

## Don't Miss the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention

The 2017 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention educational program as always offers three days of educational sessions for vegetable, potato, berry, and fruit growers and marketers plus a large industry trade show. Dr. Jay Lehr will be this year's keynote speaker. Don't miss out on the following opportunities at the 2017 Convention which runs from February 2 to 4 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 8:00 a.m. and return by 5:30 p.m. It will include visits to the following businesses.

Flinchbaugh's Orchard and Farm Market in York

Brown's Orchard and Farm Market in Loganville

Leg Up Farmer's Market in York and

Moon Dancer Vineyards and Winery in Wrightsville.

See separate article on page 11 for details about the tour.

### Reduced Registration for Spouses, Children or Employees

The Convention now offers 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

## PVGA Annual Meeting Set for February 1 at 11:30 a.m.

The Annual Meeting of the General Membership of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association will be held on Wednesday, February 1, at 11:30 in the Crystal Room of the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey. All members are asked to attend the meeting.

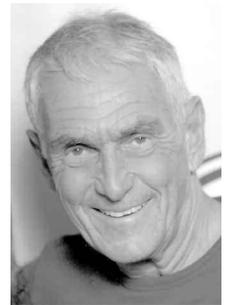
Traditionally, the Annual Meeting had included the election of members of the Board of Directors. However, starting five years ago, the Directors are now elected by a mail ballot which all members have received in the mail with their dues renewal notices. The terms of Fred Dymond III, Christopher Harner, Kenneth Martin, David Miller, John Shenk and Jeffrey Stoltzfus expire at the Annual Meeting this year. All are eligible for re-election although Mr. Dymond has chosen not to seek re-election. The Leadership and Recognition Committee has nominated all the incumbents plus Peter Flynn of West Chester, Alan Kemmerer of Berwick, Rita Resick of Somerset and Joel Weaver of Windber for election. 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, 2017 and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

*(continued on page 4)*

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.

### Keynote Presentation

Dr. Jay Lehr is a global futurist, PRO-Agriculture independent scholar and sought after speaker on subjects relating to economics, agriculture, environment, business management, resource management, social media marketing and energy utilization. He received his degree in Ground Water Hydrology from Princeton. He is the science director at the Heartland Institute who has testified before Congress on environmental issues numerous times and consulted with many federal agencies.



*(continued on page 12)*

## 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 7 to 14, 2017. That translates into a lot of volunteers. Plus, this year we will again be open the afternoon of Friday, January 6, 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. There is 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 \$100 for each volunteer shift enabling the Association to give over \$81 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 2017. You'll be helping your Association besides having an enjoyable time.

We are also looking to recruit growers to staff a high tunnel educational display this year. If you would be interested in helping with that effort, please contact us at 717-694-3596 or [pvga@pvga.org](mailto:pvga@pvga.org).

## NEWS



**Pennsylvania  
Vegetable Growers  
Association**

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

*President*

**Robert Shenot '16**  
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*Second Vice President*

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Harrisburg

*Secretary-Treasurer*

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**Christopher Harner '17**  
State College

**Lois Klinger '16**  
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**Kenneth Martin '17**  
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**Eric Oesterling '18**  
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**Michael Orzolek '18**  
State College

**John Shenk '17**  
Lititz

**Jeffrey Stoltzfus '17**  
Atglen

**Thomas Strzelecki '18**  
Wapwalopen

**Randy Treichler '18**  
Three Springs

**Mark Troyer '18**  
Waterford

**Timothy Weiser '16**  
York Springs

*Executive Secretary*  
**William Troxell**  
Richfield

## Two PVGA Scholarships to be Offered for 2017

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is pleased to be able to offer two Rudolph Grob Memorial Scholarships each year to a child or grandchild of a PVGA member who is pursuing higher education with the goal of working in production agriculture. While previously only one scholarship was awarded each year, the Board of Directors has approved awarding two scholarships beginning with 2015.

The Association gives the annual scholarships 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 scholarships 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 scholarships 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 2017 scholarships. The deadline is March 31, 2017. 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 emailed or postmarked by March 31, 2017 and are available by contacting PVGA at 717-694-3596 or on the website at <https://www.pvga.org/services/rudolph-grob-memorial-scholarship/>. The committee may request to interview the applicant in person or by telephone as well as contact college or school advisors and/or references.

If you have a child or grandchild in college, encourage them to apply for the scholarships. 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 two \$1,000 annual Grob Memorial Scholarships and vegetable research in the entomology and plant pathology departments at Penn State University.

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*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](mailto:pvga@pvga.org) website - [www.pvga.org](http://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 Committees and Board Meet in State College

As part of the Vegetable Industry Strategic Planning Initiative, in March 2015 the major PVGA committees met in person to work out plans for implementing the strategic plan developed in 2014. The success of these face-to-face meetings prompted the Association's Board of Directors to schedule similar in-person committee meetings prior to their December Board meeting beginning last year. Thus, on Monday, December 12, five of the seven major PVGA committees – Executive, Leadership and Recognition, Educational, Government Affairs, and Administrative – met at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center in State College.

In previous years, these committees usually only met once a year by telephone conference call a week or so before the December Board meeting to review the annual workplan for their area of activity. Each committee includes Directors and regular members of the Association. These five committee used their meetings to strategically evaluate the activities of the Association in their area and make recommendations to the Board for the 2017 workplan.

The Research Committee, a sixth major committee which is a joint committee with the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program (PVMRP), met in November in conjunction with the PVMRP Board to evaluate the research pre-proposals. The Marketing Committee, the seventh major committee and also a joint PVGA-PVMRP joint committee, will tentatively meet in the spring.

After the committee meetings on December 12, the Board of Directors met with the Capacity Building Task Force to listen to a preliminary report from the Task Force. Among the recommendations the Task Force is considering is a change in the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) status of the Association from a 501(c)5 agricultural non-profit organization to a 501(c)3 non-profit which would allow the Association to accept tax-deductible contributions from individuals and businesses as well as be eligible for certain grants. The Association will also consider membership in the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO). Long-range the Task Force believes the Association should hire a communications director and support staff. They recommend the Task Force should continue to function until more staff is in place.

The Board of Directors held their regular meeting the following day, December 13 to act on the recommendations of the various committees. The Board approved recommendations from the Executive Committee to promote the Recall Readiness workshop to larger growers in the state and invite them to also participate in a follow-up session in late February. They also directed that a job description of the farm show booth management duties be prepared so these duties could be assigned to a new position although in the time being both the Past President and the Secretary-Treasurer will be asked to spend two days as the on-site manager with the Association providing their lodging. Also, the Board agreed to ask seed companies to offer discounts to PVGA members.

After discussing the recommendations from the Capacity Building Task Force from the day before, the Board voted to continue the Task Force to further investigate the best IRS status for the Association and to join PANO. The also voted to ask the members of the Association to approve a constitutional amendment that would allow the Board to appoint up to two "at large" Board members to ensure diversity on the Board as outlined in the article on the Annual Meeting on page 1.

The Board approved the Leadership and Recognition Committee's recommendations for recipients of the 2017 Annual Award and life membership which will be announced at the Growers Banquet at the Mid-Atlantic Convention on January 31. The Committee's recommendations to establish a mentorship program for new Board members and an outreach program to invite Penn State horticultural students to the Board's committee meetings were also approved.

