LET'S GET INVOLVED!



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Mushroom News **Publisher**

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All national organizations look for ways to increase member involvement, especially from a wide geographic area. AMI is no exception. Aside from becoming a director, committee membership is viewed as one of the most worthwhile participation avenues available to AMI members. Committees develop and fulfill AMI goals and programs and they can be very rewarding to participants.

n excellent example is the Mushroom Employee Safety and Health Committee, better known by its acronym MESH. This committee, through the

AMI-OSHA Alliance, produces safety training for employees that is available to all our member companies, large and small. These trainings are among the many benefits of AMI membership and, as such, are rewarding to the MESH members who create them.

Committees, however, may not be your forte or maybe you do not have time to commit long term or, for that matter, short term with a conference planning committee. Bottom line, you may ask, "How can I get involved and make a contribution when my time is limited by other responsibilities? What is an entry level contribution? How can I climb at least to the first rung on the AMI participation ladder?"

In a word, it is an idea! The Mushroom News (MN) Committee would like to hear your ideas. What would you like to see in your trade publication? Do you have a topic for Ready, Set, Grow? Do you have a feature article idea or a topic for a new column? Have you said for years, "I wonder why they never publish an article on _____." Just fill in the blank to start participating. An idea is the obvious starting point for a published article and it will encourage the MN Committee to think about a possible author.

If you suggest an author for your idea, someone or a group who might be willing to write



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about your topic, you will step up another rung. This might be a supplier who services your company or someone conducting mushroom research. Or maybe you read an article that we should consider reprinting, the easiest

method for contributing an idea and an author to MN.

Step up another rung and contribute an idea from within your company you are willing to share. Do you have something non-proprietary about which other companies might benefit reading? Maybe it is the use of cutting edge digital equipment or a unique IPM procedure. Maybe it is a novel way to cool hot areas in a spawn run. And you won't need to write a novel. In fact, at this participation level, you do not need to write at all! The MN staff can do the writing. We have the resources to write about anything you are willing to share. Of course, your name and your company's name would appear in the article's byline. Sharing an idea from your company in a MN staff authored article is a significant contribution to AMI with a very small commitment of time from your schedule.

Climb yet another rung into somewhat thinner air and write an article. While admittedly not for everyone, this could be a short Ready, Set, Grow column on any agri-

business topic, not just growing. We are ready to assist you with attaining published author status.

While MN would not exist without authors, ideas alone, can generate articles and they can spread AMI participation among members throughout the United States; ideas can originate from our smallest and largest members, from East to West. We will give you credit in an editorial comment for suggesting any idea that results in a published article and this might encourage others to follow your example, further expanding our member participation. So, if organizational heights leave you dizzy, you do not have to climb past the first rung of the ladder to participate. Step off the ground. Send us an idea! mn

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