Turf Conference Opportunities November 2, 2017

Attendance at the Nebraska Turf Conference has been steadily growing over the past decade. The support from the turf industry in Nebraska has been fantastic, and we look forward to seeing you again January 9-11 in La Vista, NE. We have a great lineup for 2018 (<u>Brochure</u>, <u>Attendee Registration</u>, and <u>Exhibitor Registration</u>). New this year, we will also be having a brewery tour on Wednesday night. Be sure to sign up for this inaugural event.

I'm fortunate to get to travel to many different state and regional conferences each winter. I spread the work about our app (GreenKeeperApp.com), PGRs, water, plant health, etc. During my travels, I've noticed the trend of regional conferences or expos. These meetings are generally larger and are a collaboration of several turf programs and organizations. The most notable regional meetings include the New England Turfgrass Conference and Show, the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show, and the Deep South Turf Expo. Some advantages to hosting a regional show include increased speaker and topic diversity, larger trade shows with equipment, the opportunity to network with turf managers from around the region, and increased efficiency in conference planning. An obvious downside is the identity of a Nebraska conference is diminished.

I've been thinking about the idea for a couple years now. I could imagine partnering with our counterparts at Kansas State University, University of Missouri, etc. to host a regional Central Plains Conference. I would imagine the conference moving between Omaha and Kansas City every other year with speakers and vendors from states surrounding the Missouri River.

I would love to hear your thoughts. Would you travel to Kansas City for a regional conference? Does this sound like a good idea or not? Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Please complete this short (1 min) survey to provide your feedback (<u>Survey Link</u>). You can also email me directly.

Again, I'm really excited to see everyone in LaVista this January. Have a nice holiday season.

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