The Administrative Committee recommended that due to minimal profits earned at the Association's Ag Progress Days Food Booth, that the food booth be discontinued. The Association will still maintain an informational exhibit at Ag Progress Days. The Board approved this recommendation. The Committee also recommended that the grower conference calls have a set discussion topic and that they be scheduled every two weeks alternately in the evening and at noontime. The Board approved this also along with the recommendations to increase the General Fund donation to the Keystone Fund to \$2,500 for 2017 and to transfer of Keystone Fund monies from a Vanguard bond fund to a Dodge and Cox bond fund.

The Board approved the following recommendations from the Educational Committee: 1) that the Association seek approval to use some of its Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) funding to video tape reports of the industry sponsored research projects for the website; 2) that the Association apply for SCBG funding to potentially video tape all three days of the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Convention; 3) that the educational meeting grants be increased to a maximum of \$500; 4) that other states be encouraged to invite high school students to the Convention; and 5) to produce promotion videos for the Association and the Convention.

The Government Affairs Committee recommended that the Association maintain its membership in the Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance and the United Fresh Produce Association. They also suggested that Penn State extension and research funding be the top state legislative priority for 2017 followed by exemption of high tunnels from storm water management plants, funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and participation by Pennsylvania in the Driftwatch program. The Driftwatch program allows farmers with crops sensitive to herbicides like dicamba and 2,4,D to register their farms so pesticide applicators are aware of their presence. The Committee also recommended the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Convention include a grower panel on conducting a farm tour for legislators and their staffs. The Board approved all the Committee's recommendations as well as their recommended proposed changes to the Policy Resolutions as reported in the article about the Annual Meeting on page 1.

The Board also met with Dr. Dennis Calvin, Associate Dean for Extension at Penn State and Dr. Erin Connolly, Plant Science Department head, to be updated on changes in the extension and the department.

The Board approved the following annual donations, sponsorships and promotions for 2017 (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

*(continued on page 10)*

## NEWS

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

All members are urged to vote in the election.

The Board of Directors is proposing a change to the Association's constitution that will allow the Board to appoint up to two additional members at large to the Board. When the mail-ballot election system was instituted the Leadership and Recognition Committee has adopted the practice of nominating several more candidates that seats available. Obviously, the vote of the members determines who is elected but the results may result in certain groups (such as potato growers, processing growers, berry growers, women, etc.) or areas of the state not being represented on the Board. Allowing the Board to appoint additional directors would allow them to fill such representation gaps or perhaps appoint someone with expertise in a certain area, such as someone with financial or legal knowledge. Thus the Board is proposing to change Article IV, Sections 2 and 3 as follows:

**Section 2** *The number of member-elected Directors shall not be less than 15. Their terms shall be staggered with one-third being elected by ballot by the members each year to serve terms of three years. The Board may appoint up to two additional "at large" voting Directors to serve terms of three years. Election procedures and term limits are to be determined and approved by the Directors and stated in the Association's By-Laws. Terms shall begin and end on the dates of the annual meeting. Mid-term vacancies shall be filled by the Directors either at the next meeting of the Directors following the vacancy or by ballot through email, post or telecom, with the person elected serving the remainder of the unexpired term.*

**Section 3** *Two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors shall be vegetable or small fruit growers. The Directors should reasonably represent the different geographic regions and the different segments of the industry. The Board shall use its "at large" appointments to add diversity to the Board membership.*

At the Annual Meeting, the members will also receive reports on 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****Surplus Food**

1. Supporting an increase in the State Food Purchase Program budget of \$5 million to allow food banks to purchase and process more Pennsylvania surplus food products through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) Program.

**Wildlife Crop Damage**

2. Opposing hunting on Sundays with the exception of hunting crow, coyote and fox, as well as woodchuck in cultivated fields with express written permission of the landowner.

**Labor**

3. Supporting a requirement that all employees for whom unemployment compensation contributions are made be eligible to receive compensation only from the at-fault employer within the base year.

**Right to Farm**

4. Opposing the ability of municipalities to require permits for the harvesting of any agricultural commodity.

**Transportation**

5. Supporting the inclusion of questions in the Pennsylvania driver's test about safe driving practices in the presence of farm equipment, dump trucks, tractor trailers and other large machinery encountered on public roads, including a question on wide turns by large vehicles.

**Solid Waste Management**

6. Supporting the regulation of food waste used in agricultural facilities for digesters or composting as agricultural waste rather than as municipal waste under the Solid Waste Management Act.

**Public Utilities**

7. Supporting requirements for the control of noxious weeds along roads and other right-of-ways while minimizing drift and off-target movement to adjacent croplands.

**State and Federal Issues****Food Safety and Pesticides**

8. Supporting the participation of the state Department of Agriculture in the DriftWatch program to mitigate the potential problems as a result of the registration of dicamba and 2,4,D products for use on genetically modified soybeans.

**Federal Issues****Wetlands**

9. Supporting a uniform standard for wetland determination by USDA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA.

**Flood Insurance**

10. Supporting the exemption of agricultural buildings from FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program insurance surcharge.

**Biotechnology**

11. Opposing registration requirements for farmers utilizing GMO technology.

**Farm Equipment**

12. Supporting legislation requiring that all farm equipment manufacturers make diagnostic, service and technical information/software available to machinery owners and independent service technicians.

Please see the minutes of last year's Annual Meeting on page 10.



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## NEWS

## Penn State Study Takes True Measure of Conservation Practices

A Penn State survey shows that Pennsylvania farmers have adopted more conservation practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed than previously given credit for. The survey of best management practices in the watershed shows that farmers have adopted a number of conservation practices, including conservation and manure management planning without the use of state or federal dollars. These survey results are the most comprehensive look at the utilization of best management practices in Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to date.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has developed a model to measure BMP usage in the watershed, but it only counted conservation practices that were paid for through cost-share dollars. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, which heavily supported Penn State's survey, is hopeful the data collected by the university will be adopted by the EPA so that agriculture gets proper credit in efforts to clean up the bay.

Penn State officials recently presented the survey results to the Chesapeake Bay Program Agriculture Workgroup. In response to a report by an independent assessment company hired by the EPA, the workgroup is requesting that Penn State rework some of its data before a final determination is made over whether the data will be used in the Chesapeake Bay cleanup model.

The EPA has set nutrient reduction limits that farmers and other entities must meet in the Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan. However, Farm Bureau has contended all along that the EPA's data on best management practices is flawed and does not give the men and women of agriculture the proper credit they deserve in the cleanup plan.

## National News Briefs

### Farm Bureau Asks Court to Overturn WOTUS

The American Farm Bureau Federation, joined by several agricultural and business groups, asked a federal court to overturn the deeply flawed "Waters of the United States" rule. The court brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit outlines numerous concerns with the WOTUS rule, as drafted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In the court brief, Farm Bureau and others discuss how the EPA ignored procedural safeguards in the rule making process, including withholding documents, ridiculing public comments and issuing "covert propaganda" in order to try and generate public support for the rule.

"EPA set out to achieve a predetermined outcome and then manipulated the public notice-and-comment process to achieve that outcome," AFBF General Counsel Ellen Steen said. "It treated the rulemaking process like a game to be won instead of a deliberative process for developing lawful and reasonable regulations."

In addition, the court brief explains how the WOTUS rule violates the Clean Water Act, and expands federal authority to dry land. Farm Bureau and other groups are asking the court to strike the rule in its entirety. Steen said she expects that additional briefs will be filed in the coming months, with the potential for court arguments in March.

