

Don't Miss the 2015 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention

The 2015 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention educational program as always offers a wealth of information for vegetable, potato, berry, potato and fruit growers and marketers. Former Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding will be this year's Keynote Speaker. Don't miss out on the following opportunities at the 2015 Convention which runs from January 27 to 29, 2015 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey.

Farm Market Bus Tour

This all-day bus tour the day before the Convention will leave the Hershey Lodge at 8:15 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. It will include visits to Strite's Orchard & CSA in Harrisburg (farm market, bakery, and CSA) Ashcombe Farm and Greenhouses (market, gift shop, bakery, café and garden center) in Mechanicsburg, Hollabaugh Brothers Farm in Biglerville (farm market, bakery, gifts), The Historic Round Barn in Biglerville (farm market, gifts, bakery, and event venue) and the Hauser Estate Winery (production facility, tasting/sales area).

Reduced Registration for Spouses, Children or Employees

Last year the Convention Joint Committee established a reduced pre-registration fee for additional persons attending from a member farm. The first person from the farm must pay the \$65 pre-registration fee but spouses, adult children, or employees are eligible for a \$60 pre-registration fee. The purpose is to make it more feasible for growers to bring additional persons from their farms to experience the educational opportunities available at the Convention. Remember, one \$50 PVGA membership qualifies all persons from the farm for the membership registration rates. And children under 16 and all students are admitted free.

PVGA Annual Meeting Set for January 28 at Noon

The Annual Meeting of the General Membership of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, at 12:00 Noon in the Empire Room of the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey. All members are asked to attend the meeting.

Traditionally, the Annual Meeting had included the election of members of the Board of Directors. However, starting three years ago, the Directors are now elected by a mail ballot which all members have received in the mail with their dues renewal

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Keynote Presentation

Mr. Redding, who is currently Dean of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Delaware Valley College, will speak on: "Human Capital: Now, Tomorrow and the Next Generation." When we think of capital, it's usually in the context of finances; capital gains, capital expenditures, investments; of our capacity to borrow and repay loans, to grow and 'do business'. These are always dynamic and complex decisions, requiring us to assess our resources, markets and potential. We make these decisions many times with an assumption about the most important resource – our human capital – the people that we are entrusting to turn hope into reality - our family, employees and advisors. Just as we plan our



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We Need Your HELP!!!

If you have not volunteered to help at the Association's food booth at the Farm Show, call PVGA today at 717-694-3596. We need at least 25 volunteers in the booth at all the times. Since the Farm Show runs from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., we need two shifts to completely cover each day from January 10 to 17, 2015. That translates into a lot of volunteers. Plus, this year we will be open the afternoon of Friday, January 9, from noon to 9:00 p.m.

You say you don't come to the Farm Show? Why not break tradition and come for once? It's worth the trip just to volunteer your time to the Association and any farmer is bound to see at least a few things of interest at the Farm Show. Plus, with the completion of the new Exposition Hall, the Farm Show offers a wide array of exhibits throughout the Complex. Are you really too busy in the middle of the winter to take a day off to help support vegetable and small fruit research? Last year we earned about \$120 for each volunteer shift enabling the Association to give over \$67 per member to Penn State research.

We are grateful to the many PVGA members who help out each year but we need new volunteers each year. If YOU have never helped before, PLEASE call us today at 717-694-3596 and volunteer for 2015. You'll be helping your Association besides having an enjoyable time.

We are also looking to recruit some assistant managers of the booth to help oversee the booth either on different days or for different aspects of the operation. If you would have some flexibility in the winter months and would be interested in such a possibility, please contact us at 717-694-3596 or pvga@pvga.org.

NEWS



**Pennsylvania
Vegetable Growers
Association**

*An association of
commercial vegetable,
potato and berry growers.*

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Muncy

Timothy Weiser '16
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Executive Secretary
William Troxell
Richfield

Apply Now for 2014 PVGA Scholarships

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is pleased to be able to offer at least one Rudolph Grob Memorial Scholarship each year to a child or grandchild of a PVGA member who is pursuing higher education with the goal of working in production agriculture.

The Association gives the annual scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 in memory of Rudolph Grob of Millersville who served the Association for 50 years as a Director, 20 years as Secretary Treasurer and for over 20 years as manager of the Association's Farm Show Booth. Mr. Grob was a horticulture graduate of Penn State University who was employed for many years at Funks Farm Market in Millersville. The funds for the scholarship are generated by a portion of the interest earned by the Association's Keystone Fund, an endowment-type fund created by the voluntary extra dues paid the Keystone Members of the Association.

The purpose of the scholarship is to assist children and grandchildren of Association members in obtaining a degree that will enable them to pursue a career in the vegetable, potato or berry production industries. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- be the child or grandchild of an Association member who has been a member in good standing for at least one year
- be enrolled in a two-year or four-year degree program;
- be in good academic standing; and
- be intent on pursuing a career in the vegetable, potato, or berry production industries.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2014 scholarships. The deadline is March 15, 2014. Applications are reviewed by the Association's Scholarship Committee which determines who receives the scholarships. The current committee members are: Carolyn Beinlich, Keith Eckel, Curtis Kaelin, Michael Orzolek and Hilary Schramm, Jr.

The \$1,000 scholarships are awarded for a one-year period. Recipients may apply for a renewal although preference will be given to other qualified students over previous recipients. It is not a need-based scholarship. Payment of the funds is made directly to the institution.

The following items must be included with a completed application form:

- A copy of the most recent academic transcript.
- Two letters of reference from someone outside of the immediate family.
- A typed essay (approximately 500 words) on one of the following topics:
 - Describe the biggest issue that has faced the Vegetable/Potato/Berry Industry in Pennsylvania in the last five years or that the Industry will face in the next five years and how you plan to deal with this issue in your future career, or
 - Describe your previous experiences with the Vegetable/Potato/Berry Industry and the role you hope to play in the Pennsylvania Vegetable/Potato/Berry Industry upon graduation.

Applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2014 and are available by contacting PVGA at 717-694-3596 or pvga@pvga.org. The committee may request to interview the applicant in person or by telephone as well as contact college or school advisors and/or references. Announcement of the scholarship will be made by June 1.

If you have a child or grandchild in college, encourage them to apply for the scholarship. If you would like to help support the scholarship effort, consider joining the Association as Keystone Member. While there is a suggested table of Keystone dues based on your gross income from vegetables, potatoes or berries, you are considered a Keystone Member if you pay dues of \$75 or more instead of the \$50 regular dues. The amount of Keystone dues over the \$50 regular dues is deposited in the Keystone Fund. The Keystone Fund principle is invested in interest-bearing accounts (money market accounts, certificates of deposit, a government bond fund and/or index stock fund) while the interest is used to fund the \$1,000 annual Grob Memorial Scholarship and vegetable research in the entomology and plant pathology departments at Penn State University.

*The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers News is the official monthly publication of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, Inc., 815 Middle Road, Richfield, PA 17086-9205
phone and fax - 717-694-3596, email - pvga@pvga.org website - www.pvga.org*

Our Mission:

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association serves Pennsylvania's commercial vegetable, potato and berry growers through education, research, advocacy and promotion.

Our Vision:

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association will be the driving force in ensuring the future viability of the commercial vegetable, potato and berry industries in Pennsylvania.

Inquiries about membership, this publication or advertising rates should be directed to William Troxell, Executive Secretary, at the above addresses.

PVGA Board Meets in State College, Continues Work on Strategic Plan

The Association's Board of Directors met on December 15 at Tofrees Resort and Conference Center in State College for an all-day meeting to review reports from the activities of the past year and plan for 2015. At the recommendation of the Executive Committee they set aside a day for all the major committees of the Association to meet in early March to hammer out plans of how to implement the strategic plan that was developed this past spring. The Board also met briefly with Dr. Richard Roush, the new dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State.

Dr. Roush outlined his vision for the College including the need to develop programs that address broad public needs and thus generate broad support for funding. The Board expressed the need for vegetable research and extension personnel at the University.

The Executive Committee met the night before with William Shuffstall, of the Penn State Extension facilitators for the Pennsylvania Vegetable Industry Strategic Planning Initiative undertaken in the spring of 2014. They decided the various committee chairmen would meet on February 16 work on the details of how the Association might work on the specifics of implementing the strategic plan into the Association's work plan. In early March, a face-to-face meeting for all the members of the various committees would be held to finalize action plans for the strategic priorities. These work plans would then be reviewed by the Board of Directors that evening. This will tentatively be planned for the day before a legislative visitation day at the Capitol in Harrisburg.

The Board approved another Executive Committee recommendation that part of the Specialty Crop Block Grant project be contracted out to Jeff Stoltzfus on an independent contractor basis. Mr. Stoltzfus would working with the development of the food safety education component of the project. The business plan development and crisis management plan development portion of the project will be contracted out to Robert Amsterdam.

The Government Affairs Committee proposed setting aside March 18, which is National Ag Day, as a day to urge Association members to visit their legislator's local offices to present PVGA's legislative priorities for the year. This will be in addition to the legislative visitation day in Harrisburg which will focus on legislative leaders.

The Educational Committee recommended the Association plan a series of ten or more local high tunnel grower meetings in the spring and summer of 2015. These meetings will be held in area of grower concentrations around the state, particularly near the various auctions. The Committee also recommended holding a statewide vegetable field day at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Research and Extension Center in Landisville in early August.

To encourage membership and Convention attendance, the Board also voted to again partially fund the cost of vans to bring growers to the Convention in Hershey from the various produce auctions across the state.

The Board proposed ten additions to the Association's Policy Resolutions for consideration by the members at the Annual Meeting. These resolutions are listed in the page one article on the Annual Meeting.

The Board approved the following annual donations, sponsorships and promotions for 2015 (the budget line is listed in parentheses):

- Farm Show Reception Sponsorship (Donations)	\$500
- Farm Show Public Officials Day (Donations)	\$500
- Ag In The Classroom Program (Donations)	\$500
- Ag Science Education Mobile Lab (Donations)	\$500
- Capitol Hunger Garden (Donations)	\$150
- Delaware Valley College A-Day Ad (Promotions)	\$125
- Farm-City Day Vegetables (Promotions)	+ \$50
- PASA Conference Program Ad (Membership)	\$310
- Keystone Cornucopia Reception (Legislative)	\$200
- Farm Show Livestock Sale (Farm Show Booth)	+\$100
- Farm Show Bus Transportation (Farm Show Booth)	+\$125
- Farm Show Food Court Table Cleaning (Farm Show)	+\$200
- Farm Show Visitor's Guide Ad (Farm Show)	\$700
- Grower Reception at Convention (Convention)	\$250
- Ice Cream Social at Convention (Convention)	\$800 to \$1,200

The Board also took the following actions:

- approved the minutes and current financial reports;
- accepted the auditor's report which noted the financial records were in good order;
- approved actions taken by the Executive Committee since the last meeting;
- accepted reports and recommendations from the various committees;
- decided to accelerate the movement of the Keystone Fund monies from a money market bank account to the iShares S&P 500 stock fund and to move \$25,000 to the Dodge and Cox Income Fund (a bond fund);
- decided to invest \$1,000 of the General Fund reserve in the Dodge and Cox Income Fund and put up to \$100,000 of the reserve in a bank certificate of deposit account;
- agreed to increase some of the prices at the Farm Show food booth;
- approved a \$500 grant for the summer farm market tour;
- reviewed the Association's comments on the Food Safety Modernization Act rules;
- decided to make the chairman of the Marketing and Research Committee an appointed position; and
- established an ad hoc Membership Benefits Task Force to explore various options for member benefits.

