

MCFA elects officers, OKs 2023 work plan

Minor Crop Farmer Alliance members convened virtually Feb. 21 for the organization's Annual Meeting. The agenda included kicking off MCFA's 2023 work, electing officers and other MCFA business.

Members re-elected MCFA's current officers:

- Chair Jim Cranney, California Citrus Quality Council
- Vice-Chair Dave Epstein, Northwest Horticultural Council
- Secretary Caroline Stringer, California Fresh Fruit Association
- Treasurer Mike Wenkel, National Potato Council

Wenkel presented 2022 financial reports, reporting that MCFA is financially sound going into 2023.

In addition, members approved MCFA's [2023 Work Plan](#). Legal counsel Ed Ruckert summarized the work plan's eight priorities:

- Engage on Endangered Species Act implementation: See MCFA's [January 2023 Member Minute](#) for more details.
- Re-examine the role of epidemiological studies: The 2022 banning of food uses of chlorpyrifos illustrates the risk of Environmental Protection Agency's recent reliance on less rigorous studies in its pesticide risk assessments.
- Advocate for EPA to use actual water monitoring data, rather than modeling, in their drinking water assessments.
- Inform government evaluations of potential impacts on pollinators from pesticide exposure. [EPA's ESA workplan update](#) hints that additional, related pesticide label language is forthcoming.
- Encourage harmonization of pesticide registration requirements, including establishing Maximum Residue Levels, among U.S. specialty-crop trading partners.
- Support funding of IR-4 and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Pesticide Management Policy.
- Inform government policies regarding use of antimicrobial products in horticulture.
- Support USDA pesticide-use surveys, by encouraging continued funding and grower participation.

MCFA Chair Jim Cranney closed the meeting by urging members contributing at the lowest levels to increase their support to adequately finance the organization's 2023 work. Read the minutes [here](#). **END**

Technical Committee to meet June 8

Mark your calendar! MCFA's Technical Committee will meet June 8 in Washington, D.C. Contact committee co-chair [Mike Aerts](#) for details.

MCFA makes news

MCFA received considerable attention during the first quarter of the year from industry media outlets for our work sounding the alarm about potential industry impacts of Environmental Protection Agency's [proposed changes](#) to how it implements the Endangered Species Act.

MCFA Chair Jim Cranney bylined a [Feb. 2 column](#) in *The Packer* that alerted the specialty-crop industry to this emerging issue. MCFA Vice Chair Dave Epstein spearheaded an April column bylined by Northwest Horticultural Council in [Good Fruit Grower](#) (see page 40). An [MCFA press release](#) summarizing [our comments](#) on EPA's proposed workplan update was reported on by [Fresh Plaza](#), [Fruit Growers News](#), [The Packer](#) and [Produce Blue Book](#). **END**

MCFA needs you, now!

- **Pay your 2023 dues today.** Download our invoice [here](#).
- **Better yet, increase your contribution.** And suggest new members to [MCFA's leadership](#).
- **Share this update.** Show your members and colleagues MCFA's work is an important, vital investment. To learn more, visit us [online](#). **END**

About Minor Crop Farmer Alliance

MCFA advocates for use of sound science in government minor-use pesticide policies, so that growers have access to safe, effective, affordable crop protection tools. Founded in 1991, we are funded and led by fruit, vegetable, nut, ornamental plant and other specialty crop producer organizations from across the United States. To learn more, visit us [online](#).