*From the **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2016.*

"Preliminary findings from the survey reveal what we have been telling environmental officials, the public and lawmakers for years, that farmers have been shelling out their own money to pay for conservation projects that improve the land and reduce runoff in the watershed. The time has come for EPA to recognize the significant role agriculture is playing to reduce 'pollution' entering the watershed," said PFB President Rick Ebert.

Penn State received 6,782 surveys, a 34 percent response rate. To verify the validity of the data, researchers from Penn State visited 10 percent of respondents over the summer. The Penn State survey has found the following previously unreported best management practices:

- More than 350,000 acres of row crops are planted by farmers following manure management plans.
- Farmers have built nearly 2,100 manure storage facilities for dairy cows and another 824 similar facilities for other livestock.
- More than 2,300 barnyard runoff control measures.
- 2.3 million linear feet of stream bank fencing.
- More than 6,700 acres of riparian buffers that are at least 10 feet wide.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is calling on the EPA officials to accept data presented by Penn State and adjust its cleanup plan accordingly. PFB is thankful for the work done by Penn State to accurately measure the good work that farmers have done, voluntarily, on their land to positively impact water quality.

*From the **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2016.*

## State News Briefs

### Penn State Makes Changes to Extension Delivery System

Penn State Extension is creating new positions and reshaping its expertise teams to better serve farmers and other customers. The changes in Extension's business model will still retain county-level services. However, the position of District Director will split into two new positions: Business Operations Manager and Customer Relations Manager. Penn State is also dividing services into 10 new regions, however Extension offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh will fall outside of these staffing changes.

Penn State officials say the changes in staffing are not budgetary related but are instead a reflection of the changing needs of farmers and consumers. In addition, Penn State says it is not reducing staffing at county offices. Penn State is also revamping its Extension teams, which will be comprised of Extension educators, along with Penn State researchers and academics. The new teams are:

- Food, Families & Health
- Food Safety & Quality
- Agronomy & Natural Resources
- 4-H Youth Development
- Energy, Entrepreneurship & Community Development
- Animal Systems
- Horticulture

Each team will be led by an Assistant Director of Programs; and staffing can be assigned as the need arises. Currently,

*(continued on page 8)*



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## NEWS

**State News Briefs** *(continued from page 6)*

county-based Extension offices are supervised by a regional manager. However, that position is being split to allow staff to focus on specific areas. A Customer Relationship Manager will serve as the point of contact for county commissioners and others and will serve as the public face of the local organization. A Business Operations Manager will provide the day-to-day operations oversight. Penn State says changes to Extension will occur by June 2017.

*From the **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2016.*

**PFB Preserves Net Metering Provisions**

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau successfully preserved the ability of landowners and farmers to use net metering provisions to help offset the cost of alternative energy projects, including solar and manure digesters. Earlier this year, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission proposed capping net metering and changing standards that exempted customer generators (like the owners of manure digesters) from being classified as a utility. That revised definition would have prevented farmers who have installed methane digesters, or solar power systems, from being able to receive net metering.

"Fortunately, the Office of the State Attorney General agreed with our assessment and encouraged the PUC to modify its regulations in order to meet the eligibility concern," said PFB President Rick Ebert.

Farmers have used alternative energy projects to generate electricity for their farm, and then sell back extra electricity to utility companies. That practice, called net metering, helps off-

set the cost of building those alternative energy projects. These renewable energy projects also provide tangible environmental benefits.

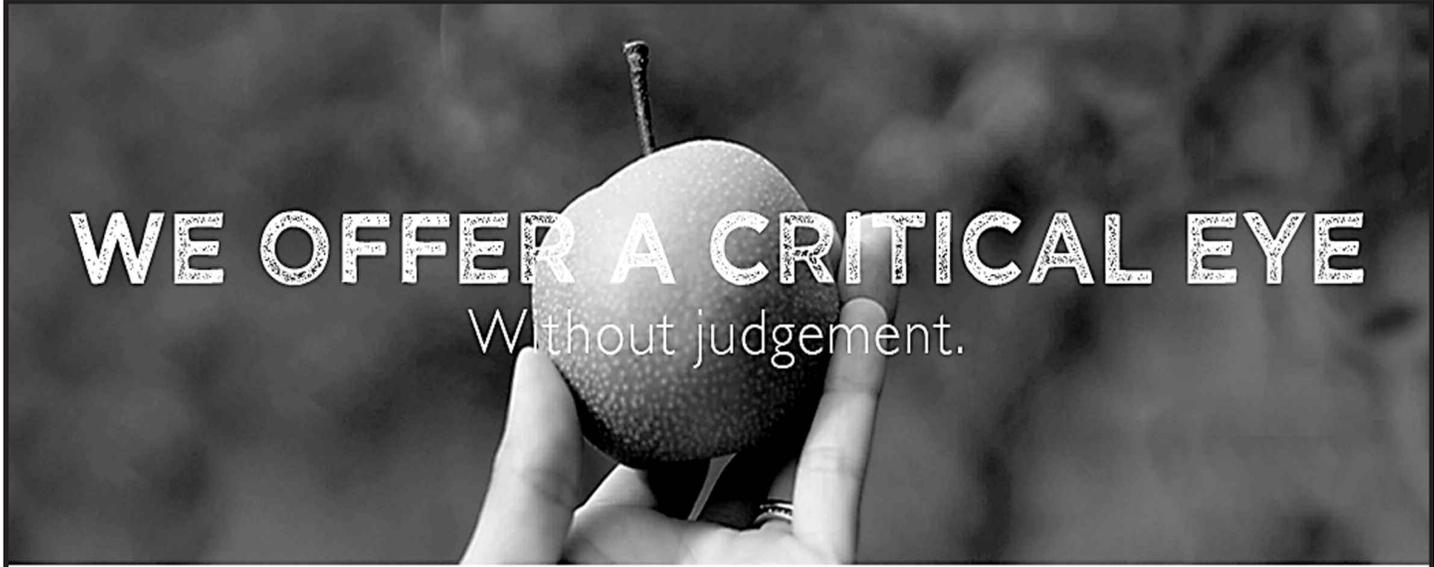
"Not only do the digesters use manure to produce electricity to help power the home farm through an environmental friendly process, they also provide electricity for local residents and help reduce odors coming from the farm," Ebert said.

*From the **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2016.*

**CHEMSWEEP To Be Offered in 15 Counties**

Pennsylvania will offer its pesticide disposal service in 15 counties in 2017. CHEMSWEEP will be available in Bedford, Berks, Bradford, Butler, Columbia, Cumberland, Fulton, Lawrence, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Warren and York counties. The program has collected more than 2.4 million pounds of unwanted pesticides since the program was established in 1993. Each year, pesticide products are discontinued, or become unusable, leaving a disposal problem for growers and professional applicators. Those unwanted pesticides can become a safety hazard. Licensed pesticide applicators, pesticide dealers and commercial applicators in the designated counties can participate. A CHEMSWEEP registration form will be directed mailed and must be returned by February 28. CHEMSWEEP covers the disposal costs for the first 2,000 pounds per participant.

*From the **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**, Penna. Farm Bureau, December 2016.*



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## CONVENTION

## Minutes of the February 3, 2016, Annual Meeting

**Call to Order, Proof of Notice of the Meeting and Attendance** - President Robert Shenot called the meeting to order at approximately 11:39.m. in the Crystal Room of the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania, with about 36 members present. Notice of the meeting had been published in the December newsletter and on the dues notices.