***Go the Extra Mile for
your Association.
Join as a Keystone Member
for 2015!***

**For only \$75 you can help
build the Keystone Fund to
support PVGA scholarships
and Penn State Research.**

NEWS

National News Briefs

United Fresh Proposes Simpler Ag Water and Farm/Facility Requirements at FDA Public Meeting

At the FDA November 13 public meeting in College Park, MD, the United Fresh Produce Association's Dr. David Gombas called on the agency to modify its proposed water testing requirement, saying the proposal is "overly complicated and will not make water sources nor produce safer." Based on comments developed by United Fresh working groups, Dr. Gombas told FDA that the newly proposed pre-harvest and post-harvest intervals that allow for "die-off" of bacteria are a positive step, giving growers something they can do rather than be at the mercy of water test results. However, a revised requirement to test open water sources 20 times in two years, and calculating a Statistical Threshold Value in addition to annual Geometric Means is still unnecessarily burdensome. Gombas reiterated United's earlier comments to FDA that these testing requirements should be published in a Guidance document that can be updated as science improves.

Gombas also urged FDA to affirm that facilities that only hold or pack fruits and vegetables be allowed to comply with the Produce Safety rule, rather than be regulated in the same manner as processing facilities under the Preventive Controls rule.

PVGA Annual Meeting... (continued from page 1)

notices. The terms of Brian Campbell, Curtis Kaelin, Ernest Mast, Hilary Schramm, Jr., Thomas Strzelecki and Thomas Styer expire at the Annual Meeting this year. Mr. Schramm and Mr. Styer have reached the 18-year term limit set by the Board and Mr. Kaelin and Mr. Mast have decided not to seek re-election. The Leadership and Recognition Committee has nominated Mr. Campbell of Berwick and Mr. Strzelecki of Wapwalopen for re-election plus Paul Mock of Berkeley Springs, WV; Eric Oesterling of New Alexandria, Michael Orzolek of State College, Rita Resick of Somerset and Randy Treichler of Three Springs. Write-in votes are also allowed. Six of the candidates will be elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Ballots must be postmarked by January 15, 2015 and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. All members are urged to vote in the election.

At the Annual Meeting, the members will also receive reports on the Pennsylvania Vegetable Industry Strategic Planning Initiative, membership, finances, the Farm Show food booth and the other activities of the Association.

The following additions to the Association's policy resolutions are being proposed for adoption by the members at the Annual Meeting. The underlined text is to be added to the resolutions.

State Issues

Wildlife Crop Damage

1. Supporting the restoration of funding for the Game Commission wildlife fence program.

Produce Promotion

2. Supporting follow-up on the "PA Preferred" marketing campaign to ensure product signage is accurate and to enforce penalties for misrepresentation.

Transportation

3. Supporting a 10% gross weight tolerance for trucks exiting fields with agricultural products..

Jeff Stoltzfus, a PVGA Director, echoed many of the same thoughts in presenting PVGA's comment that were presented at the meeting and were published in the November newsletter.

*From Inside **United Fresh**, United Fresh Produce Association, November 20, 2014.*

FDA Updates Guidance on Food Facility Registration

This week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) updated its Questions and Answers Regarding Food Facility Registration with new information about registration requirements for certain "farm mixed-type facilities". Farms are exempt from FDA's registration requirement, but the current definition of farm does not include farms that also pack or hold raw agricultural commodities grown on a farm under different ownership, so such operations are required to register.

With changes being proposed to the definition of the term "farm," FDA does not intend to prioritize enforcing the registration requirement for such establishments. FDA intends to make further updates to this guidance when the relevant rules are finalized in 2015. This does not change the requirement for

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Taxes

4. Supporting a coordination of the limit for the fast write-off deduction between state and federal tax codes so farmers only need to keep one set of depreciation records.
5. Supporting the amendment of the Clean and Green Act to eliminate authority for annual adjustment of assessed use values of Clean and Green properties in years other than years that a county implements countywide reassessment of all properties.
6. Supporting the amendment of the Clean and Green Act to provide that conveyances of a portion less than ten acres of a farm enrolled in Clean and Green to an adjoining farm enrolled in Clean and Green not be subject to rollback taxes.
7. Supporting the exemption from real estate taxes of new ag related buildings for five years.

State and Federal Issues

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

8. Supporting a change in the wording on the vouchers for Farmers Market Nutritional Program from "to be used to purchase produce eligible under Pennsylvania's FMNP program" to state the following: "to be used to purchase Pennsylvania grown produce only."

Water Resources Management

8. Supporting the exemption of high tunnels from storm water management plan requirements.

Federal Issues

Farm Policy/Farm Programs

9. Supporting the establishment and use of geographical regions within states by USDA-NRCS for determining cost tables for EQIP Incentive Programs.

Taxes

10. Supporting a permanent limit of \$500,000 for the fast write-off deduction (Section 179).



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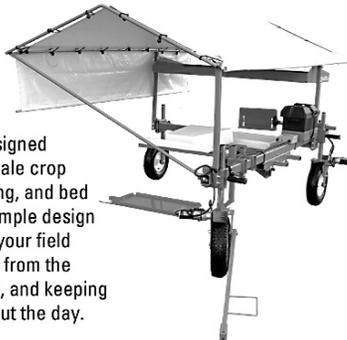
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NEWS

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facilities that are not farms and that pack or hold raw agricultural commodities to re-register with FDA by end of 2014. If you have any questions regarding FDA's facility registration requirements, contact Dr. David Gombas at 202-303-3411 or dgombas@unitedfresh.org.

*From Inside **United Fresh**, United Fresh Produce Association, November 20, 2014.*

PFB Takes EPA to Task over "Waters of the U.S." Rule

If you listen only to the rhetoric from the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the agencies are only looking to "clarify" their jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

But when you dig down into the hundreds of pages of rules and regulations the EPA and Army Corps have put forth in their "waters of the U.S." rule, it becomes clear the federal agencies have only muddied the waters.

That's why Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, in formal comments sent to the EPA on the proposed rule, are calling for the agencies to abandon their attempt to control nearly every body of water in the country – a serious overreach of their authority under the Clean Water Act. Under their proposed rule, the EPA and Army Corps would have jurisdiction over virtually every ditch or low spot that holds or channels any water, no matter how rare it would occur. That expansion could mean farmers would need a federal permit to perform normal farming practices, such as crop spraying.

"The EPA and Army Corps have attempted to put forth some 300 pages of text under this proposed rule without any genuine attempt to confer with or understand the potential concerns that farmers and businesses may have with this proposed rule," PFB said in comments.

PFB also took the agencies to task for their unprecedented public relations campaign to build support behind their new rule.

Some of the concerns outlined by PFB with the "waters of the U.S." rule include:

The rule is based on two highly erroneous assumptions. The agencies are wrong in assuming the federal Clean Water Act gives them the power to regulate any land if any possible "pollutant" can reach navigable waters, no matter how distant or remote. In reality, the Clean Water Act clearly limits federal authority to "navigable" waterways and areas having a direct connection to those waterways. EPA and the Corps is also wrong in their belief that if the federal government doesn't regulate it, no one will be able to protect water quality. The reality is that state laws, such as existing laws in Pennsylvania, give state environmental agencies extensive authority to protect water quality and they are better able to do so than federal agencies.

The new rules call for, with limited exemptions, the regulation of drains, ditches and other low spots within farm fields, making discharges into those areas unlawful without a federal permit. "The tens of thousands of dollars of additional costs for federal permitting of ordinary farming activities, however, is beyond the means of most farming operations—the vast majority of which are family-owned small businesses," PFB said in comments.

The proposal does nothing to clarify what types of waters bodies it intends to regulate, and instead opens farmers to potential permit violations. The agencies definition of "tributaries" is written in such a way that nearly any area that carries

any water after rainfall will be considered a federally regulated "water of the U.S." The lack of clarity in the definition must force farmers to assume that any drainage ditch is considered a "tributary" and that by failing to seek a federal permit, they are subjecting themselves to fines of up to \$37,500 a day. "With such stiff statutory penalties—including the loss of one's own personal liberty—farmers deserve much better clarity than what is provided under the extremely vague provision of the proposed rule," PFB said.

The proposed rule is so fundamentally flawed, the EPA and Army Corps should simply withdraw the rule, rather than making changes. "The agencies' rule would confer federal control over all but the most remote and unconnected waters—including countless features that are more like land than water. Congress did not grant the EPA or Army Corps such authority, and using the regulatory process to usurp it must end now."

*From the **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2014.*

Farm Bureau Makes Its Court Case Against EPA

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation had its day in court challenging the federal Environmental Protection Agency in its attempt to impose strict guidelines for cleaning the Chesapeake Bay.

Farm Bureau presented oral arguments in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit to reverse a 2013 court ruling that upheld the EPA's total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Farm Bureau believes the EPA has overstepped its authority in the Clean Water Act by giving specific mandates on how farmers should reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediments. Farm Bureau argued the Clean Water Act specifically gives states the authority to develop their own time table and methods to meet nutrient reduction goals.

Farm Bureau was supported by 21 states that filed a "friend of the court" brief in the appeal. Officials with those state governments fear the EPA will attempt to impose extreme restrictions and requirements in other watersheds. Cambria, Clearfield, Lancaster, Perry and Tioga counties also filed a "friend of the court" brief over concerns the EPA is ignoring the role of local government play in deciding the most feasible approach to meeting TMDL goals.

Farm Bureau appealed the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit based on our significant concerns that the TMDL could seriously impact the future of agriculture in Pennsylvania.

"The potential for Washington to control every acre of our nation's land and impose cost prohibitive measures on those who manage it is virtually limitless," PFB said.

A recent study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture has found that farmers in Pennsylvania are making significant strides to improve water quality, without a federal mandate. The USDA study determined that conservation practices such as no-till and stream bank fencing have reduced soil loss by 63 percent and reduced nitrogen runoff by 38 percent. Farmers are using some form of conservation tillage on nearly 80 percent of all crop acres in the bay watershed. The use of no-till has increased by 16 percent in the past decade. All of these conservation practices were adopted by farms, voluntarily, before the EPA imposed its TMDL.

