

Minnesota Crop Production Retailers  
2010 Policy Positions

PROGRAMS

1. Member Training and Education

The MCPR will continue to sponsor high caliber safety training and regulatory compliance workshops for members, provide members with compliance information through publications and bulletins, and encourage members to participate in environmental award programs whenever possible.

2. Public Education and Information

The MCPR will continue to conduct and promote crop production, food safety, and water quality educational activities for the public and school children throughout Minnesota. In addition, MCPR will continue to support efforts to promote agricultural programs at the high school and post secondary education level in Minnesota. MCPR supports efforts to create a better understanding of the importance of agriculture as a means for Minnesota students to appreciate the contributions agriculture makes to Minnesota's economy and to encourage students to consider a career in agriculture.

3. Certified Crop Adviser Program

The MCPR will continue to administer the Minnesota CCA program developed by the American Society of Agronomy and support the use of continuing education units (CEUs) to advance the education of individuals in the fields of soils, agronomy and plant pathology.

LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

1. Crop Protection and Nutrient Product Fees

Support the continued dedication of ag chemical, fertilizer and related production agriculture fees collected by the MN Dept. of Agriculture, (Note, if fees are not dedicated, there is an opportunity for the state to retain a portion of the fees collected for "other non-ag" state programs).

Oppose a state sales tax on fertilizer and crop protection products used in agriculture.

Support a \$.45/ton/yr dedicated fertilizer fee which funds a production agriculture directed fertilizer research and education fund whose purpose is to develop and manage research and the resulting education of production agriculture.

## 2. Local Ordinances

Oppose local ordinances or restrictions regarding the sale, use, storage or transportation of crop production inputs and oppose legislation that would repeal statewide exemption of local ordinances regarding crop production inputs.

## 3. Crop Input Management

Support crop production research efforts and promote additional funding for them.

Oppose the inclusion of voluntary Best Management Practices (BMP's) in state or federal ag permits. This action could result in making the BMP's mandatory.

Support crop nutrient management recommendations based on scientific information. Continue to monitor issues surrounding (Total Maximum Daily Loads) TMDL's. Oppose restrictions on the application of fertilizer which are based on assumptions and inaccurate information.

## 4. Biotechnology and Seed Issues

Oppose actions to prohibit the sale or use of crops developed through biotechnology.

Oppose mandatory labeling of foods containing ingredients from crops developed through biotechnology which have been approved by state and federal agencies.

Support legislation which prohibits local ordinances from regulating the registration, labeling, selling, storing, transporting, or the use of seeds.

## 5. ACRRA Fund and MDA Program Changes

Continue to support the current funding and reimbursement cap per facility from the Ag Chemical Response and Reimbursement Account (ACRRA). Support legislation that would broaden the funding base for ACRRA by eliminating the loopholes and applying the ACRRA fee to any agricultural chemical shipped into Minnesota. MCPR will seek specific agency action that ensures that out-of-state- distributors are required by the MDA to provide and pay through computer reports their ACCRA fees to ensure that Minnesota's commitment to environmental clean up is funded fairly by all retailers, particularly those out-of-state.

Reaffirm MCPR's support for keeping fertilizer and crop protection product programs in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is the only agency MCPR believes should regulate agricultural practices.

#### 6. Crop Protection Product Use

Work with MDA on the implementation of the Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) and Pesticide Use Best Management Practices (BMP) to be sure the actions required are based on sound science.

MCPR supports a science based pesticide registration process implemented by US EPA and MDA under the provisions of FIFRA, FQPA and the State Pesticide Control Law. MCPR opposes attempts by the environmental community to advocate for unwarranted legislation and regulations based on questionable science and the use of the precautionary principle.

#### 7. Security of Ag Products

Support efforts to protect the public from the illegal use of crop production inputs while not adding unreasonable or burdensome regulations on the production, transportation and storage of these products.

Support efforts by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on anti-terrorism policies to protect storage facilities and ag production areas. Monitor state and federal agencies trying to expand their authority to regulate the transportation, storage and use of crop production inputs considered hazardous materials.

#### 8. On Farm Liquid and Dry Bulk Storage

MCPR supports rules regarding the storage of liquid and dry bulk pesticides and fertilizers on farms which protect the environment from damage in case of a release of product from the storage facility. MCPR supports the farmer or owner of the product being held liable in the case of an accidental release of the product. MCPR supports the owner of the product being held liable once the title has changed hands. The owner of the storage facility should be responsible for the integrity of the facility. Regarding dry fertilizer on farm bulk storage, MCPR supports rules that would define, require permitting, and enable enforcement of on farm dry fertilizer bulk storage.

#### 9. Development of the Minnesota biofuel economy

MCPR supports the Minnesota agricultural producers in the development and production of biofuel to enhance Minnesota's agricultural economy, reduce dependence on foreign energy and to protect the environment.

10. Agricultural Transportation Drivers Hours of Service

MCPR supports changes in state and federal law and rule to extend the current agricultural exemption to driver's hours of service limitations when hauling from the terminal to the retailer in Minnesota for those agriculturally related products necessary for spring and fall field work including but not limited to anhydrous ammonia, diesel fuel, and propane.