

MNCAA holds annual certification workshops, meeting

Members of the Minnesota Manure Applicators Association attended their annual meeting Feb. 22 in Hutchinson, Minn. About 100 people attended the meeting, which included CAWT certification workshops and a vendor tradeshow.

MNCAA Executive Director, Rick Martens, said the annual meeting was a success for the association.

“All the speakers had great information to present,” Martens said. “I had one attendee tell me one of the presentations was the best he had ever heard.”

Martens is a member of the planning board for the certification workshops. The planning board includes members who are county feedlot officers, and representatives from the SWCD, MPCA, Pork Producers Association and Extension Service. The board develops 3-5 topics for the annual meeting based on timeliness and applicability.

“Some information is relative to all custom applicators, but some topics are specific to a region,” Martens said.

Martens said the MNCAA annual meeting is unique in that they offer a tradeshow, social event and meal. These events are planned to encourage interaction among members.



“It builds camaraderie among members and brings awareness of what members are experiencing in their areas,” Martens said.

For the first time, the board invited lobbyist, Daryn McBeth, from Minnesota Milk Producers Association, to present on what is happening with dairy policy at the state level.

McBeth spoke about the Township Association wanting to revisit the law on manure hose in the ditch and the new nitrogen rules. He stressed the importance of working together to make sure changes, if any, don't impact our two industries.

“The board likes to work with different state associations where we can share information. It helps build confidence among our associations so when issues come up and we need support, we have built up that trust,” Martens said.

Martens said the planning board is always looking to stay focused and informed with the goal to stay at the forefront of education.

“We want the meeting to be worthwhile,” Martens said. “By regulation, we need to have this training. But as a business, we should also get information that is pertinent to help and support our businesses.”

The MNCAA will plan the next annual meeting and certification workshops for February 2019.