*From the **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2014.*

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National News Briefs *(continued from page 6)*

Immigration Announcement Does Not Address Agriculture

The American Farm Bureau Federation called on Congress and President Obama to work together on broad, comprehensive, immigration reform.

Those efforts come in the wake of an announcement by Pres. Obama that will prioritize the administration's enforcement of the deportation of undocumented immigrants to those who have committed crimes. The executive action also provides a way for undocumented immigrants who have been in the country and employed for more than five years to legally pass a background check and pay taxes in order to temporarily stay in the country.

AFBF President Bob Stallman said the action by Pres. Obama will not have any direct impact on the issues faced by the nation's farmers as they struggle to find hands to help with the harvest.

"Our nation loses millions of dollars in fruit and vegetable production every year because farmers cannot find labor to harvest everything they grow," he said. "Farmers and ranchers need a new, flexible visa program that ensures long-term access to an expanding workforce by allowing foreign-born workers to enter the U.S."

There is an opportunity for Congress to create a clear vision on immigration reform, one that addresses border security, improves the agriculture visa program and gives experienced agriculture workers a way to gain legal status, Stallman said.

From the Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2014.

State News Briefs

Chemsweep Comes to 18 Counties

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's CHEMSWEEP program is coming to 18 counties in 2015. The program, which is offered to different counties each year, will be available in Bucks, Crawford, Dauphin, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, Mercer, Mifflin, Montgomery, Perry, Philadelphia, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne and Westmoreland counties.

"Pesticides can be a problem when they outlive their usefulness, sitting in barns and sheds and becoming hazardous to the environment and to your safety," said Agriculture Secretary George Greig. "Thanks to CHEMSWEEP, it's easier for our agriculture industry to safeguard our environment and properly dispose of pesticides."

CHEMSWEEP has safely disposed of nearly 2.3 million pounds of unwanted or unusable pesticides since 1993. Licensed pesticide applicators, dealers and commercial pesticide application businesses in the designated counties can participate by completing a CHEMSWEEP registration form that will be direct mailed. The registration period ends February 28. CHEMSWEEP is funded by annual registration fees paid by pesticide manufacturers and applicators.

From the Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2014.

New Pest Found in Berks County

State agriculture officials say a new invasive species that could threaten grape, fruit and hardwood trees has been discovered in two townships in Berks County. *(continued on page 8)*

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NEWS

State News Briefs (continued on page 7)

The Spotted Lanternfly, an inch-long red and white spotted insect, is native to Asia. In Korea, where it's become an invasive pest, it has attacked 25 plant species that also grow in Pennsylvania.

"Since this is new to the country we are taking every precaution possible," said Agriculture Secretary George Greig. "We need to do everything we can to stop the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly.

The invasive pest often attacked grapes, apples and stone fruits. Adults cluster in groups and lay eggs on flat surfaces. To help thwart the spread of the lanternfly, PDA has quarantined the movement of any material that can spread the pest in several Berks County townships.

From the Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2014.

Natural Diet May Help Bees

A Penn State study has determined that feeding honey bees a natural diet of pollen makes them more resistant to pesticides than feeding an artificial diet. Bees are exposed to pesticides during foraging, and also when beekeepers use chemicals to control pests, said Christinia Grozinger, a professor of entomology at Penn State. "Diet and nutrition can greatly impact the ability of bees to resist pesticides, and likely other stressors," she said.

Exposure to non-lethal doses of at least two of these pesticides causes compromises in bee's immune systems. However, there is a strong interaction between exposure and diet. Feeding bees a diet of pollen—which is their natural diet—makes them more resistant to lethal doses of pesticide than feeding a more simple artificial diet, said Daniel Schmehl, a researcher from the University of Florida, who assisted in the study. The next step will be to try and determine which diets and flowering plants are nutritionally optimal for honey bee health, Grozinger said.

From the Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2014.

Potter County Farmer Honored with Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award

Edward Kosa, who started working on his family farm in the Great Depression and has helped it grow and flourish, has been named Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's 2014 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award recipient.

Kosa, who is 92, started working on his father's Potter County farm as a young man in 1939. Since then, he's been a fixture in Northern Tier agriculture, and has seen the farm grow in size and scope. At the same time, Kosa has been active in a number of farming initiatives, and is a staunch advocate for agriculture. He's embraced the role of technology in agriculture, and the steps that farmers can take to protect their soil and water resources.

Even at 92, Kosa is still active on EDKO farms, outside Ulysses. He continues to plant, prepare fields and harvest hay. His family said Ed's work ethic is infectious.

"I'm happiest when I'm on the tractor. I like planting a crop, seeing it grow and seeing the results," Kosa said. "The hard work that goes into farming is no big deal as long as you enjoy what you do."

Kosa has been a member of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau for more than 40 years, serving on the State Board of Directors for eight years. Kosa also served as director of the Potter County

Conservation District—the first of its kind in Pennsylvania— for more than 30 years, including 19 years as chairman. During his tenure, Potter County was awarded the 1998 PA Grand Award as Pennsylvania's Outstanding Conservation District. The district also implemented countless programs to preserve and protect land and water resources in Potter County. Kosa was instrumental in the formation of Agricultural Security Areas in Potter County, protecting farmers and their businesses from restrictive local ordinances. The security areas were the impetus to forming a Farmland Preservation program in the county, which helped save prime agricultural land from development. In addition, Kosa's environmental-friendly farming practices, his role as director of the county conservation district and his overall leadership in agriculture issues, were key factors in Ed being named the 1999 "Man of the Year" by the Potter-Leader Enterprise.

From the Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2014.

York County Couple Wins YF&R Achievement Award

Andrew and Katie Flinchbaugh have been named the recipients of the 2014 Young Farmer & Rancher Achievement Award.

The award, presented at Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's 64th Annual Meeting, recognizes a young farmer or couple between the ages of 18 and 35, who demonstrate outstanding farming and leadership achievement. Contestants are evaluated by a panel of judges on the basis of the growth of their farm opera-

(continued on page 9)



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NEWS

State News Briefs (continued on page 8)

tion, their record of leadership within Farm Bureau and other organizations.

The Flinchbaughs farm in partnership with Andy's family. The family manages a diverse farm that includes agritourism activities, grain crops, pigs and an orchard. At the same time, Katie also manages a flock of egg-laying hens and makes baked goods for the farm market the Flinchbaugh's operate. Andy is a member of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's State Board of Directors while Katie serves as newsletter editor for York County Farm Bureau.

Flinchbaugh's Orchards & Farm Market was recognized earlier this year for enrolling more than 200 acres into the state's Farmland Preservation Program, enabling Pennsylvania to become the first state in the nation to eclipse the 500,000-acre plateau in preserved farmland.

The Flinchbaughs also embrace the role of being a trusted local farmer, hosting a number of tours and events at their farm market, to help the growing communities around York County better understand agriculture.

"Farming may be one of the most challenging careers, but it is that challenge that keeps you going, because every day there is something new. But that challenge keeps things exciting and keeps us going in agriculture," Andy Flinchbaugh said.

Andy and Katie will receive free registration and lodging for the American Farm Bureau Federation's 96th Annual Meeting in January 2015 in San Diego, where they will compete for national honors.

From the Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2014.

Farm Show Word Find Answers

S	A	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	C	O	R	N	Q	V	V	C
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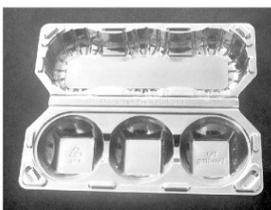
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CONVENTION

2015 Convention... (continued from page 1)

financial capital to ensure we can meet the demands of our business, we want to give equal consideration to the human investments we need to remain competitive. This requires us to assess our own skills and abilities (which is never easy), to forecast our needs and then be intentional about filling in the gaps. As growers plan for tomorrow and the next generation, Mr. Redding will challenge them to consider what are the human capital needs of their business and agriculture.

Pre-Convention Workshops

Besides the Farm Market Bus Tour, six special workshops will be offered on Monday, January 27, the day before the main Convention opens. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THESE WORKSHOPS ALONG WITH AN ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION FEE.**

USDA, AMS Grant Writing Workshop

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fee - \$20

We expect USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will announce the availability of approximately \$30 million in competitive grant funds to be awarded through the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP). This workshop is intended as grant writing skills development in anticipation of applications for program being available late spring, 2015.

FMPP is for projects that establish, expand, and promote direct producer to consumer marketing.

LFPP enables eligible entities to plan or implement project(s) that assist in the development, improvement, and/or expansion of local and regional food business enterprise supply chain activities (activities that are not direct-to-consumer).

The goal of these program grants are to increase domestic consumption of and access to locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farms serving local markets. For these projects "local/regional" is defined as a 400 mile radius. Bring your ideas for our local/regional food system, and get a start on developing a project proposal with the attributes to get funding. The final details for the expected 2015 programs are not yet published but you can check the USDA, AMS web site for the available information at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/fmpp>

New Organic Vegetable Producers School

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fee - \$100 includes lunch, course reader and organic production guide.

This full day intensive will delve into plant propagation, insect, weed and disease management. Join us if you are a new organic vegetable producer or interested in transitioning your operation. Speakers will be Tianna DuPont, Penn State Extension; John Good, Quiet Creek Farm; and Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.

Irrigation Water Toolbox Workshop

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fee - \$50 includes lunch

Have you tested your irrigation water chemistry? Learn how the quality of your irrigation water affects aspects of production including nutrient availability, pesticide behavior, and pathogen control. Bring your own water sample to test and develop a plan for your own water testing toolbox. Water sample collection instructions will be sent to registrants. Presenters will include Penn State Extension commercial horticulture and water resources educators, and other academic researchers and water treatment industry representatives.

Basics of Good Agricultural Practices Workshop

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fee \$50 includes lunch – limited registration

This will be a pilot presentation of the FDA-Approved Farm Food Safety Course presented by the Produce Safety Alliance that will prepare growers to meet the food safety standards under the new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator License Basic Training

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fee - \$50 includes lunch and Private Applicator Packet (course and study materials)

If you intend to purchase and/or apply restricted use pesticides for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity on land which is owned or rented by you, then you need a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Pesticide (PDA) License. To become a certified private applicator, testing is required. This full day Monday session will cover the basics and prepare you for the pesticide applicator's exam (which will take place Tuesday morning from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.).

Ag Literacy for Growers – Communicating with Consumers and the Media

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fee - \$50 includes light refreshments

Do you struggle with communicating your message to consumers and media? Are you confident that your employees can handle any question from a customer? Lori Connelly (Penn State Univ.) will prepare you to smoothly deliver your company's beliefs and easily conduct interviews before any audience. Dr.