**Minutes** - Brian Campbell and Michael Orzolek moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 28, 2015, Annual Meeting and to approve them as published in the agenda. The motion was adopted.

### Officer and Committee Reports

**Treasurer** - Secretary-Treasurer William Reynolds reviewed the year-end financial reports summarized as follows

	Income	Expenses	Balance 12/31
General Fund	\$451,542	\$470,580	\$206,145
Keystone Fund	\$9,268	\$2,287	\$123,990
Onion Fund	\$11,557	\$12,196	\$21,418

Dr. Orzolek and Kenneth Martin moved to accept the financial reports. The motion was adopted.

**Executive Committee** - Mr. Shenot, Committee chairman, reported that the Association was using \$30,000 in Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) funds through the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program to help implement the Pennsylvania Vegetable Industry Strategic Plan. The Executive Committee participated in a Crisis Management training session to prepare the Association for a potential Pennsylvania vegetable industry crisis like a widely reported

food safety incident. A business plan for the expansion of the Association will also be developed.

**Leadership and Recognition** - Mr. Campbell, Committee chairman, announced the following persons had been elected to three-year terms as Directors by the mail-in balloting: Barron Hetherington, David King, William Reynolds, Robert Shenot, Jonathan Strite, and Timothy Weiser.

**Scholarships** - Mr. Campbell also announced that the Board of Directors voted to award two Rudolph Grob Memorial Scholarships beginning in 2015. Nathan Sturges and Lake Miller were awarded these two scholarships.

*(continued on page 21)*

### PVGA Committees... *(continued from page 3)*

- 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
- Ag Council Research Tour for Legislators (Legislative)	\$100
- 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 \$1,500

The Board also agreed to investigate a grower cooperative in Michigan that contracts for H-2A workers for participating growers. The Board's next meeting will be January 30, 2017, at Hershey.

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## CONVENTION

## Farm Market Bus Tour Heads to York County Markets

The 2017 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention tour is shaping up nicely! The tour will take place on January 30, 2017, in beautiful and agriculturally rich York County, Pennsylvania. Our gracious hosts, in the order of the stops, are Flinchbaugh's Orchard and Farm Market, Brown's Orchards and Farm Market, Leg Up Farmers Market and Able-Services, and Moon Dancer Winery and Cider House.

The bus will load at the Chocolate Lobby entrance of the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey at 8:15 a.m. and then travel to the first stop.

Flinchbaugh's Orchard, located in York, is a 4th generation family farm with a year-round farm market that offers fresh fruits and vegetables, bakery items, and specialty foods, gifts, and plants for sale. In addition to produce grown on-site, additional fresh produce and food items are available from other local farmers and nearby food processors. Fun and educational events for the family are scheduled here year-round. During the growing season, farm tours and pick-your-own opportunities round out this farm's offerings.

Brown's Orchards and Farm Market in nearby Loganville consists of a 180-acre farm and a very diversified farm market whose offerings consisting of fresh fruits and vegetables, pantry items, bakery



items, deli items, prepared foods, fudge, candies and gift baskets. In addition, a café and coffee bar, a greenhouse, and Logan's Winery wine store featuring traditional and fruit wines also are located on-site. We'll enjoy lunch here as well as learn about farm operations and provide time for browsing.

Leg Up Farmers Market and Able-Services in York are part of a family of services, including Leg Up Farm, that provide educational and therapy services to children, adolescents, and adults with special needs. Leg Up Farmers Market is a natural foods grocery store that provides customers with wholesome food options while supporting services offered through other aspects of this enterprise. As part of Able Services, Able Growers' on-site greenhouse facility incorporates skills for growing and managing plants into other activities, providing opportunities for learning language, mathematical, social, and daily living skills.

Moon Dancer Winery and Cider House in Wrightsville overlooks the Susquehanna River. Eighteen acres of wine grapes are grown on-site. We'll visit the operations' French Country chateau for a tasting of a selection of traditional and fruit wines, hard cider, and craft beer. A concert series, acoustic music weekends, and a venue for private events are a portion of the offerings that Moon Dancer provides.

The bus will return to the Lodge at about 5:35 p.m. The cost for the all-day tour is \$60 per person which includes the bus, lunch and winery tour fees. To register for the tour, use the Convention registration form in November newsletter or your dues invoice form. Convention registration forms are also available online at [www.mafvc.org](http://www.mafvc.org) or [www.pvga.org](http://www.pvga.org).

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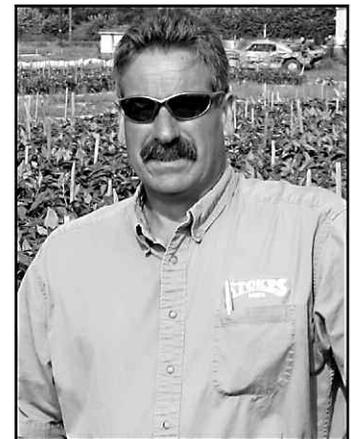
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## CONVENTION

### **2017 Convention...** *(continued from page 1)*

An Ironman Triathlete and skydiving record holder (he jumped from an airplane each and every month for 32 years), he is the author of 35 books on diverse subjects including business management, physical fitness, water supply, environment, energy and chemistry.

He will be discussing how Mid-Atlantic fruit and vegetable growers can take advantage of future trends in agriculture as the climate, technology, economy and political landscape change.

### **Pre-Convention Workshops**

Besides the Farm Market Bus Tour, eight special workshops will be offered on Monday, February 1, the day before the main Convention opens. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THESE WORKSHOPS ALONG WITH AN ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION FEE.** Unless otherwise noted, workshops will be conducted at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey. Further information on any of the workshops is available on the convention website at [www.mafvc.org](http://www.mafvc.org).

### **FSMA Grower Certification Training**

*9:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.*

*Fee - \$50 includes lunch PA growers, \$150 for out-of-state growers - limited registration*

This training is for fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about: produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. This PSA course is one way to satisfy the grower training requirement of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule as outlined in Section 112.22(c).

After attending the entire course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verifies they have completed the training course.

### **Greenhouse Vegetable Production Workshop**

*9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*Fee - \$60 includes lunch - limited registration*

We will cover greenhouse production of tomatoes, bell peppers and cucumbers from A- Z. This is the ideal place for someone new to greenhouse production or seeking to refine their operation. Topics to be covered include production systems, pruning and trellising, pollination, nutrition, diseases, insect pests, varieties, harvest and post-harvest handling plus economics. Instructors include: Steven Bogash, Dr. Timothy Elkner, Thomas Ford, and Dr. Beth Gugino, Plant Pathologist.

### **Hops Production Workshop**

*9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

*Fee - \$90 includes lunch*

The demand for local hops is creating a renewed interest in growing hops. This workshop features some of the most knowledgeable hops researchers and educators on the East Coast. This one day session on hops production is designed to educate hops growers and prospective hops growers on pest management, nutrient management, economic implications, malting barley as a companion enterprise, new research, and why hops are used in beer production.

### **Recall Readiness Workshop - What To Do When FDA Calls**

*8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.*

*Fee - \$20 - limited registration*

There are painful recalls and then there are very painful recalls. More often than not, the difference is attributed to preparation. While many companies have plans that address the product-related components of a recall, most are sorely unprepared for the onslaught of unwanted attention from the media, customer and regulators. During this session, we will review the recall response process and then dive deep into what it takes to communicate during a recall. The instructor will be Amy Philpott, Vice President, Crisis Services and Reputation Management at Watson Green LLC.

