



# MABA Newsletter

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

"Growing Montana"

2006, Number 1

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## MABA Committee Chair

**Mike King**, Billings, biotech

**Arleen Rice**, Havre, legislative

**Mark Cole**, Shelby, transportation

**Bill O'Haire**, plastic container collection

**Bob Hollern**, membership

## Calendar:

### June 8

MGEA Golf Tournament, Fort Benton

### June 26-28

MSTA Summer Meeting, Idaho

### June 30

MABA Board of Directors Meeting,

Yogo Inn, Lewistown

### July 17-19

National Agri-Dealer Conference,

Washington DC

### August 1-3

Wyoming Agri-Business Convention

### August

MABA Professional Applicator

Training, Wolf Point

### August 23

MABA Education Committee Meeting,

Yogo Inn, Lewistown

### October 17-18

MABA Board of Directors, Comfort

Inn and MSU, Bozeman

### November 28

MABA Board of Directors, Great Falls

### January 24-26

MABA-MGEA Convention, Great Falls

## Hershberger MABA President for 2006

Curtis Hershberger, NGS Inc., Denton, is serving as president of the Montana Agricultural Business Association for 2006. Dave Philipps, Central Montana Coop, Lewistown, is vice president and Bob Hollern, FEi Inc., Bozeman, is MABA's 2006 secretary-treasurer. MABA's 2005 President Bill O'Haire continues to serve on the board.



**MABA President Curtis Hershberger, left, and Montana Dept. of Ag deputy director Joel Clairmont at MABA's March board meeting.**

New board members are Barry Bowles, Wilbur Ellis, East Helena; Curt Droogsma, Croplan Genetics, Billings, and Ryan Holt, UAP, Great Falls. They replace Arleen Rice, Hi-Line Chemical, Havre; Mark Cole, Dick Irvin Inc., Shelby, and Craig Cheetham, Wilbur Ellis, Billings, who chose not to seek re-election.

## MABA, DOA Working on Plastic Collection

Led by MABA Past President Bill O'Haire, MABA is working with the Montana Department of Agriculture to reinstitute a pesticide plastic container collection program. Needed is a program to not only collect and recycle the smaller containers but also containers larger than 56 gallons and outdated shuttles.

The Montana Legislature in the early 1990's passed legislation with our support to collect unusable pesticides, metal containers and plastic containers. The Dept. of Agriculture with our increased dealer and applicator fees--which we agreed to provided that staff time was paid by EPA funding--instituted a unusable pesticide and metal pesticide container program. At the time, MABA had a program shredding and recycling plastic containers. However, the sheer volume of time required by volunteers (primarily by the distributors) resulted in the plastic program's demise. O'Haire and Leonard Berry, Montana Dept. of Ag, have been working with ACRC and others to set up a new plastic container program.

## Pesticide Collection Moved to September

Montana's 2006 Pesticide and Metal Container Collection will be in September instead of in June as it has been the past several years. Collections are scheduled for Havre Sept. 19, Shelby Sept. 21 and Great Falls Sept. 22. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

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Greg Mulhall 800-247-8013



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# Pesticide Financial Responsibility Changes on Hold

You expressed concerns, she listened.

Montana Department of Agriculture Director Nancy K. Peterson has placed any changes in the pesticide financial responsibility rules on hold.

After listening to the discussion and confusion about changes at the MABA-MGEA Convention in January, she withdrew a proposal that was developed before she became director. She told MABA that the Montana Dept of Agriculture can continue to operate as it has in the past.

The primary issue for department staff has been the time involved keeping track of financial responsibility documents. These include certificates of deposits and insurance policies which, under current rules, must be provided to the department before a pesticide applicator license can be issued--an annual event. This also has slowed down the ability of the department to issue the annual licenses.

AMAA's John Semple has suggested the department simply add a requirement on the applicator license that verifies he or she fulfills the financial responsibility requirement--just as you do when you renew your car or truck vehicle license. In dis-

cussions, the MABA board has agreed with this solution to verifying financial responsibility but has taken no formal vote.

The proposed changes, however, went beyond this. Insurance was required--a sticky, complicated and confusing issue, not to mention that changes in the insurance market which are cyclical could put an applicator out of business.

In addition, it is questionable why insurance is needed because the financial responsibility provision has been used less than a handful of times in the nearly 30 years since the Montana Pesticides Act was enacted. Cases generally are settled by the parties or in civil court.

Other changes, including the level of financial responsibility and who is eligible for insurance benefits in the original proposal are problematic. The original proposal could have meant farmer commercial applicators simply would not have become licensed.

MABA will be looking at the issue again at its board meeting June 28 in Lewistown. Contact any board member if you have questions or concerns.

## Members Encouraged to Attend Agri-Dealer Meeting



2005 attendees with Sen. Conrad Burns. From left, Pam Langley, Arleen Rice, Sen. Burns, Curtis Hersberger and Bill O'Haire

MABA members are encouraged to join MABA President Curtis Hersberger, Past President Bill O'Haire and Executive Director Pam Langley at the in National AgriDealer Conference in Washington DC in July. The conference is July 17-19 and begins with briefings from the Agricultural Retailers Association, Crop Life America, The Fertilizer Institute and the American Seed Trade Association. Participants will visit the offices of Montana's Congressional delegation. To participate, email MABA at [mabamgea@bresnan.net](mailto:mabamgea@bresnan.net) by June 10.



