

MAEP Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals



Little Rock or Bust

It's time to make plans to attend the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference.

NACAA puts on the most family friendly conference to be found. There are programs for spouses, children and retirees. You will see people of all ages from across the country and lots of happy faces. The sessions are well done and pertain directly to our work. The tours will get you into places that you just can't see on your own. Missouri has a tradition of sending one of the largest delegations. We hope to send 70 members and family this year. Mrs. Carpenter now expects to go every year.

The next issue of the County Agent magazine will have the details on tours, events, lodging and registration. It should be arriving soon. Some members receive a hardcopy in the mail or you can find the magazine at the NACAA site under the "Publications and News" tab. There are benefits to early registration.

Professional development dollars have historically been available for travel and registration fees. Check with your RD office. MU Ext policies are found here [PD\\$Site](#)

Missouri Shines

Final counts are not yet available, but I'm told there are many posters and presentations submitted. Of course, our 2016 awardees will be honored: Sarah Denkler with the Achievement Award and Jim Crawford for Distinguished Service. Eldon Cole has been nominated for induction into the national Hall of Fame.

Stay Connected

We like to know in advance who will be attending the AMPIC. Joni Harper will be contacting you to request information about your plans and a means of contact during the conference. The Missouri delegation will gather for supper on Tuesday evening of the AMPIC.



Important Dates

April 1

Check the NACAA site for conference registration info.

[More info](#)

July 6-7

"Explore Missouri"
Sikeston

July 24-28

NACAA Annual Conference (AMPIC),
Little Rock

2015-16 Officers

Sarah Denkler
Past President

Brent Carpenter
President

Joni Harper
Vice President

Patrick Byers
Secretary

Patricia Barrett
Treasurer

Explore Missouri: Another great thing about being an extension ag specialist in Missouri:

You should have received a note from PP Sarah Denkler inviting you to register for a Bootheel version of “Explore Missouri”. This is the annual summer get together of the membership and includes tour stops of some of the outstanding agricultural enterprises in the Show Me State. This is the first time we have been able to tour in the Bootheel.

Sarah has put together an excellent offering of interesting learning experiences for every specialty area. We’ll get to enjoy some fresh produce and maybe take a few bushels of peaches home.

- MaKaskle Family Farm. Growing organic popcorn, rice, soybeans, wheat and oats. Rice and popcorn milling and processing.
- Delta Bees Co. Pollinating crops across the Mid-South.
- Bader Peach Farms. Largest peach producer in Missouri. Retail sales.
- Parker Bros Farms. Modern cotton farming
- Hamra Farms. Hydroponic production. Direct marketing to schools.
- Beggs Melons. A working farm since 1895. Production, processing, agritourism and more.

Look forward to a good time with colleagues. This event is an approved ISE. Register [here](#).

Business Roundup

All is well with MAEP. Membership is steady at 66 active members. Finances are in good shape and returning to growth. The executive committee has been meeting to review priorities and discuss ways to increase the value of membership. One of the items to consider is the potential of providing support for our DSA and AA honorees to attend the national meeting.

Thanks for all of the committee work that has been done already this year to make this a highly functioning association.

VP Joni Harper will represent us next month in the nation’s capital at the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference. She will get to meet with USDA program leaders and extension folks of every stripe from across the country and advocate on our behalf on the hill. Enjoy the sights, Joni, and bring a sack of money home. It looks like we’re going to need it.

Request: Please review the list of life members online [LifeMembers](#) and let us know of any corrections. We need to keep this current and you are the best source.

What are your priorities for MAEP? What will make us stronger and more effective? The question I often ask myself is how the profession of ag extension can be better recognized for fulfilling a critical role in solving agricultural issues in Missouri. MAEP can make a difference. Let us know your ideas, questions and concerns.

Matt for Secretary

Matt Herring is running unopposed for a third and final year as NACAA secretary in 2016-17.

It’s our good fortune that Matt accepted this role. He has served the association well and we’re proud to support him for another term.

There is no reason why the next secretary can’t be a Missourian, so consider running for the open seat a year from now.

Brent Carpenter