(continued on page 11)

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CONVENTION

2015 Convention... (continued from page 10)

Richard Stup (AgChoice Farm Credit) returns to discuss best practices for training employees to address concerns they hear from consumers..

Session incorporates interaction between participants to expand your network and opportunities to ask questions of your peers, industry experts and educators.

Annual Growers Banquet

Many of you plan to gather with friends for the evening meals at Hershey. Why not plan to join a larger group of friends and fellow growers at the Annual Fruit and Vegetable Growers Banquet on January 27. There will be door prize drawings for the ladies and brief presentations by the participating grower organizations. PVGA will present its fifteenth Annual Award at the Dinner and two Life Memberships. Tickets for the banquet and reception are \$35.

Spanish Session

In an effort to provide additional education to Hispanic orchard employees, Penn State Cooperative Extension is again organizing a special session in Spanish to be held on Wednesday, January 28 at the Convention. Various relevant fruit and vegetable production topics will be presented. All are welcome, so please encourage your Hispanic friends and workers to attend the day's seminars and trade show.

Attendees must pay the regular registration fee. Employees of PVGA members are eligible for the \$65 or \$60 pre-registration rate.

Ice Cream Social

After you have enjoyed dinner on your own on Wednesday, January 28, come to the Great Lobby outside the trade show hall for the sixteenth annual PVGA Ice Cream Social from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The social will be open to all Convention attendees,

so come early to enjoy a visit with old friends and to meet new friends. The ice cream will only be served until 8:00 p.m. but you can continue to visit for as long as you like.

Music Jam Session

A music jam session will be held in the Great Lobby beginning at 8:30 after the Ice Cream Social, so if you play an instrument, bring it along and join in the fun.

The Hershey Lodge

The Hershey Lodge offers an indoor pool, exercise and game room, and restaurants while the Hershey area has an outlet center, Chocolate World and other attractions that will appeal to whole family. So why not plan a mid-winter vacation at the Lodge. In case of a winter storm, you can still attend all the Convention events without setting foot outside - the Convention will go on regardless of the weather. A special Convention room rate makes the Lodge more affordable. Rooms are \$138 per night for up to four persons. To make reservation, call 1-800-HERSHEY and give them group code 1837233. Staying at the Hershey Lodge rather than some other motel ultimately enables us to keep the registration prices down. Child care services are available through the Hershey Lodge as well. Plan now to spend the week in Hershey.

Pre-Register

There is no better opportunity for you to meet with vegetable, potato and small fruit experts from across the nation, dozens of vendors and fellow growers in one place. Plan now to be there! Remember that pre-registration helps us make better plans and can save you from waiting in a long registration line. You also save \$15 to \$20 by pre-registering by January 16. There is a pre-registration form in the November issue of the

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CONVENTION

2015 Convention... (continued from page 11)

newsletter and on the Convention website at www.mafvc.org. Each member's membership renewal form, mailed by first-class mail to each member, is also a Convention registration form. You can also call PVGA at 717-694-3596 and we will be happy to mail or fax you a registration form. Walk-in registration at the Convention is also available. Please note that PVGA is not equipped to handle credit or debit card payments prior to the Convention or at the Convention. Checks must be used for all pre-registrations by mail. Cash or checks are accepted at the Convention.

Convention Program

The following topics and speakers have been scheduled for the educational program at the 2015 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention. *Please note, speakers, topics, times and rooms in this program are subject to change. Check for updates on the website at www.mafvc.org. The printed program at the Convention will take precedence over any pre-convention programs. This list does NOT include the Tree Fruit, Peach and Wine Grape sessions which are listed in the November newsletter and the website.*

* before a topic indicates the topic is expected to qualify for a category pesticide applicator license update credit.

** before a topic indicates the topic is expected to qualify for a core pesticide applicator license update credit.

Tuesday Morning, January 27, 2015**Food Trends** - Trinidad Room

- 9:00 **Boomers to Millennials, Who is Buying What and How to Tell Them What You Have** - Brian Moyer, Penn State Extension
- 9:45 **Interpreting National Food Trend for Profit** - Heather Mikulas, Penn State Univ.

Tomatoes - Empire Room

- 9:00 **Getting Paid for Your Produce - An Introduction to PACA** - Gregory Brown, McCarron & Diess
- 9:45 ***Tomato Disease Update - Late Blight** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.

GMO's - Magnolia Room

- 9:00 **Status and Content of GMO Labelling Legislation** - Ross Pifer, Penn State Dickinson Agricultural Law Center
- 9:45 **Experience and Potential of Biotechnology for Fruit and Vegetables** - Dr. Li Li, Cornell Univ.

Leafy Greens - Crystal Room

- 9:00 **Four Season Lettuce Production** - Dr. Lewis Jett, West Virginia Univ.
- 9:45 ***IPM Strategies for High Tunnel Leafy Greens** - Judson Reid, Cornell Coop. Extension

Organic Vegetables - Wild Rose Room

- 9:00 **Using a Buckwheat Cover Crop for Maximum Weed Suppression after Early Vegetables** - Thomas Bjorkman, Cornell Univ.
- 9:45 **Spiral Path Farm - How We Grow Transplants** - Michael & Terra Brownback, Spiral Path Farm

Snap Beans - Cocoa 1

- 9:00 **Scout's Perspective** - Luke McConnell, McConnells' Agronomics
- 9:45 **Grower Insights** - Donald Bergey, Furman Farms; Stephen Kistler, Kistler Farms; and Nathan Richard, Scattered Acres Farm

Apps for Ag - Cocoa Ballroom

- 9:00 ****Apps for Pest Management** - Andrew Frankenfield, Penn State Extension
- 9:45 **Is There a Drone (Unmanned Aircraft System) In Your Farms Future?** - Craig Williams, Penn State Extension

Keynote - Nigerian and Trinidad Rooms

- 10:45 **Legislative Update**
- 11:00 **Keynote Presentation: Human Capital: Now, Tomorrow and the Next Generation** - Russell Redding, Delaware Valley College
- 12:00 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

Tuesday Afternoon, January 27, 2015**CSA's** - Trinidad Room

- 1:30 **Cooperative Models - Partnering With Other Farms** - Heidi Secord, Josie Porter Farm
- 2:10 **Cooperative Models - Partnering With Other Farms** - John Good, Quiet Creek Farm
- 3:00 **Adding a CSA To Your Retail Farm Market** - Kurt Alstede, Alstede Farm

Tomatoes - Empire Room

- 1:30 ***Bacterial Spot of Tomato: Biology and Management** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 2:00 **Tomato Fertility** - Steve Bogash, Penn State Extension
- 2:45 ****How Water Quality Effects Pesticide Efficacy** - Dr. Kerry Richards, Penn State Extension
- 3:30 **Tomato Grafting and Foliar Diseases in High Tunnels** - Judson Reid, Cornell Coop. Extension
- 4:00 **Grafting of Fruiting Vegetables: Progress and Challenges** - Dr. Frank Louws, North Carolina State Univ.

(continued on page 13)







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CONVENTION

2015 Convention... (continued from page 12)**Pollinators and Pollination** - Magnolia Room

- 1:30 **CPR - Pollinatore Biology, Nutrition and Health** – Dr. Harland Patch, Penn State Univ.
- 2:00 ***Pollinating High Bush Blueberry: Who Does It, and How Can Growers Improve It** – Dr. Rufus Isaacs, Michigan State Univ.
- 2:45 ****IPM To Minimize Impacts on Pollinators in Tree Fruit** – Dr. David Biddinger, Penn State Univ.
- 3:30 ***Cucurbit Pollinators, Pollination and IPM** – Dr. Shelby Fleischer, Penn State Univ.
- 4:00 **Government Conservation Programs for Pollinators** - James Gillis, USDA/NRCS; Mace Vaughan, Xerces Society

Drip Irrigation - Crystal Room

- 1:30 **Pond Management** - Bryan Swistock, Penn State Extension
- 2:00 **Ag Management Strategies for Drip Irrigation** - John Melora, Lee Rain Inc
- 2:45 **Soil Moisture and Fertilizer Management** - George Hochmuth, Univ. of Florida
- 3:30 **Drip Irrigation Uniformity** - William Wolfram, Toro Ag
- 4:00 **Keeping Fertigation Units Running Properly** - Thomas Ford, Penn State Extension

Organic Vegetables - Wild Rose Room

- 1:30 **Nutrient Management in Organic Cropping System** - John Spargo, Penn State Univ.
- 2:00 **New Insights on Weed Management Decision Making from Mental Models Research** – Dr. Doug Doohan, Ohio Ag Research & Development Center
- 2:45 **Strategies For Weed Suppression and Improving Soil Fertility During Transition to Organic Vegetable Production** – Dr. Doug Doohan, Ohio Ag Research & Development Center
- 3:30 ***Evaluation of Organic Insecticides for Vegetable Production** – Dr. Galen Dively, Univ. of Maryland
- 4:00 **A Comparison of Organic Cucurbit Production Techniques - Plastic vs. Strip Tillage Field Preparation With and Without Row Cover** - Jason Lilley and Dr. Elsa Sanchez, Penn State Univ.

Onions and Garlic - Cocoa 1

- 1:30 **Onion Varieties** – Dr. Michael Orzolek, Penn State Univ. Emeritus
- 2:00 **Garlic Fertility - Optimal Rates and Timing** - Crystal Stewart, Cornell Univ.
- 2:45 ***Bacterial Disease Management of Onions** – Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 3:30 **Sweet, Green and Overwintering Onion Varieties for Plasticulture & Bare Ground** - Gordon Johnson, Univ. of Delaware
- 4:00 **Growing Great Leeks** - Eli Cook, Spiring Valley Farm

(continued on page 14)

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CONVENTION

2015 Convention... (continued from page 13)**Labor/Farm Management** - Cocoa Ballroom

- 1:30 **Employee Management** – Keith Dickinson, Farm Credit East
- 2:30 **Income Tax Planning** – Keith Dickinson, Farm Credit East
- 3:30 **The New Farm Bill, Horticultural Crop Insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** – John Berry, Penn State Extension, Gene Gantz, RMA, and Rebecca Csutoras, Farm Service Agency

Wednesday Morning, January 28, 2015**Marketing 101** - Trinidad Room

- 9:00 **Effective Market Signage** - Caleb Torrice, Tabora Farm and Orchard
- 9:40 **Market Curb Appeal** - Jennifer Brodsky, Kitchen Table Consultants
- 10:30 **Market Décor - Themes, Displays and Windows** - Brit Carlson, Ruie and Grace
- 11:10 **Market Layout** - Jennifer Brodsky, Kitchen Table Consultants

Sweet Corn - Empire Room

- 9:00 **Nutrient Management with Tissue Testing** - Steve Bogash, Penn State Extension
- 9:30 **Sweet Corn Varieties** - Blake Myers, Seigers Seed Co.
- 10:00 ***Managing Weeds in No-Till Sweet Corn** - Steve Groff, Cedar Meadow Farm
- 10:45 ***Managing Insects with Today's Options** – Dr. Galen Dively, Univ. of Maryland
- 11:30 ***Understanding and Managing Sweet Corn Leaf Diseases** – Dr. Alyssa Collins, Penn State Univ.