### **Vegetable Grafting Workshop**

*1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*Fee - \$30*

This half day workshop will explain and demonstrate grafting techniques for vegetable plants focusing on tomatoes and peppers. Participants will have the opportunity to practice their grafting techniques in the workshop. The instructor will be Dr. Matthew Kleinhenz from Ohio State Univ.

*(continued on page 13)*

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CONVENTION

**2017 Convention...** (continued from page 12)

**Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicators' License Training**

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fee - \$60 includes lunch and 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 License. To become a certified private applicator, testing is required. This full day session on January 30 will cover the basics and prepare you for the pesticide applicator's exam which will take place the next morning, January 31, from 8:30 AM – 11:30 a.m.

**Hands-on Apple Tree Grafting Workshop**

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Fee - \$65 – limited registration

Have some antique varieties you would like to grow on a size-controlling rootstock? Find a scion mutation in your orchard you want to evaluate? Join us for this workshop. Our guest speakers Jerry Frecon, Taylor Mackintosh, and Shaun Callahan are well versed in the science of grafting and maintenance of variety plantings. Knives, rootstocks, and scion wood will be provided. Participants will also receive a grafting knife to take home!

**Cider Symposium**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Spring Gate in the Village 5948 Linglestown Rd. Harrisburg

Fee - \$160 includes lunch

What's behind a quality cider? This full day workshop will provide information and up to date research on sensory analysis, tannins, cider apple varieties, and help to hone your own senses to make you a better quality control check point at your own cidery. Participants will hear from researchers, educators and professionals in the cider production and marketing fields.

**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 31. There will be door prize drawings for the ladies and brief presentations by the participating grower organizations. PVGA will present its seventeenth Annual Award at the Dinner and a Life Memberships. Tickets for the banquet and reception are \$35.

(continued on page 14)

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CONVENTION

**2017 Convention...** *(continued from page 13)*

**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, February 1 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, February 1, come to the Great Lobby outside the trade show hall for the eighteenth 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 Lodge Lobby on Wednesday, February 1, 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 \$142 per night for up to four persons. To make a reservation, call 1-800-HERSHEY or 717-533-3311 and give them group code 1042731. 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 25. There is a pre-registration form in the November issue of the newsletter and on the Convention website at [www.mafvc.org](http://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. Checks must be used for all pre-registrations by mail. Cash or checks are accepted at the Convention.

*(continued on page 15)*

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## CONVENTION

### 2017 Convention... (continued from page 14)

#### Convention Program

The following topics and speakers have been scheduled for the educational program at the 2017 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](http://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. NOTE THAT THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER LISTED THE STONE FRUIT PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY 2. THAT WAS INCORRECT – **THE STONE FRUIT SESSION WILL BE ON THE AFTERNOON OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2.***

*\*indicates topic expected to qualify for a category pesticide update training credit*

*\*\* indicates topic expected to qualify for a core pesticide update training credit*

#### Tuesday Morning, January 31, 2017

##### Fall Ornamentals - Trinidad Room

- 9:00 **Update on PVGA Funded Pumpkin Variety Trial** - Elsa Sanchez, Penn State Univ.
- 9:45 **Fall Agritainment at Ackerman Farms** - John & Eve Ackerman, Ackerman Family Farms

##### Broccoli - Magnolia Room ABC

- 9:00 **\*\* Core Credit**
- 9:45 **Expanding Eastern Broccoli Production with Adapted Varieties and Expanded Market Channels** - Dr. Thomas Bjorkman, Cornell Univ.

##### Changing Climate - Wild Rose Room

- 9:00 **\*Managing Weeds in a Warmer World** - Dr. Steve Young, Cornell Univ.
- 9:45 **\*Managing Vegetable Diseases in a Changing Climate** - Dr. Beth Gugino and Dr. Shelby Fleischer, Penn State Univ.

##### Organic Vegetables - Empire Room AB

- 9:00 **Organic Herb Production** - Tony Ricci, Green Heron Farm
- 9:45 **Rotational No-Till and Insectary Strips for Organic Cucumber Production** - Dr. Gladis Zinati, Rodale Institute

##### Snap Beans - Empire Room CD,

- 9:00 **\*Snap Bean Weed Control Update** - Dwight Lingenfelter, Penn State Univ.
- 9:45 **\*Improving the Management of White Mold in Snap Beans** - Dr. Sarah Pethybridge, Cornell Univ.

##### Asparagus - Cocoa Terrace/Cocoa 1

- 9:00 **Creating New Asparagus Varieties** - Scott Walker, Walker Bros Asparagus Farms
- 9:45 **Growing and Marketing Asparagus** - Carl Cantaluppi, North Carolina Ext. Retired

##### Market Trends - Crystal Room

- 9:00 **Direct Marketing - Is There a Silver Bullet Model for Farmers Markets CSA's & Home Delivery** - Heather Manzo, Penn State Univ.
- 9:45 **On the Ground Evolution of Farmers Markets, CSA's & Other Adventures in Direct Marketing** - Art King, Harvest Valley Farms

##### Keynote - Nigerian and Trinidad Rooms

- 10:45 **Produce Industry Legislative Update** - Robert Guenther, United Fresh Produce Association
- 11:00 **Keynote** - Dr. Jay Lehr, Heartland Institute

(continued on page 16)



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## CONVENTION

**2017 Convention...** (continued from page 15)**Tuesday Afternoon, January 31, 2017****Vine Crops** - Trinidad Room, sponsored by the *American Vegetable Grower* magazine

- 1:00 **Pumpkin Production at Ackerman Family Farms** - John & Eve Ackerman
- 1:30 **Midwest Performance and Perspective on Ornamental Pumpkins** - Brad Bergefurd, Ohio State Extension
- 2:00 **\*Silicon Nutrition for Powdery Mildew Disease Suppression** - Dr. Joseph Heckman, Rutgers Univ.
- 2:30 **Overview of Melon, Squash & Cucumber Varieties** - Sheldon Sutton, Rupp Seeds
- 3:15 **\*Pumpkin Diseases** - Dr. Margaret McGrath, Cornell Cooperative Extension

**Crucifers** - Magnolia Room ABC

- 1:30 **Cabbage Production** - Dr. Christopher Gunter, North Carolina State Univ.
- 2:00 **\*Diseases of Cole Crops - What To Lookout for in 2017** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 2:30 **\*Insect Pests of Cole Crops** - Dr. Thomas Kuhar, Virginia Tech
- 3:15 **Raising Broccoli Profitably in the Mid-Atlantic** - Dr. Thomas Bjorkman, Cornell Univ.
- 4:00 **Miscellaneous Cole Crops** - Dr. Lewis Jett, West Virginia Univ.

