

Mid America CropLife Association

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MACA Names Doug Mertens Ambassador of the Decade

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St. Louis, MO — The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) honored several industry, media and academic leaders at its recent annual meeting in Des Moines, Iowa.

The CropLife Ambassador of the Decade is designed to recognize an ambassador for their efforts in promoting the crop protection industry through presentations to students or consumers for many years. This year's recipient is **Doug Mertens**, FMC, Columbia, Missouri.

Since 2000, Doug has been an ambassador and has been making presentations to elementary students, middle school students and high school students. He's a big believer of the program and makes time to do the presentations.

In 2003, MACA named him the ambassador of the year. It's now 2018, 15 years later, and Doug is still making presentations to students. This year, Doug made five presentations to 1,000 students. He speaks to small classes, but he also spends an entire day at one school talking with students about agriculture and careers in agriculture. Not only does he talk with students, he shares the program with college students and gets them to sign up as ambassadors!

While he works for FMC and lives in Columbia, Missouri, Doug is more than willing to travel around the state to make a presentation and helps to find people in Missouri, or other states, to make presentations. Since starting as an ambassador, Doug has made 43 presentations to more than 2,500 students.

So why does Doug keep speaking to students? "It's an opportunity to give back to agriculture and share why agriculture is important to all of us. I can be a voice to help children who may have never been exposed to agriculture understand what, how and why we do what we do and why it's important to them," says Doug.

Photographs are available from the MACA office upon request.

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) is a non-profit association of manufacturers, distributors/formulators and allied industry of crop protection products in 13 Midwestern states. MACA works to research issues relating to crop production and to work together to improve the crop life cycle, via health, safety and public education. Check our web site at www.maca.org.