Soil Health/Cover Crops - Magnolia Room

- 9:00 **Nitrogen Release and Disease Suppressive Activity of Four Compost Amendments on Three Vegetable Farms** - Lori Hoagland, Purdue Univ.
- 9:30 **Living Mulch as an Alternative to Herbicides in Plasticulture Vegetables** - Judson Reid, Cornell Coop. Extension
- 10:00 **Solvita, Haney, Food Web, Cornell Soil Health Test. What are My Soil Health Test Options and What Will They Tell Me** - Charlie White, Penn State Extension
- 10:45 **The Role of Organic Matter in Soil Fertility Management** - John Spargo, Penn State Univ.
- 11:30 **Lessons Learned: Incorporating Cover Crops and Reduced Tillage on Our Farm** - Arthur King, Harvest Valley Farms

Small Fruit - Focus on Spotted Wing Drosophila -

Crystal Room

- 9:00 ***Spotted Wing Drosophila in the Mid Atlantic: An Update** – Dr. David Biddinger, Penn State Univ.
- 9:30 ****Experiences With a Fixed Sprayer System in High Tunnel Raspberries** - Dale Riggs, D. Riggs Consulting
- 10:00 ***Progress Towards Managing Spotted Wing Drosophila on Blueberries** - Cesar Rodriguez-Soana, Rutgers Coop. Extension
- 10:45 ***Chemical and Non-Chemical Approaches to Managing Spotted Wing Drosophila in Raspberry** – Dr. Rufus Isaacs, Michigan State Univ.
- 11:30 **Using Spotted Wing Drosophila Exclusion Netting in Blueberries** - Dale Riggs, D. Riggs Consulting

Greenhouse Ornamentals - Wild Rose Room

- 9:00 **Getting Started Selling Perennials; These You Need to Have** - Sinclair Adam, Penn State Extension
- 9:30 ****Pesticide Delivery Systems for Greenhouse Applications** - Thomas Ford, Penn State Extension
- 10:00 ***Replacing Neonicotinoids in the Greenhouse** – Dr. Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State Univ.
- 10:45 **You're Killing Your Own Plants: Greenhouse Sanitation Makes Better Plants** – Dr. Gary Moorman, Penn State Univ.
- 11:30 **Top Ten Ways to Save on Greenhouse Heating Costs** - Neil Mattson, Cornell Univ.

Spanish - Cocoa Ballroom

- 9:00 **Brambles and SWD** - Kathy Demchak & Tianna Dupont, Penn State
- 9:30 **Post-Harvest Handling of Berries** - Lee Stivers, Penn State Extension
- 10:00 **Keep Your Crop Safe – Use Good Agricultural Practices and IPM** - Maria Gorgo-Gourovitch, Penn State Extension
- 11:30 **Pruning High Density Apple Orchards: Principles and a Demonstration** - Mario Miranda Sazo, Cornell Extension

(continued on page 15)

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CONVENTION

2015 Convention... (continued from page 14)**Wednesday Afternoon, January 28, 2015****Sweet Corn** - Empire Room

- 1:30 **No-Till Sweet Corn Through the Season** - Andrew Frankenfield, Penn State Extension
- 2:00 **Organic Sweet Corn Without the Worms: It Can Be Done!** - James Crawford, Pearl Wetherall and Jennifer Glenister, New Morning Farm
- 2:45 **Management of Wildlife Issues** - Matt Rice, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
- 3:30 **Wholesaling Sweet Corn: Do's and Don'ts** - Rick Stauffer and William Saussaman, Seminole Produce
- 4:00 ****Health Effect of Pesticides: Get the Facts** - Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State Extension

Agritainment - Magnolia Room

- 1:30 **How To Grow Your Agritainment Business** - John Hill, Hill Ridge Farm
- 2:45 **Increasing Your Business with Advertising** - Eric Voll, Soergel's Orchards
- 3:30 **Safety First** - To Be Announced, Penna. Department of Agriculture
- 3:45 **To be Announced**

General Vegetables - Crystal Room

- 1:30 ***Risk Management of 2 4-D and Dicamba Tolerant Soybeans** - Dr. Doug Doohan, Ohio Ag Research & Development Center
- 2:00 **2014 Broccoli Variety Trial Results** - Dr. Elsa Sanchez, Dr. William Lamont Jr, Robert Pollock, Lee Stivers, Steve Bogash and Thomas Butzler, Penn State
- 2:45 **How We Grow Celery and Greenhouse Greens at Twin Springs Farm** - Thomas Childs, Twin Springs Fruit Farm
- 3:30 **Soil Nutrient Problems and Resolutions** - George Hochmuth, Univ. of Florida
- 4:00 **Field Greens and Salad Mix Production at the Dickinson College Farm** - Matthew Steinman, Dickinson College Farm

Greenhouse Ornamentals - Wild Rose Room

- 1:30 ***How To Best Manage Fungus Gnats** - Dr. Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State Univ.
- 2:00 **Best of Penn State Flower Trials** - Sinclair Adam, Penn State Extension
- 2:45 **Efficient Feeding: Going Beyond 20-20-20** - Krystal Snyder, JR Peters Co
- 3:30 **Minimizing Phytotoxicity in the Greenhouse** - Thomas Ford, Penn State Extension
- 4:00 **Stayin' Alive: Strategies To Improve Plant Retail Shelf Life** - Neil Mattson, Cornell Univ.

Spanish - Cocoa Ballroom

- 1:30 **New Technologies to Work Smarter Not Harder** - Mario Miranda Sazo, Cornell Extension
- 2:15 **Using Budgets to Analyze Agricultural Enterprises** - Miguel Saviroff, Penn State Extension
- 3:10 **The Impact of Water Quality on Pesticide Performance: The Little Factor that Makes a Big Difference** - Hector Nunez-Contreras, Penn State Extension

Thursday Morning, January 29, 2015**Risk Management in On-Farm Direct Marketing** -

Trinidad Room

- 9:00 **Direct Marketing - Is It Right For You, Doing a Self Assessment** - Stephen Komar, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 9:30 **Considerations for Selecting and Training Employees to Improve Safety for Direct Marketing** - Michelle Infante-Casella, Rutgers Co-op Extension
- 10:00 **Assessing Farm Safety When Inviting the Public on Your Property** - William Bamka, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 10:45 **Right To Farm, Deed of Easement and Other Regulations that Impact Direct Marketing** - Brian Schilling, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 11:30 **Food Aspects for Direct Marketing** - Meredith Melendez, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

(continued on page 16)

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CONVENTION

2015 Convention... (continued from page 15)**Vine Crops** - Empire Room

- 9:00 ***Monitoring for Squash Vine Borer, An Unseen Plant Killer** - George Hamilton, UNHCE - Hillsborough County
- 9:30 ***Bacterial Diseases in Vine Crops, Is There Any Hope** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 10:00 ***Watermelon Insect Management Update** - Joanne Whalen, Univ. of Delaware
- 10:45 **Lighting the Way With 'Sunlight', 'Moonlight' and Other New Cucurbit Varieties on the Horizon** - Dr. Brent Loy, Univ. of New Hampshire
- 11:30 **Using a Plasticulture System to Grow Cucurbits** - Dr. Michael Orzolek, Penn State Univ. Emeritus

High Tunnels - Magnolia Room

- 9:00 **Winter Production in High Tunnels** - Judson Reid, Cornell Coop. Extension
- 9:30 **Mechanization of Ventilation in High Tunnels** - Steve Bogash, Penn State Extension
- 10:00 **Cover Crops for High Tunnels** - Dr. Lewis Jett, West Virginia Univ.
- 10:45 **Effect of Compost Application Rates on High Tunnel Tomatoes** - Dr. Mark Hutton, Univ. of Maine
- 11:30 **Top 10 Reasons Not to Grow in High Tunnels** - Judson Reid, Cornell Coop. Extension

Post Harvest - Crystal Room

- 9:00 **Cooling Methods and Impact of Delays to Cool** - Marita Cantwell, Univ. of California at Davis
- 9:30 **Northeast Garlic Post Harvest Trial Results - Heat Curing, Topping vs. Washing** - Crystal Stewart, Cornell Univ.
- 10:00 **Postharvest Handling of Vegetables to Ensure Quality and Safety** - Marita Cantwell, Univ. of California at Davis
- 10:45 **Practical Food Safety Strategies for the Pack House** - Rebecca Munro, The Seed Farm and Andy Andrews, Pennypack Farm & Education Center
- 11:30 **New York Farmers Added Cooling Technology Improving Quality and Fostering Economic Development** - Elizabeth Claypoole, Cornell Extension

Potatoes - Wild Rose Room

- 9:00 **Potatoes: What's New - Observation and Research** - Robert Leiby, PA Coop. Potato Growers
- 9:30 **Varieties That Look Promising** - Michael Peck, Penn State Univ.
- 10:00 ***Update on Management of Potato Diseases** - Dr. Steven Johnson, Univ. of Maine Cooperative Extension
- 10:45 **Health Benefits of Colored Potato Chips** - Dr. Jairam Vanamala, Penn State Univ.
- 11:30 **Update on Insect Management in Potatoes** - Dr. Thomas Kuhar, Virginia Tech

Small Fruit - Cocoa 1

- 9:00 ***What's New in Blueberry Weed Control** - Dr. Eric Hanson, Michigan State Univ.
- 9:30 **How We Grow and Market Strawberries and Raspberries at Strawberry Tyme Farms** - John Cooper, Strawberry Tyme Farms
- 10:00 **Recycling Horticultural Films: Handling and Marketing** - Dr. Lois Levitan, Cornell Univ.
- 10:45 **Low Tunnels for Strawberries: What Works and What Doesn't** - David Pike, Farm to You Market; Eric Menard, Dubois Agrinovation and Kathleen Demchak, Penn State Univ.
- 11:30 **Proper Postharvest Handling of Berries** - Lee Stivers, Penn State Extension

Tough To Manage Weeds - Cocoa Ballroom

- 9:00 ***Identifying Problem Weeds** - Dwight Lingenfelter and Andrew Franenfield, Penn State
- 9:30 ***Palmer Amaranth - One Weed You Really Need to Know** - Dwight Lingenfelter and Andrew Franenfield, Penn State
- 10:00 ***Sweet Corn and Cucurbit Weed Control Programs with Q & A** - Dwight Lingenfelter and Andrew Franenfield, Penn State
- 10:45 ****Applying Herbicides, Avoiding Drift and Calibrating Herbicide Sprayers** - Thomas Ford, Penn State Extension
- 11:30 **To be Announced**

