

MCFA

Minor Crop Farmer Alliance

TO: MCFA members
FROM: Jim Cranney, MCFA Chair
SUBJECT: MCFA Update: March 12 Annual Member Meeting, Technical Committee
DATE: Feb. 28, 2020

Plan now to attend MCFA's Annual Member Meeting on March 12 from 10:30 am-12 noon EST, **to learn more about the alliance's increasingly critical work on your industry's behalf.** We will meet at the offices of MCFA Legal Counsel Ed Ruckert, McDermott, Will & Emery, 500 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. This meeting will include election of 2020 officers, review of MCFA's financials, and other MCFA membership business.

An abbreviated Technical Committee meeting will follow the Annual Member Meeting, from 1:00-3:00 pm. The agenda for this meeting will be distributed at a later date. The Technical Committee will discuss important topics regarding key [MCFA work plan priorities](#), including crucial U.S. registration reviews that will impact our growers' continued access to key crop-protection tools, and European Union (EU) pesticide policy decisions that threaten U.S. specialty-crop trade.

Can't attend in person? Join us by telephone:

- call-in number: (866) 453-5550
- participant PIN code: 8020599#

To help us continue MCFA's important work, please pay your 2020 dues as soon as possible. Consider increasing your contribution this year. [Invoices](#) were distributed on Jan. 16.

Technical Committee December 2019 Meeting Summary

The MCFA Technical Committee's Dec. 17, 2019, meeting drew specialty crop community stakeholders from coast to coast, as well as notable guest officials from across the federal government. That meeting was followed by an MCFA-organized forum on EU policy and U.S. trade.

- **Distinguished guest officials from USDA, EPA, FAS and ITC:** MCFA meetings offer a rare opportunity for the specialty crop community to be heard by federal officials. Guests listening in on our Dec. 17 discussions included [Office of Pesticide Management Policy](#) Director [Sheryl Kunickis](#), [EPA Office of Pesticide Programs](#) Registration Division Director [Michael Goodis](#), EPA Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education's [Elizabeth "Tate" Bennett](#), U.S. International Trade Commission's [Sabina Neumann](#), USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's [Rachel Vanderberg](#), and members of some of their staffs.
- **U.S. trade officials, specialty crop exporters join forces on EU policies:** MCFA's International Committee hosted an afternoon forum bringing together U.S. trade officials, specialty crop exporters and other stakeholders to explore U.S. responses to the EU's plans to cancel registrations for key pesticides, and the related MRLs that impact trade. Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs [Julia Doherty](#) actively participated. For alerts regarding EU review actions, visit USDA FAS's [early alert site](#).
- **ESA workshop planning proceeds:** As part of MCFA's work to help address the broken Endangered Species Act (ESA) pesticide review process, Technical Committee co-chair Mike Aerts reported on MCFA plans to host a workshop in spring 2020 for regulators and other

stakeholders. The workshop will explore opportunities to **use real-world data from growers to refine ESA risk assessments** and resulting mitigation processes. MCFA has also [provided numerous comments](#) to regulators regarding ESA, and is joining with allies to urge the agencies to form a working group to guide their ESA pesticide evaluations as mandated by the farm bill.

You can sponsor this important workshop; contact [Jim Cranney](#).

- **MCFA leaders lauded:** MCFA recognized Phil Korson and Terry Humfeld for their outstanding volunteer leadership; both retired from their respective organizations at year's end. Read our [press release](#), and *The Packer's* [coverage](#).

You can support MCFA by:

- **Renewing or increasing your membership** today. [Invoices](#) were e-mailed to members Jan. 16.
- **Responding to MCFA calls for action**, and sharing these updates with your members and colleagues.
- **Volunteering!** Share your expertise and ensure that your crop is represented.

[Contact](#) any of our volunteer leaders to learn how. To learn more, visit us [online](#).