

**Item:** North Central Regional Association of Agriculture Experiment Station 2009 Directors' (NCRA) report to ESCOP

**Presenter(s):** Bill Ravlin, NCRA Chair 2009

**Current Officers for the NCRA:** (Terms end after the 2009 ESS meeting in Oklahoma City)

- Chair: Bill Ravlin (OH)
- Chair-Elect: Doug Buhler (MI)

**FY2010 Officers:** (Approved during NCRA spring meeting in Kansas City; full NCRA list with committees will be available at <http://ncra.wisc.edu/NCRAOfficersFY2010.htm> in September.)

- Chair: Doug Buhler (MI)
- Chair-elect: John Kirby (SD)
- MRC Chair: Marc Linit (MO)

**AES Director Changes:** Ernie Minton (KS) is now the Associate Director for K-State. Effective August 1, 2009, Sonny Ramaswamy (IN) will be leaving Purdue to serve as Dean for Oregon State University.

#### **Topics of Note:**

- The North Central Rural Development Center host institution was moved to Michigan State University on July 1, 2009.
- The BioCentury Initiative started in the North Central Region was expanded to a national effort in early 2009 with input from a working committee of the ESCOP Chairs Advisory Committee. President Obama announced on May 5, 2009 that the Department of Energy would be investing nearly \$800 million of stimulus funds in advanced biofuels research and development. A three person working committee chaired by Secretary Vilsack will oversee the effort. Much of what the BioCentury Initiative was seeking is included in Obama's new Biofuels effort.
- The North Central Region advanced the BioEnergy Solutions Framework for major collaborations involving industry, government and university collaborators at a private sector/ university meeting hosted by POET in Sioux Falls, SD in January 2009. The Framework components include: What the collaboration is trying to accomplish; Best implementation practices; and Best rules of engagement.
- At the spring meeting of NCRA, a session on intellectual property coordination was conducted. Key resources for this session included Lesley Millar, Director of OTM and Associate Vice President of Economic Development at the University of Illinois; Mike Nichols, Vice-President for Research and Economic Development for the UM System; and Karen White, interim director of Purdue's Office of Technology Commercialization. The purpose of this IP effort is to:
  - Develop a strategy to advance the intellectual output of our 12 North Central states.
  - Develop a strategy to market the intellectual output of our 12 North Central states.
  - Facilitate movement of intellectual property into the private sector
  - Enhance collaborations across universities, private sector and government
  - Increase visibility for our region for venture capital

- Provide opportunities to brand and market our region's assets
- Our North Central region has the greatest concentration of agriculture and natural resource research and development assets in the country
- These assets must not remain the best kept secret from venture capitalists

**Future meetings:**

- The NCRA will meet in September at the SAES/ARD Workshop in Oklahoma City
- The NCRA spring meeting 2010 will be held again at the Embassy Suites in Kansas City, MO at the end of March.