(continued on page 17)

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CONVENTION

2015 Convention... (continued from page 16)

Thursday Afternoon, January 29, 2015

Social Media

- 1:30 **How To Integrate Social Media Into Your Marketing Strategy** - Sarah Lanphier, Nuts About Granola
- 2:00 **Social Service - Using Social Media for Customer Service** - Sarah Cornelisse, Penn State Univ.
- 2:45 **Helping Customers "Find" You** - Shannon Dill, Univ. of Maryland Extension
- 3:30 **Farming Followers** - Julie Bancroft, PA Apple Marketing Board
- 4:00 **Tricks of the Trade** - Shannon Dill, Univ. of Maryland Extension

Pumpkins - Empire Room

- 1:30 **We Make Pumpkins Fly Through the Air, Ag-Entertainment** - George Hamilton, UNHCE - Hillsborough County
- 2:00 ***Effectively Managing the Mildews** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 2:45 ***Early Season Virus Infections in Pumpkins** - Dr. Gerald Brust, Univ. of Maryland
- 3:30 ****Health Effects of Pesticides, Get the Facts and Put Them to Use** - Lee Stivers, Penn State Extension
- 4:00 ***Squash Bug Update** - James Wilson, Virginia Tech

High Tunnels - Magnolia Room

- 1:30 ***Insect Control in High Tunnels** - Dr. Gerald Brust, Univ. of Maryland
- 2:00 ***Disease Management in High Tunnels** - Thomas Ford, Penn State Extension
- 2:45 **Variety Evaluation of Kale, Parsley and Legumes** - Dr. Lewis Jett, West Virginia Univ.
- 3:30 **Who are the High Tunnel Growers in Philadelphia?** - Thomas McCann, Penn State Extension

New Equipment - Crystal Room

- 1:30 **We Built a New Hydroponic System** - Thomas Childs, Twin Springs Farm
- 2:00 **Simple Wash Station Efficiency Tips** - David Hambleton, Sisters Hill Farm
- 2:45 **FARMDATA Record Keeping System** - Matthew Steinman, Dickinson College Farm
- 3:30 **Update on LED's, Is It Time To Jump In** - Neil Mattson, Cornell Univ.

Potatoes - Wild Rose Room

- 1:30 ***Weed Control Strategies for Potatoes** - Sudeep Mathew, Univ. of Maryland
- 2:00 ***Fertility Management for Potatoes** - Dr. Steven Johnson, Univ. of Maine Cooperative Extension
- 2:45 **USDA Breeding Program for Potatoes** - Dr. Kathleen Haynes, USDA/ARS
- 3:30 **Report From the US Potato Board and Input for Next Strategic Plan** - Blair Richardson, US Potato Board

Small Fruit - Cocoa 1

- 1:30 **What the Winter of 2013/2014 Taught Us About Floating Row Covers** - Dr. Michael Newell, Wye Research & Education Center
- 2:00 ***Integrated Management of Major Diseases on Brambles** - Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman, West Virginia Extension
- 2:45 **To be Announced**
- 3:30 **Food Safety Considerations When Using Overhead Irrigation in Strawberries** - Kathleen Demchak, Penn State Univ.

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NEWS

Vegetable and Small Fruit Production Webinars Return

The Winter Wednesday Lunch Series of vegetable and small fruit production webinars returns for its fourth year starting December 10, 2014, and running through March 25, 2015. Penn State and Cornell University have teamed up to present this series of webinars to keep you informed about critical production issues.

This series provides convenient access to timely updates in commercial vegetable and small fruit production for extension educators, producers, and industry representatives in Pennsylvania, New York, and surrounding states.

The sessions, available live and recorded, feature both Penn State and Cornell speakers on a range of specific topics. All webinars are held from 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons, as follows:

December 10, 2014. **Hydroponic Vegetable Production.** Tom Ford, Extension Educator, Penn State Extension.

January 14, 2015. **Current Issues in Strawberry Pest Management.** Kathy Demchak, Senior Extension Associate, Penn State; and Cathy Heidendreich, Extension Support Specialist, Cornell.

Be a Model for the Future

Penn State Extension is looking for host sites for demonstrating best management practices and helping beginning farmers succeed. Through funding from the USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Project, Penn State Extension is looking to partner with four growers across Pennsylvania to establish demonstration plots to help new growers understand and implement best management practices and improve their farm success. This 'Models for the Future' project will provide on-farm demonstration sites illustrating best management practices (BMP) and learning centers for new farmer networks.

Are you a beginning farmer who has been farming for two to ten years and excited about implementing cutting edge production information on your farm? The 'Models for the Future' project is an opportunity to work with Penn State researchers and specialists to receive specialized technical recommendations for two to three crops, including tree fruit, berries, and/or vegetables. Researchers will work with you to track quality, profits, and pest management from the practices implemented at your farm. Grant funds will defray the costs of demonstrating best management techniques, including planting stock, cover crop seed, and other supplies. The model plot at your farm will not only help your farm succeed, but provide important information to help the next generation of farmers in Pennsylvania succeed.

Are you interested in learning from your peers and researchers? Not only will 'Models of the Future' provide a living classroom, but also will form study circles to focus on production, marketing, and business topics. As a 'Models for the Future' host you will benefit from three study circles hosted at or near your farm. Study circles employ a discussion-based format allowing you and your fellow farmers to delve into topics of your choice, learning from an invited speaker and your peers. Study circles will begin with a 30-minute presentation by the speaker, followed by a meal and two hours of discussion. During the meal you and your fellow new farmers will have time to network and develop a community to support your new farm. Grant funds will defray the costs of the speakers and meals.

Apply by December 30th to be a 'Model of the Future.' Contact Tianna DuPont at tdupont@psu.edu or 610.746.1970 to learn more.

From Penn State Univ.

February 11, 2015. **Soil Health Through Reduced Tillage and Cover Crops.** Carol MacNeil, Extension Vegetable Specialist, Cornell; and Dr. Thomas Bjorkman, Associate Professor, Cornell.

March 4, 2015. **Using Sanitizers in Wash Water.** Dr. Luke LaBorde, Associate Professor, Penn State.

March 25, 2015. **Tomato Nutrition in High Tunnels.** Steve Bogash, Extension Educator, Penn State; and Judson Reid, Extension Vegetable Specialist, Cornell.

The cost for the webinars are \$10 per session or \$35 for the entire series. All you need to participate is access to a computer with internet access (DSL or faster) and speakers or headphones. Register online or by calling 724.627.3745.

From Penn State Univ.

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Building Management and Leadership Excellence

Everything we have previously learned about economics and business management must be applied on our farms. From conversations with farmers we believe this is the challenge for today's farm managers and leaders. The difference in profitability of the top 20% and the bottom 20% of commercial farms continues to grow every year. Even the best and most successful farm businesses have issues.

"The future will always belong to those who see the possibilities before they become obvious." Danny Klinefelter

Penn State Extension recognizes that it is necessary to grow your knowledge and understanding of the dynamic management issues impacting the long term viability of your commercial farm. Skills required to adequately address the challenges of incorporating technological and regulatory change, analyzing market shifts, managing personnel and using appropriate fiscal oversight are increasingly complex in any business.

Join us January 13 to 14, 2015, at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College for the Penn State Extension Farm Executive Workshop where you can enhance your management and leadership capacity as you strive to ensure the success of your business.

Most of the farm management education opportunities we have been exposed to teach us what to do. The purpose of this workshop is to broaden our understanding of how to implement what we know we should do. Gaining a sense of being on the right track, along with opportunities for follow-up add to the value of this unique learning event.

This workshop will sharpen your decision-making, leadership and management abilities through small group discussions, interactive sessions and engagement with world class industry professionals. The program curriculum includes a selection of agricultural management topics specifically chosen to address the needs of mid-Atlantic and north east agricultural business executives. As we work towards an ideal solution to the issues in our individual businesses; we grow our management and leadership skills. The concept is to stop treating the symptoms and start fixing the problem.

The Penn State Extension Farm Executive Workshop will provide:

- Discussion and exploration of key business management challenges
- Opportunity to build on your understanding of core business management functions
- Networking with peers from across our region
- Discussion and exploration of industry issues with leading thinkers and researchers
- Enhancement of your ability to lead and manage your business

All sessions emphasize practical insights and practices that grow your capacity to implement classic business management processes. The year's workshop sessions focus on:

- Enterprise Budget Use and Analysis
- Thinking and Acting Strategically
- Global Perspectives and Ag Policy Implications
- The Transition from Laborer to Manager to Leader
- Financial Statements: What can you do for me?
- Accountability in Family Businesses

We do not offer a guarantee of success. However, we are confident your active participation in this workshop will increase your appreciation of alternative perspectives and build an understanding of the importance of including appropriate concepts in your farm management conversations.

If you understand that you do not manage a farm, but that you manage a farm business – this workshop is for you.

"The only truly sustainable competitive advantage is the ability to learn and adapt faster than your competition."
Jack Welsh

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NEWS

PA Preferred™ Member Sugartown Strawberries Blends Conservation, Education, Marketing



Bob Lange of Sugartown Strawberries

For more than a century, the Willisbrook Farm of Malvern has provided fresh, local produce for Chester County. The man who tills the soil and picks the berries is a fourth generation farmer, Robert Lange, known as Farmer Bob. He grows the Sugartown strawberry, his own branded Chandler variety, on part of the 230 acre farm. The strawberries are sold alongside other produce at the farm's Sugartown Country Store.

In 1996, Gov. Ridge honored Willisbrook Farm, established in 1896 as a Pennsylvania Century Farm. Part of the farm is certified as a Natural Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. An additional 112 acres has been preserved as open space for Willistown Township.

Farmer Bob was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award in 1996 and then named 2014 Farmer of the Year by the Chester County Commissioners. While Bob is the primary operator on the farm, friends swing by to assist him with tasks that require more than one person.

"There's just something about planting a seed and seeing the end result," said Bob.

His partner Lisa Bennett markets the farm, driving consumer interest and helping educate the next generation about agriculture. Other members of the Sugartown Strawberries team help in the store, picking produce or driving hayrides.

Fall is one of the busiest times of the year for Bob, between harvesting crops and sharing the story of agriculture with more than 5,000 school students who tour the farm each year.

"I love providing the tours to the students because they are not only learning but having fun," he said. "I think it is very important for the children to understand where their food comes from and the farmers who grow it."

Tours include a hayride and allow the kids to pick out their favorite pumpkin. As the children tour the farm, they stop along the way at educational stations learning about Native American and Quaker history, agriculture, nutrition, conservation, land preservation, weather, pollination and technology.