**Winter Storage Crops** - Wild Rose Room

- 1:30 **\*\*Pesticide Safety Challenge** - John Esslinger, Penn State Extension
- 2:00 **Onions** - Dr. Michael Orzolek, Penn State Univ. Emeritus
- 2:30 **Growing Root Crops** - Dr. Lewis Jett, West Virginia Univ.
- 3:15 **Production of Winter Squash** - Gordon Johnson, Univ. of Delaware
- 4:00 **Potatoes** - Dr. Matthew Kleinhenz, Ohio Ag Research & Development Center

**Organic Vegetable Production** - Empire Room AB

- 1:30 **Organic Snap Bean Production** - Jennifer Glenister, New Morning Farm
- 2:00 **Using Cover Crops** - Elsa Sanchez, Penn State Univ
- 2:30 **\*Managing Late Blight on Organic Farms** - Abby Seaman, NYS IPM Program
- 3:15 **Overcoming Tunnel Vision - Using Cover Crops in High Tunnels** - Dr. Julie Grossman and Liz Perkus, Univ. of Minnesota
- 4:00 **Zone Tillage for Organic Vegetables** - Dr. Julie Grossman, Univ. of Minnesota

**Hydroponics** - Empire Room CD

- 1:30-4:00 **The Latest in Greenhouse LED Research** - Dr. A. J. Both, Rutgers Univ.
- 2:00 **Gone Fishing: Aquaponics and Float Culture Salad Greens Production** - Dr. Robert Berghage, Penn State Univ.
- 2:30 **Growing Leafy Greens Using LEDs** - Qingwu (William) Meng, Michigan State Univ.
- 3:15 **Microgreen Production: Healthy for You and Your Bottom Line** - Dr. Robert Berghage, Penn State Univ.
- 4:00 **\*\*Core Credit** - To be Announced

**Farm Business Transition – What's Your Exit Plan?** - Cocoa Terrace/Cocoa 1

- 1:30 **Common Concerns, Challenges Often Seen and Solutions Found** - John Berry, Penn State Extension

- 2:15 **Our Business Transition Experience – farmer panel:** Paul Parsons, Parson's Farms Produce; Kay Hollabaugh, Hollabaugh Bros.; Reed Soergel, Soergel Orchards

- 3:45 **Here Is a Path for Planning, Implementing and Managing the Process** - Philip Mason, Peerless Business Advisors

**Wholesale Marketing** - Crystal Room

- 1:30 **Review of FSMA Transportation Rule** - Robert Guenther, United Fresh Produce Association
- 2:00 **How to Get Us to Buy Your Produce** - a panel of chain store and wholesale buyers including Four Seasons Produce, Giant Foods and others
- 3:15 **Cooperative Marketing Opportunities** - a panel of cooperative representatives to be announced
- 4:00 **Farm to Table Program** - Elaine McDonnell, Penn State Univ.

**Wednesday Morning, February 1, 2017****High Tunnels** - Magnolia Room ABC, sponsored by the *American Vegetable Grower* magazine

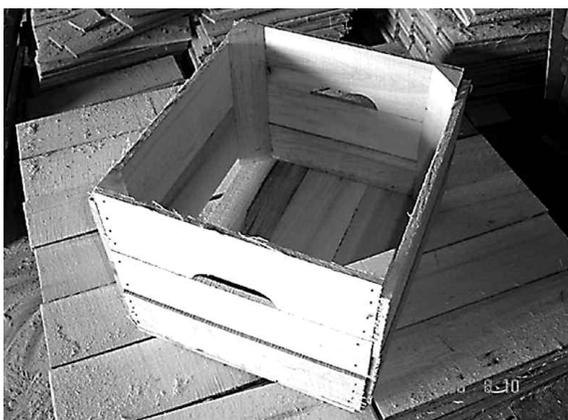
- 9:00 **Choosing a High Tunnel Plastic to Suit Your Needs** - Kathleen Demchak, Penn State Univ.
- 9:30 **Best Varieties for High Tunnels** - Tomatoes, Peppers and Cucumbers - Debra Deis, Seedway
- 10:15 **Grafting Tomatoes to Reduce Yellow Shoulder** - William Lantz, Univ. of Maryland Coop. Extension

(continued on page 17)



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## CONVENTION

**2017 Convention...** (continued from page 16)

11:00 **High Tunnel Strawberry Plusses and Minuses** - Kathleen Demchak, Penn State Univ.

11:30 **PVGA Annual Meeting** - Crystal Room - all members urged to attend

**General Vegetables** - Crystal Room

9:00 **\*Common Soil Diseases of Vegetables** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.

9:30 **Summer Squash Production** - Dr. William Lamont Jr., Penn State Univ.

10:15 **Long Term Affects of Dry Manure Compost Application** - Dr. Matthew Kleinhenz, Ohio Ag Research & Development Center

11:00 **Post Harvest Sanitizers** - Dr. Luke LaBorde, Penn State Univ.

11:30 **PVGA Annual Meeting** - Crystal Room - all members urged to attend

**Greenhouse Ornamentals** - Empire Room AB

9:00 **\*Spring Diseases** - Dr. Margery Daughtrey, Cornell Univ.

9:30 **\*Aphids and Bio-Control** - Carol Glenister, IPM Laboratories

10:15 **Best of the PSU Flower Trials** - Sinclair Adam, Penn State Extension

11:00 **LED Colors Matter to Flowering** - Qingwu (William) Meng, Michigan State Univ.

11:30 **Fertilization of Perennials and Mums** - Krystal Snyder, JR Peters Co.

**Cover Crops** - Empire Room CD

9:00 **Getting More From Your Cover Crop with Species Mixtures** - Dr. Charles White, Penn State Univ.

9:30 **\*Cover Crops for Pollinators** - Erin Treanore, Penn State Univ.

10:15 **The Vegetable Grower's Challenge to Maintain Soil Health Can be Aided by Precision Cover Cropping** - Dr. Thomas Bjorkman, Cornell Univ.

11:00 **\*Impact of Cover Crops on Diseases of Vegetable Crops** - Dr. Kathryn Everts, Univ. of Maryland

11:30 **PVGA Annual Meeting** - Crystal Room - all members urged to attend

**Onions** - Wild Rose Room

9:00 **Harvest and Post-Harvest Handling of Onions** - Jeffrey Stoltzfus, Penn State Ext.

9:30 **\*Insect Pests of Onion: Managing the Old and the New** - Dr. Shelby Fleischer, Penn State Univ.

10:15 **\*Foliar Disease Management of Onion** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.

11:00 **\*\*Core Credit** - To be announced

11:30 **PVGA Annual Meeting** - Crystal Room - all members urged to attend

**Marketing 101** - Trinidad Room

9:00 **Adding Prepared Foods to Your Market** - Caleb Torrice, Tabora Farm and Orchard

9:30 **Finding the Right POS System** - Jennifer Brodsky, Kitchen Table Consultants

10:15 **Events on the Farm** - Caleb Torrice, Tabora Farm and Orchard

11:00 **Working With Your Tourism Bureau** - Kellie Hinkle, Virginia Economic Development

11:30 **How to Compete with Box Stores** - Jennifer Brodsky, Kitchen Table Consultants

(continued on page 18)

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## CONVENTION

### 2017 Convention... (continued from page 17)

#### Wednesday Afternoon, February 1, 2017

##### Sweet Corn - Magnolia Room ABC

- 1:30 **\*Sweet Corn Weed Control - New Herbicides, No-till Issues and Other Considerations** - Dwight Lingenfelter, Penn State Univ.
- 2:00 **Growers Sharing Experiences** - the room will be divided into four sections with a grower stationed in each section to share his experience with the following production techniques for 30 minutes. Each topic will be repeated four times and attendees will be asked to move between the rooms to listen to the topics of interest to them.
- No-till With Floating Cover** - To be announced
- Transplanting Into Clear Plastic** - Joseph Swann, Swann Farms
- Double Cropping Practices Behind Early Season Sweet Corn** - Ruben Martina and Eli Burkholder, Maplewood Produce
- Transplanting Into Plastic With Floating Row Covers and Tunnels** - To be announced

