean you don't continue to encourage membership. The benefits of connecting with other professionals alone is worth the time and energy. If you have trouble communicating the benefits of MAEP then take a look at the top 10 and provide encouragement to new specialist and professionals as they start with extension.

10. The University of Missouri provides financial support for Regional Specialists to participate in professional activities ($750 per year or $1000 for two years).

9. Recognition from colleagues for your educational programs and activities. Faculty with 10 years or less of service are eligible for the Achievement Award. Faculty with over 10 years of service are eligible for the Distinguished Service Award.

8. Participation in professional development opportunities that benefit work toward the NTT process. This includes opportunities to give presentations or posters at the national level as well as attend tours and workshops at the AM/PIC (Annual Meeting / Professional Improvement Conference). Each year the AM/PIC is hosted by a different state which allows you to see a wide variety of agriculture and Extension programming in action.

7. The AM/PIC is a family-oriented activity. Not only are activities tailored for your professional improvement, but additional activities are included for spouses, sons and daughters.

6. Pre-AM/PIC workshops and tours are available that provide a focused learning environment in livestock, agronomy or horticulture, often funded to cover expenses.

5. Participating in the national individual or group scholarship program provides financial assistance for self-determined professional improvement experiences. Members may contribute a minimum of $40 through donations or the scholarship auction and receive hundreds of dollars in return for professional development.

4. You have an opportunity to develop your skills by becoming involved in state, regional and national leadership positions and rewarding positions on committees. Serving as a National Committee Chair provides an expense-paid trip to the AM/PIC. Serving as a National Vice-Chair pays for your registration fee to the AM/PIC.

3. You may participate in state and national contests that showcase your programmatic efforts and provide you with program ideas from other contest participants nationwide.

2. Membership allows you to have a direct impact on Extension policy in Missouri and nationally that can define the future of your profession.

1. You will develop a strong working network of state and national professionals in your career field. Members have a sense of belonging to an organization that enhances their abilities professionally.

http://extension.missouri.edu/maep

http://www.nacaa.com