"Lisa and I invite all visitors to stop by the Sugartown Country Store," said Bob. "Be sure to pick up a bag of homegrown popcorn, a jar of freshly harvested honey, or our fresh fruit jams and jellies to top off your toast.

"Our customers keep coming back, after they get hooked on the freshness of our fruits and vegetables," he said. "We not only sell strawberries but also asparagus, sweet corn, sunflowers, tomatoes, eggplants, watermelon and cucumbers."

The top selling item is their wide variety of pumpkins, used for carvings and decorating in the fall season and for baking for the holidays.

Sugartown Strawberries is a jumping place that leverages nearby historic Sugartown village, stewardship practices and the interest of area residents for buying locally grown, PA Preferred products. The store also features local smoked meats, cheeses, country relishes, salad dressings and old-fashioned candy, and is open through November.

Find it on Sugartown Road in Malvern, Chester County, or online at www.sugartownstrawberries.com.

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VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Brussels Sprouts Variety Trial Results

Dr. Michael Orzolek and Greg Ritchey

Brussels Sprout production has increased in acreage in the last 5 years in Pennsylvania. Brussels Sprout varieties mature between 85 and 110 days from seed. Consumers are purchasing Brussels Sprouts based on size, color and taste. We report here characteristics of 6 Brussels Sprout varieties grown in a replicated field trial at the Horticulture Research Farm, Rock Springs, PA.

Materials and Methods

The trial was conducted on a Sassafras sandy loam that had been fall plowed following a winter wheat crop the previous year. Fertilizer was broadcast and incorporated at the rate of 100 pounds/A of N-P-K.

The Brussels Sprout varieties were experimental and named varieties from Tozer Seed, Surrey, England and Rohrer Seed, Smoketown, PA. All varieties were seeded in 72 cell trays in the greenhouse on April 15, 2014.

On May 15, 6 inch raised beds covered with 1.0 mil black plastic mulch and a single line of drip tape (Toro Aquatraxx 8-inch emitter spacing, 0.67 GPM/100 ft.) placed 2 inches in the soil beneath the black plastic mulch. On May 26, six week-old transplants of each variety were planted in soil 24 inches between plants in the row (10 plants per rep) with rows 7 feet apart. There were 3 replications per variety in this trial. For data collection, only 3 plants per variety per rep were harvested. Moderate weed pressure was managed by an initial herbicide application prior to seeding and hand weeding several times during the growing season.

Brussels Sprouts were harvested on October 7, 2014 and the following data collected: marketable number and weight of sprouts, percent cull sprouts and average sprout weight.

Results and Discussion

Table 1. The Marketable yield of 6 Brussels Sprout varieties grown at the Horticulture Research Farm – 2014

Cultivar	Source	Marketable Yield		Avg. sprout wt. – gram	% Cull sprouts
		No. Sprouts/plant	Wt.-lbs		
Long Island Improved	Rohrer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bosworth	Tozer	124.7	2.3	8.4	54.9
TZ 9809	Tozer	130.0	5.3	19.6	58.9
TZ 0194	Tozer	103.3	3.6	15.9	71.6
BR 5109	Tozer	78.7	2.6	15.1	78.3
BR 515	Tozer	105.7	1.8	7.8	70.6

Rohrer Seeds, Smoketown, PA and Tozer Seeds, Surry, England

All Brussels Sprout plants were topped on August 19, 2014 to break apical dominance and size the individual sprouts in the leaf axels. Because of the wet, cool weather in September and early October, sprouts closest to the mulched surface discolored and started to rot making them non-marketable and the reason for the high percentage of cull sprouts. The old open pollinated variety Long Island Improved did not develop any marketable sprouts at the time of harvest even after being topped in August. Sprout size varied with variety with TZ 9809 producing the largest sprout size and BR 515 producing the smallest sprout size.

Dr. Orzolek and Mr. Ritchey are with the Department of Plant Science at Penn State University.

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VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Winter Squash Variety Trial Results

Dr. Michael Orzolek and Greg Ritchey

Winter squash production has increased in acreage in the last 5 years in Pennsylvania. Winter squash types (acorn, butternut, kabocha and hubbard) mature between 80 and 110 days from seed depending on type. Consumers are purchasing winter squash types based on color, texture and taste. We report here characteristics of 8 winter squash cultivars grown in a replicated field trial at the Horticulture Research Farm, Rock Springs, PA.

Materials and Methods

The trial was conducted on a Sassafras sandy loam that had been fall plowed following a winter wheat crop the previous year. Fertilizer was broadcast and incorporated at the rate of 100 pounds/A of N-P-K.

The winter squash varieties were named varieties from Tozer Seed, Surrey, England and Hybrid Seed Company Ltd., Wellington, New Zealand

On May 26, 6 inch raised beds covered with 1.0 mil black plastic mulch and a single line of drip tape (Toro Aquatraxx 8-inch emitter spacing, 0.67 GPM/100 ft.) placed 2 inches in the soil beneath the black plastic mulch. On June 11, 2 seeds of each variety were placed in soil 18 inches between plants in the row (10 plants per rep) with rows 7 feet apart. When plants developed to the true leaf stage, one plant was removed from each hole in the plastic leaving just a single plant to produce fruit. There were 3 replications per variety in this trial. Moderate weed pressure was managed by an initial herbicide application prior to seeding and hand weeding several times during the growing season.

Winter squash was harvested on September 15, 2014 and the following data collected: marketable number and weight of fruit and average fruit weight.

Results and Discussion

Table 1. The Marketable yield of 8 hybrid winter squash types grown at the Horticulture Research Farm – 2014.

Cultivar	Source	Marketable Yield		Ave. Fruit Wt. - Lbs.	No. fruit/plant
		No.	Wt. – lbs.		
Pacific Royale	HSC	24.3	105.0	4.3	2.4
Isabelle	Tozer	26.3	86.4	3.3	2.6
Grey Ghost	HSC	16.3	132.0	8.1	1.6
Special Export	HSC	20.7	85.0	4.1	2.1
Hubba Hubba	HSC	39.7	144.6	3.6	4.0
Orange Cutie	HSC	44.7	102.1	2.3	4.5
Red October	HSC	20.7	138.1	6.7	2.1
Amber Max	Tozer	34.5	118.2	3.4	3.5

Seed source: HSC – Hybrid Seed Co. New Zealand and Tozer seeds, Surrey, England

Butternut types: Pacific Royale and Isabelle.

Kabocha types: Special Export, Grey Ghost, Orange Cutie and Amber Max.

Hubbard types: Red October and Hubba Hubba.

Cultivar Description

Pacific Royale – Thick blocky shape butternut with, deep orange flesh. Medium length vine growth habit.

Isabelle –

Grey Ghost – Large early maturing kabocha type with good flavor and flesh color, some tolerance to powdery mildew and good storage potential.

Special Export – Green, slightly flattened kabocha squash with vigorous vine growth and good storage potential.

Hubba Hubba – Deep red small sized hubbard squash with semi-bush plant habit and high yield potential.

Orange Cutie – Small orange kabocha type fruit with semi-bush plant habit and high yield potential. Great fruit culinary characteristics.

Red October – Dark red hubbard squash with medium to large vine growth, good uniformity and good culinary characteristics.

Amber Max – Orange kabocha type larger than Orange Cutie but with vigorous, compact plant habit and bright orange flesh.

Dr. Orzolek and Mr. Ritchey are with the Department of Plant Science at Penn State University.



(continued on page 23)

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Winter Squash... (continued from page 22)



Special Export



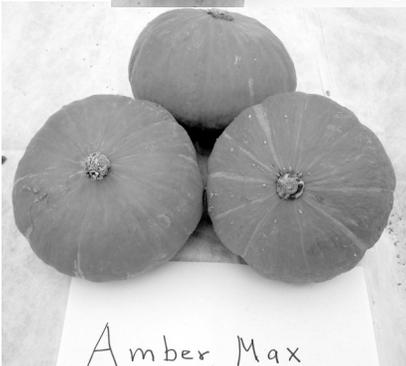
Hubba Hubba



ORANGE CUTIE



Red October



Amber Max



Amber Royale



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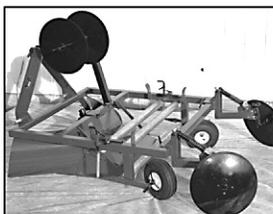
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VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

2014 Broccoli Variety Trial Results

Elsa Sanchez, Timothy Elkner, Thomas Butzler, Steven Bogash, Lee Stivers, Robert Pollock and William Lamont, Jr.

In the 2014 growing season we evaluated 25 broccoli cultivars in a spring and fall crop in three locations to determine which are best suited for Pennsylvania. These trials were supported by PVGA and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program.

Cultivars were evaluated in a conventional system in the western part of the state at Yarnick's Farm in Indiana (spring crop) and Janoski's Farm and Greenhouse in Clinton (fall crop); in the central part at Pennsylvania State University's Russell E. Larson Research Center in Rock Springs; and in the southeastern part at Pennsylvania State University's Southeast Research and Extension Center in Landisville.

'Imperial' was used as the standard based on conversations with growers.

Four- to six-week-old transplants were planted in April for the spring crop and in August for the fall crop. Plants were planted in a bare ground system in the central and southeastern locations and in a plasticulture system in the western locations. In the bare ground system, rows were spaced 30-36 inches apart with plants spaced 12 inches apart in each row.

In the plasticulture system, beds covered with black plastic were spaced on 5 foot centers and transplants were planted in a double row with 11-12 inch in-row spacing for the spring crop and in a single row with 15 inch in-row spacing for the fall crop.



Fall broccoli grown in a plasticulture system at the western site.

A drip irrigation system was used to supplement rainfall in both production systems to provide plants with 1-1.5 acre-inches of water each week. Pests were managed following recommendations in the 2014 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations guide.

Heads were harvested when they reached maturity: when beads were tight and had dark green buds and stalks were cut to 5 inches long. Harvested heads were categorized as marketable or unmarketable, counted and weighed. Additionally, head diameter was determined for marketable heads.



Diameters of marketable heads were determined.

Unmarketable heads were less than 4 inches in diameter, were over-mature or had diseased beads.

Cultivars were arranged in a randomized complete block design with each cultivar replicated four or five times. Data were collected from 10 plants per plot per replication. Data were analyzed using the mixed procedure and means were separated using pdiff.

Results

Spring Crop

Western Pennsylvania

'Imperial' heads weighed 0.80 lb which was not different than most cultivars. 'Castle Dome' heads weighed more with a mean of 1.22 lb/head and 'Expo' and 'Legacy' less at 0.31 and 0.15 lb/head, respectively.