##### General Vegetables - Wild Rose Room

- 1:30 **Tips For Successful Drip Irrigation** - William Wolfram, Toro Ag
- 2:00 **Traceability in a Global Market** - Robert Frost, LinkFresh
- 2:30 **Biodegradable Mulch Applications and Results** - Dan Martens, Novamont
- 3:15 **\*Using a Red Clover Mulch to Improve Insect Management, Yield and Environmental Quality in Peppers and Cucumbers** - Cerruti Hooks, Univ. of Maryland
- 4:00 **New Heating Technology for High Tunnels** - Tim Ransford, Anglesea LLC

##### Greenhouse Ornamentals - Empire Room AB

- 1:30 **\*\*Respiratory Protective Devices for Pesticides** - Tracey Harpster, Penn State Univ.
- 2:00 **Proven New Perennials** - Sinclair Adam, Penn State Extension
- 2:30 **\*Assessing the Quality of Bio-Control Agents** - Carol Glenister, IPM Laboratories
- 3:15 **\*Downy Mildew** - Dr. Margery Daughtrey, Cornell Univ.
- 4:00 **e-GRO - A Comprehensive Online Resource For the Greenhouse Industry** - Lee Stivers, Penn State Extension

##### Small Fruits - Empire Room CD

- 1:30 **\*Improving our Understanding of Black Root Rot in Strawberry** - Annie Montes, Univ. of Maryland
- 2:00 **\*Fungicide Resistance Management for Strawberry Fruit Rots** - Dr. Johanna Del Castillo, Univ. of Maryland
- 2:30 **\*Black Shadow on Blueberries - What Is It and Why Does It Matter** - Timothy Waller, Rutgers Univ.
- 3:15 **\*Towards an IPM-Based Management Strategy for Spotted Wing Drosophila in Blueberries** - Cesar Rodriguez-Soana, Rutgers Coop. Extension
- 4:00 **\*Managing Insecticide Resistance when Treating for SWD and Other Pests** - Dean Polk, Rutgers Univ.

##### Agritourism and Direct Marketing - Crystal Room

- 1:30 **Hosting Birthday Parties** - John Hill, Hill Ridge Farms
- 2:30 **Cautionary Tales for your Agritainment Business** - Brian Schilling, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 3:15 **Learning From Our Experiences** - grower panel
- Innovative Approaches to Expand Local Markets** - Rose Robson, Robsons Farm
- Expanding Your Reach Into Diverse Ethnic Communities** - Steven Specca, Specca Farms
- Pay the Farm Mortgage by Charging Admission** - Kurt Alstede, Alstede Farm, LLC
- 4:10 **Resources to Help Grow Your Agritainment and Direct Marketing Operation** - Gillian Armstrong, Rutgers Univ. and William Hlubik, Rutgers Coop. Ext.

#### Thursday Morning, February 2, 2017

##### Tomatoes - Magnolia Room ABC - sponsored by the *American Vegetable Grower* magazine

- 9:00 **\*Tomato Disease Update** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 9:30 **\*\*Impact of Water Quality on Pesticides** - John Esslinger, Penn State Extension
- 11:00 **Grafting For The Future** - Benjamin Hinson, Tri-Hishtil
- 11:30 **Fresh Market Tomato Variety Trial Year 1** - Dr. Timothy Elkner, Penn State Extension

*(continued on page 19)*

## HEALTHY PREDATORS, PARASITES ON PATROL

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## CONVENTION

**2017 Convention...** (continued from page 18)**High Tunnels** - Crystal Room

- 9:00 **\*Managing Aphids, Whiteflies and Spider Mites in High Tunnels with Biologicals** - Ronald Valentin, Bioline
- 10:15 **\*Best Uses of Biologicals for Insect and Mite Management in Greenhouses and High Tunnels** - Matthew Krause, BioWorks
- 11:00 **\*Methods of Application of Biologicals for Insect and Mite Management** - Doug Barrow, Biobest
- 11:30 **\*Best Uses of Biologicals for Disease Management in Greenhouses and High Tunnels** - Matthew Krause, BioWorks

**Potatoes** - Empire Room AB

- 9:00 **Update on Potato USA** - Bryan Bender, Benders Potatoes
- 9:30 **Observations from 2016 Growing Season** - Robert Leiby, PA Coop Potato Growers
- 10:15 **\*Update on Dickeya Situation** - Dr. Steven Johnson, Univ. of Maine Cooperative Extension
- 11:00 **\*What's New in Potato Disease Management for 2017** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 11:30 **\*Update on Insect Management in Potatoes** - Dr. Thomas Kuhar, Virginia Tech

**Cut Flowers** - Empire Room CD

- 9:00 **\*Thrips Management in Cut Flowers** - Thomas Ford, Penn State Extension
- 9:30 **Nutrient Management and Fertigation Programs for Cut Flowers** - Krystal Snyder, JR Peters Co.
- 10:15 **Selling Specialty Cut Flowers to Area Florists** - Dave Delbo, Dave's Flowers
- 11:00 **Perennials as Specialty Cut Flowers** - Sinclair Adam, Penn State Extension
- 11:30 **Maximizing Profit in Direct Marketing with Cut Flowers** - Jenny Carleo, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

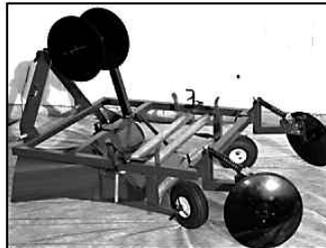
**Small Fruit** - Wild Rose Room

- 9:00 **How You, Too, Can Harvest Strawberries for Six Months a Year** - Brad Bergefurd, Ohio State Extension
- 9:30 **Gooseberries, Currants, and White Pine Blister Rust: A Modern-Day Understanding** - Steve McKay, Cornell Univ.(retired)
- 10:15 **Plasticulture and Matted-Row Strawberry Variety Trial Update** - Dr. Timothy Elkner, Penn State Extension and Kathleen Demchak, Penn State Univ.
- 11:00 **\*How to Keep Your Brambles Disease Free** - Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman, West Virginia Extension
- 11:30 **\*Broad Mites in Primocane-Fruiting Blackberries - Another New Pest?!** - Kathleen Demchak, Penn State Univ.

(continued on page 20)

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## CONVENTION

**2017 Convention...** (continued from page 19)**CSAs** - Cocoa Terrace/Cocoa 1

- 9:00 **Managing Excess or Shortage of Produce in a CSA Marketing Operation** - Michelle Infante-Casella, Rutgers Co-op Extension
- 9:30 **Incorporating Value Added Products for CSA Marketing** - Stephen Komar, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 10:00 **Product Contact Surface Sanitation for Retail Marketing** - Meredith Melendez, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 10:30 **Pros and Cons of Operating a CSA and My Experiences** - Robert Muth, Muth Family Farm
- 11:00 **Growing CSA: How to Improve Member Outcomes in CSA Programs** - Simon Huntley, Small Farm Central
- 11:30 **Different Models for CSA Operations and Farmer Experiences** - grower panel - Robert Muth, Muth Family Farm, Samantha Jany, Brown Dog Produce and Julie Pierre, Our Yards Farm

**Thursday Afternoon, February 2, 2017****Tomatoes** - Magnolia Room ABC

- 1:30 **Penn State Tomato Breeding Program** - Dr. Majid Foolad, Penn State Univ.
- 2:00 **\*Growing List of Viruses Impacting Tomatoes** - Dr. Margaret McGrath, Cornell Extension
- 2:30 **Biostimulants in Tomato Production** - Steve Bogash, Ispotech
- 3:15 **\*Stink Bugs and Aphids - What's New For Controlling These Pests** - Dr. Thomas Kuhar, Virginia Tech

**Specialty Vegetables** - Crystal Room

- 1:30 **Growing Rhubarb Best Practices** - Nathan Nourse, Nourse Farms
- 2:00 **The New Snack Peppers** - Debra Deis, Seedway
- 2:30 **New Eggplant Cultivars** - Dr. Michael Orzolek, Penn State Univ. Emeritus
- 3:15 **Sweet Potato Production** - Dr. Luis Duque, Penn State Univ.