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# MABA-MGEA 2006 Convention Attendance Up

Attendance at MABA and MGEA's 19th Annual Joint Convention was up from 2005 as were the number of exhibitors and sponsors.

As it is every year, a big reason for the success of the convention is due to the members who take the time to plan relevant sessions. This year's MABA committee planning the pesticide workshop and convention included Curtis Hershberger, Denton; Dick Schock, Valier; Nate Solberg, Denton; Dave Philipps, Lewistown; Clain Jones, Bozeman and Jeff Farkell, Brady.

The committee planning the 2007 convention will meet Aug. 23 in Lewistown. Members are welcome to attend or you may email suggestions to [mabamgea@bresnan.net](mailto:mabamgea@bresnan.net).



MSU College of Agriculture Dean Dr. Jeff Jacobsen and Montana Director of Agriculture Nancy K. Peterson were both speakers at the convention.



Sustaining Member banners lined the railing above the Trade Show which featured some 47 exhibitors.



MABA President Bill O'Haire, far right, presents awards to Mike King, Mark Cole and Arleen Rice, retiring board members. All three continue as committee chairs.

## MABA Welcomes Sustaining & Regular Members

The Montana Agricultural Business Association welcomes the following new sustaining members:

**ConAgra Fertilizer**

**Nichino America, Inc.**

**NuFarm**

**Potash Corp**

Mike Brooks, ConAgra Fertilizer International; Kevin Glaesemann, NuFarm, and Steve Gillette, Potash Corp had all been regular members in the past. Nichino's Mike Waring had been a sustaining member previous to joining his new company and is an MABA Past President

We welcome the following new regular members:

**Don Goodell**, Affordable Home & Yard, Bigfork

**Doug Bronson**, Ag States Group, Billings

**Rocky Schumacher**, Agsco, Grand Forks, ND

**Clayton Hove**, Arysta, Stanley, ND

**Jim Elliot**, Bayer Crop Science, Minot, ND

**Barbara Ranf**, BNSF Railway, Helena

**Craig Cornell**, Cornell Fertilizer, Dillon

**Brett Oemichen**, Dow AgroSciences, Great Falls

**Sid Brandon**, First State Company, Cut Bank

**Brian Laverentz**, FMC Ag Products, Fargo, ND

**Roger Swinney**, Horizon Resources, Fairview

**Howard Best**, Horizon Implement, Miles City

**Evan Carlisle**, MANA Inc., Idaho Falls, ID

**Shaun Peterson**, PFG Insurance, Helena

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# Risk of West Nile Greater than Pesticide Exposure

A risk assessment for the West Nile virus and insecticides used in mosquito management indicate that, "based on human-health criteria, the risks from West Nile virus exceed the risks from exposure to mosquito insecticides."

In addition, "results from our risk assessment and the current weight of scientific evidence indicate that human-health risks from residential exposure to mosquito insecticides are low and are not likely to exceed levels of concern."

This is from the abstract of research conducted by Dr. Bob Peterson, Montana State University; Dr. Paula Macedo and R. S. Davis.

The abstract reports the research was undertaken because the outbreak of West Nile has some citizens concerned about the risks from insecticide use.

A West Nile Virus, Mosquito Management, and Risk Website has been launched this month and focuses on human-health and ecological risks issues associated with West Nile virus and mosquito management strategies, especially insecticides. The site was created and is maintained by Dr. Paula Macedo.

The site is <http://landresources.montana.edu/WNV>.

It includes the abstract and a pdf reprint of the recent peer-reviewed article published in Environmental Health Perspectives. Additionally, it includes 15 questions and answers about the paper. These questions include several that were received from the general public and others over the past year. The site also includes links to other risk assessment and related sites.

# Cropland Weed Field Day Set for July 7 at MSU

by Fabian Menalled,  
*Cropland Weed Specialist, MSU-Bozeman*

There will be a cropland weed field day at Montana State University's Post Research Farm, west of Bozeman on Friday July 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This is an opportunity for pest control advisers, farm managers, chemical company cooperators, Extension Service agents, and students to learn about on-going crop and weed research programs at MSU. Participants will receive a total of 5 CCA CEU credits.

Research and demonstration plots of weed management techniques, herbicides, application strategies, and various crop traits will be open

throughout the day with staff available to answer questions. Weed and cropping specialists will discuss the results of their field trials. Speakers will include Fabian Menalled and Ed Davis (weed management), Bill Dyer (weed physiology and herbicide resistance), Alan Dyer (plant pathology), Sue Blodgett (insect pest management), and Marjolein Schat (biological control).

Registration is \$10 and covers refreshments, lunch, and a handbook. Please, pre-register no later than July 5<sup>th</sup> by contacting Fabian Menalled at 994-4783 or by e-mail [menalled@montana.edu](mailto:menalled@montana.edu). You can also register at the Post Farm on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The Post Farm is located 8 miles west of Bozeman on Highway 191.

# Order New Asmark Institute Posters with MABA Logo

Asmark Institute's Allen Summers has printed 100 sets of three posters useful in pesticide and fertilizer distributor, retail and applicator locations. The posters also feature MABA's new logo.

The first poster lists all 2006 Restricted-Use Pesticides, the second has 2006 Worker Protec-

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tion Standard Information and the final poster contains 2006 US DOT information concerning shipping agricultural hazardous materials.

To order a set, email [mabamgea@bresnan.net](mailto:mabamgea@bresnan.net) or call 406-449-7391. The cost for MABA members is \$5 for shipping and handling.

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