Out of 10 'Imperial' plants 10.0 heads were marketable which was not different than most other cultivars. Fewer marketable heads were harvested from 'Blue Wind', 'Avenger', 'Legacy' and 'Expo' plants.

The diameter of 'Imperial' heads was 5.25 inches which was not different than most other cultivars. 'Expo' and 'Legacy' heads had smaller diameters at 2.05 and 1.07 inches, respectively.

In general, very few heads were unmarketable. The weight of unmarketable heads from 'Tahoe' and 'Blue Wind' was more than from 'Imperial'. All the remaining cultivars were not different than 'Imperial'.

Central Pennsylvania

'Imperial' heads weighed 0.67 lb, which was not different than most cultivars. 'Green Magic' and 'Blue Wind' weighed less at 0.27 and 0.25 lb/head, respectively.

Out of 10 'Imperial' plants 4.3 heads were marketable which was not different than most other cultivars. More marketable heads were harvested from 'BC 1691' and 'Izabal' plants.

The diameter of 'Imperial' heads was 4.43 inches which was not different than most other cultivars. 'Green Magic' heads had smaller diameters at 2.06 inches.

The weight of unmarketable heads from all other cultivars was not different than 'Imperial'.

(continued on page 25)

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

2014 Broccoli Variety... (continued from page 24)

Southeastern Pennsylvania

'Imperial' heads weighed 0.57 lb, which was not different than most cultivars. 'Avenger' and 'Legacy' weighed less at 0.34 and 0 lb/head, respectively. Production of 'Legacy' heads was affected by high temperatures.

Out of 10 'Imperial' plants 8.6 heads were marketable which was not different than most other cultivars. Fewer marketable heads were harvested from 'Green Gold', 'B2914', 'Tahoe', 'Amadeus', 'Expo', 'Emerald Jewel', 'Blue Wind', 'Avenger' and 'Legacy' plants.

The diameter of 'Imperial' heads was 4.91 inches which was not different than most other cultivars. 'Blue Wind', 'Avenger' and 'Legacy' heads had a smaller diameter at 3.3, 2.35 and 0 inches, respectively.

The weight of unmarketable heads from 'Imperial' was 0.26 which was not different than most other cultivars. Unmarketable heads from 'Avenger', 'Luna', 'Green Gold', 'Legacy', 'Expo', 'Blue Wind', 'BC1691' and 'Dura Pak 19' were heavier.

Fall Crop

Western Pennsylvania

'Imperial' heads weighed 1.07 lb which was not different than most cultivars. 'Avenger', 'Izabal', 'Dura Pak 19', 'BC 1691' and 'Green Gold' weighed more, between 1.47 and 1.24 lb/head. 'Bay Meadows', 'Tahoe', 'Amadeus' and 'Diplomat' weighed less, between 0.90 and 0.76 lb/head.

Out of 10 'Imperial' plants 9.6 heads were marketable which was not different than most other cultivars. Fewer marketable heads were harvested from 'Blue Wind' and 'Expo' plants.

The diameter of 'Imperial' heads was 5.80 which was not different than most cultivars. 'Blue Wind', 'Castle Dome', 'Captain' and 'Avenger' had larger diameters and 'Amadeus' had smaller diameters.

The weight of unmarketable heads from all other cultivars was not different than 'Imperial'.

Central Pennsylvania

The fall crop in central Pennsylvania grew abnormally and as a result was not harvested. Several causes were investigated and in the end herbicide drift injury was suspected.

Southeastern Pennsylvania

'Imperial' heads weighed 0.60 lb. 'Imperial', 'Expo', 'Tahoe', 'Green Gold', 'Avenger', 'Legacy', 'B2914' and 'BC 1691' weighed more. 'Amadeus', 'Captain' and 'Blue Wind' weighed less.

Out of 10 'Imperial' plants 9.6 heads were marketable which was not different than most other cultivars.

Fall broccoli at the central site. Plants grew un-uniformly. The pattern of the injured plants in the field led us to suspect herbicide injury.



Fewer marketable heads were harvested from 'Avenger', 'BC 1691', 'Expo', 'Captain', 'Legacy' and 'Blue Wind' plants.

The diameter of 'Imperial' heads was 5.36 which was not different than most cultivars. 'Luna', 'Amadeus', 'Captain' and 'Blue Wind' had smaller diameters.

The weight of unmarketable heads from 'Imperial' was 0.12 lb/head which was not different than most other cultivars. 'BC1764', 'Luna', 'Bay Meadows' and 'Lieutenant' produced smaller unmarketable heads.

Yearly environmental conditions can affect results and recommendations; therefore, we have proposed to evaluate the same broccoli cultivars again in 2015. However, based on these results for the spring broccoli crop and compared to 'Imperial', 'Legacy' had lower marketable head weight; 'Avenger', 'Blue Wind', 'Expo' and 'Legacy' produced fewer marketable heads; 'Legacy' heads had a smaller diameter; and 'Blue Wind' produced more unmarketable heads in two of the three study sites. For the fall broccoli crop, compared to 'Imperial', 'Avenger', 'Izabal' and 'Green Gold' had higher and 'Amadeus' lower marketable head weight; 'BlueWind' and 'Expo' produced fewer marketable heads; and 'Amadeus' heads had a smaller diameter in the two study sites. Unmarketable head weight was largely not different than 'Imperial'.

*Dr. Sanchez and Dr. Lamont are with the Department of Plant Science at Penn State Univ. and the other authors are with Penn State Extension. From the **Vegetable, Small Fruit and Mushroom News**, Penn State Extension, <http://extension.psu.edu/vegetable-fruit>, December 12, 2014.*

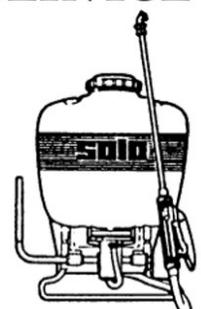
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BERRY PRODUCTION

'Niwot' Primocane-Fruit Black Raspberry Update

Kathleen Demchak

We have been evaluating 'Niwot' primocane-fruiting black raspberry in tunnels since 2013, and preliminary findings have been promising.

Fall of 2013 was the first fall for fruiting our 'Niwot' primocane-fruiting black raspberry in tunnels, and yields were decent at a little under a half-pound per linear foot of row, or about 2400 pounds per acre. It looked like there was a lot of cane that could produce summer fruit, so in 2014, we pruned it as if it were a floricaner-fruiter, though because the laterals were quite stocky, we left more wood than usual – anything thicker than pencil thickness was kept.

The summer yields were really impressive, in



Photo by R. Sellmer

part because the summer harvest season lasted an entire month, from June 25 through July 25. During this time, total yields added up to the equivalent of about 6300 pounds of fruit per acre, with 80% of that fruit being marketable. Fruit size was also good, averaging 1.7 grams per berry. The main problem that caused fruit to be unmarketable was double receptacles, which caused the berries to break apart into two halves which for some reason, didn't ripen at the same rate.

Fruit continued to trickle in until the fall yields on the primocanes started to pick up around August 18. Fall harvest continued at a lower rate than in the summer, with the equivalent of another 1900 lb of fruit per acre produced over the following month, and then additional fruit trickled in. During the month-long main fall harvest period, berries were larger than on the floricanes, averaging 2.4 grams per berry, but only 70% of the fruit was marketable, thanks to spotted wing drosophila moving in.

One disease susceptibility that is a little troubling is that there was a fall rust problem on the leaves, though the fruit wasn't affected. All-in-all, this variety is worth a look for anyone who is interested in producing black raspberries, and if it is summer-cropped, the majority of the fruit is picked before spotted wing drosophila is present.

*Ms. Demchak is with the Department of Plant Science at Penn State Univ. From the **Vegetable, Small Fruit and Mushroom News**, Penn State Extension, <http://extension.psu.edu/vegetable-fruit>, December 12, 2014.*

Mid-Atlantic Berry Guide – No Updated Version for 2015

Kathleen Demchak

Normally, we've been updating the Mid-Atlantic Berry Guide every 2 to 3 years, and this time around, it's going to be 3 years between updates.

There are not all that many changes to make right now, plus there are a few things I'd like to see worked out before we publish a new version. So, if you've been anxiously awaiting an announcement that a new version will be forthcoming any day now, my apologies for the disappointment. To bridge the gap, we'll publish a synopsis of changes in available pesticides during the spring, since this is the area of information in the guide that changes the fastest.

*Ms. Demchak is with the Department of Plant Science at Penn State Univ. From the **Vegetable, Small Fruit and Mushroom News**, Penn State Extension, <http://extension.psu.edu/vegetable-fruit>, December 8, 2014.*



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BERRY PRODUCTION

GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION

North American Strawberry Symposium will Feature 50 Talks on Strawberries!

Kathleen Demchak

The North American Strawberry Symposium, a meeting that takes place once every four years, will be held along with the annual meeting of the North American Strawberry Growers Association from February 3 to 6, 2015 in Ventura, California.

The meeting will consist of a half-day of roundtable discussions on Tuesday with an evening welcome reception, a single track of presentations on Wednesday, and two tracks of talks on Thursday—in all, 50 different talks on strawberries from speakers across the globe! A poster session on additional topics will be open all three days, along with a trade show and a silent auction fundraiser. A tour on Friday (included in the registration fee) will consist of visits to University of California research facilities, commercial farms with various production systems, and an insectary—for those who wonder where beneficial insects are raised. The tour ends with a reception on the beach at our hotel. Registration information and more details are available on the NASGA web site.

*Ms. Demchak is with the Department of Plant Science at Penn State Univ. From the **Vegetable, Small Fruit and Mushroom News**, Penn State Extension, <http://extension.psu.edu/vegetable-fruit>, December 8, 2014.*

Hydroponic Tomato Course Offered January 4 to 9

The University of Arizona Controlled Environment Agriculture Center (CEAC) will be hosting the annual 2015 Hydroponic Greenhouse Tomato Intensive Course from January 4 – 9, 2015 at the campus of the CEAC in Tucson, AZ. The Tomato Intensive Course will be taught by hydroponic tomato specialist Dr. Pat Rorabaugh and feature a special lecture from Dr. Merle Jensen. Students will receive a blend of classroom and hands-on time in a hydroponic greenhouse in order to successfully grow crops on their own. They will also have the opportunity to ask a panel of greenhouse engineers questions regarding their greenhouse design and operations. Tomato Intensive attendees will receive educational and reading materials (via flash drive) of a full semester university course, along with lectures, special events, and greenhouse time. Please pass this information along to any friends or colleagues who may be interested.

If you would like more information about the January 2015 Tomato Intensive Course, please see the attached flyer, visit our website at <http://ag.arizona.edu/ceac/hydroponic-greenhouse-crop-production-intensive>, or contact Aaron Tevik by email at atevik@cals.arizona.edu or by phone at (520) 626-9566.

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