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Michigan Agri-Weekly

Agriculture, Sustainability and the Environment

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Crop Protection Still Core of Agriculture's Success, Agri-Businesses Told

Crop protection vital to food production, CropLife America tells MABA Summer Conference

LANSING – Crop protection products such as pesticides will continue to be critical for growing the agriculture sector in Michigan and giving agri-businesses and producers the edge so they can produce more food to meet skyrocketing demand, **Jay Vroom, CropLife America CEO** told the **Michigan Agri-Business Association** at its Summer Outlook Conference recently.

“While farmers everywhere are responding to exciting market demand for almost every crop imaginable – and are in turn farming more intensively – the use of crop protection tools is key to surviving the challenging times in farming,” **Vroom** told participants at the conference on Mackinac Island, which was held Aug. 12-14.

MABA President **Jim Byrum** said that while media attention has shifted to other innovations and issues in agriculture, such as bio-fuels, increasing crop production remains the pillar of agriculture, especially in Michigan, where agriculture is the second-largest industry at more than \$60 billion a year. In addition to being an important grain producer, Michigan is a global leader in the export of many specialty food crops.

“Crop protection – weed, insect and disease control – is the heart of every strategy to maximize production and grow more,” **Byrum** said. “While bio-fuels are exciting for Michigan agriculture, world demand for food is also at an all time high, and continuing to grow. We must constantly work toward maximizing yield, and that’s why we must use pesticides as tools to protect crops. We look forward to the judicious, environmentally sound use of crop protection materials to make sure our producers have the latest tools and technology to manage and protect their crops.”

CropLife America is the nation’s largest trade organization for promoting the safe and responsible use of crop protection products and its industry.

Established in 1933, CropLife America represents developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management. CropLife America’s member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers.

*** MABA President Jim Byrum is available for individual interviews on this topic. Call (517) 336-0223

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