**Potatoes** - Empire Room AB

- 1:30 **Nutrition Program for Potatoes** - Dr. Steven Johnson, Univ. of Maine Extension
- 2:00 **New Ideas on Branding and Marketing PA Potatoes** - Lela Reichart, Sterman Masser Inc.
- 2:30 **What's New from Cornell's Potato Breeding Program** - Dr. Walter DeJong, Cornell Univ.
- 3:15 **Colored Potatoes and Colon Cancer** - Venkata Charepalli, Penn State Univ.
- 3:45 **Roots and Shoots Need to be Managed to Propel Quality Yields** - Denny Wildman, Advanced Agriculture & Assoc East

**Leafy Greens** - Empire Room CD

- 1:30 **Seed to Sale: All-Season Plasticulture Lettuce Production** - grower panel - Brian Campbell, Brian Campbell Farms; David King, Harvest Valley Farms and Michael Brownback, Spiral Path Farm
- 2:30 **Mud, Water, Tubs and Sanitizers: Safe Washing of Leafy Greens** - Lee Stivers, Penn State Extension
- 3:15 **Spinach Production** - Michael Brownback, Spiral Path Farm

**Small Fruit** - Wild Rose Room

- 1:30 **Discussion Time: Do High Tunnel Raspberries Pay?** - Dr. David Conner, Univ. of Vermont
- 2:00 **\*\*Changes In Worker Protection Standards** - James Harvey, Penn State Univ.
- 2:30 **Low Tunnels For Strawberry Production** - Dr. Kim Lewers, USDA-ARS; Dr. David Conner, Univ. of Vermont and Kathleen Demchak, Penn State Univ.

**Social Media and Advertising Marketing Strategies** - Cocoa Terrace/Cocoa 1

- 1:30 **Cultivating Customers: Setting up Systems to Drive Farm Sales Using Internet Marketing** - Simon Huntley, Small Farm Central
- 2:15 **Using Social Media on the Farm** - Josh Smith, Frecon Farms
- 2:45 **Ecommerce and Online Sales** - George Latella, St. Joseph's Univ.
- 3:30 **Tricks of the Trade** - Shannon Dill, Univ. of Maryland Extension

***"Check the Convention website [www.mafvc.org](http://www.mafvc.org) for the most updated version of the educational program."***

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NEWS

Minutes of the Febuary 3... (continued from page 10)

He noted that a Young Grower Award will be available in 2016.

Administrative

Budget - Mr. Reynolds, Committee chairman, reviewed the General Fund budget adopted by the Board of Directors The budget anticipates \$504,650 in income and \$481,900 in expenditures for a surplus of \$22,750.

Membership - Mr. Reynolds, reported that membership stood at about 817 compared to 787 on the second day of the Convention last year.

Farm Show and Ag Progress Days Food Booths - Mr. Reynolds noted that a profit of about \$69,062 had been earned at the Farm Show Booth and a gross profit of about \$4,380 was earned at the Ag Progress Days Booth - all due to the volunteer labor at both events..

Educational Committee - David Miller, Committee chairman, reported that the Convention was going well with registration at about 1,038 compared to 953 the previous year.

The Association will be working with Penn State Extension to better publicize grower twilight meetings and other educational opportunities this summer. A SCBG will be applied for to produce videos for on the website.

Government Affairs Committee

Jonathan Strite, Committee chairman, reported the Directors will visit with state legislators in March. The Association will also be represented at the United Fresh Produce Association Public Policy Conference in Washington in the fall. He then presented the following Policy Resolutions additions recommended by the Board of Directors:

(Underlined text is to be added. Struck-through text is to be deleted.)

State Issues

Farm Marketing

- 1. Supporting a requirement that Tourist Oriented Directional Signs advertising agriculture businesses include the words "Support Local Farms".

Food Quality and Safety

- 2. Opposing the exemption of non-profit member organizations from Food Code (PA Title 7, Agriculture, Chapter 46) regulations.

Natural Resources

- 3. Supporting the amendment of Acts 49 and 38 to allow for certified Act 38 Nutrient Management Planners to be authorized to complete stand-alone Nutrient Balance Sheets for imported manure.
4. Supporting a requirement that county conservation district staff be trained and available to write conservation plans.
5. Supporting a \$1,000.00 fine limit on agricultural enterprise conservation and environmental violations.

(continued on page 22)

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## NEWS

**Minutes of the Febuary 3...** (continued from page 21)

6. Supporting a requirement for the Department of Environmental Protection to have a positive test for contamination in order to issue a fine in the event of water pollution.

**Wildlife Crop Damage**

7. Supporting the legalization of products like "Rodentator" to control burrowing pests.

**Taxes**

8. Supporting the amendment of the Clean and Green Act to authorize application of limited roll-back tax on use of enrolled land for rural enterprises by persons other than the landowner or the landowner's immediate family.
9. Supporting a partial reduction of school property taxes as a possible needed step in the process needed to achieve the final result of eliminating school property taxes.
10. Supporting the exemption of purchases of lumber and building materials for construction, repair or maintenance of facilities used in production agriculture from state sales tax.
11. Supporting state income tax credits for landowners who lease idle farmland to beginning farmers for agricultural production.
12. Supporting a requirement that public notification of any change in eligibility standards for REAP program credits be provided at least 90 days before the fiscal year in which the change takes effect.

**Federal Issues****Natural Resources**

13. Supporting a grandfathered approval for dams and water containment structures whose design and construction meet the standards in effect at the time the structure was built and that they not be subject to more design or construction requirements imposed after the time of construction, unless it is proven that the structure has been damaged and the level of damage seriously threatens structural integrity. Furthermore such structures should be able to be removed at the option of the owner of the structure, when serious damage has occurred. Also supporting a requirement that the Army Corps of Engineers base standards for design of dams and water containment structures on the precipitation events that have historically occurred at the location where the structure exists or is to be built, rather than regionally.

**Education**

14. Supporting the eligibility of students graduating from college with student loans, who return to production agriculture, for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

Mr. Reynolds and Jeffrey Stoltzfus moved to approve these additions to the Policy Resolutions. The motion was adopted.

**Marketing and Research Committee** - Mr. Strzelecki, Committee chairman, reported that the Board had approved funding for two small fruit research projects in the amount of \$12,000 and allocated \$60,000 for vegetable research projects to be chosen by the Vegetable Marketing and Research Board.

**Simply Sweet Onion Committee** - Mr. Stoltzfus, Committee member, reported that the Simply Sweet Onion pro-

gram was continuing to grow in number of growers after 10 years of operation although yields were down in 2015.

**New Business**

**Announcements** - Mr. Shenot announced that in honor of the Association's 90th Anniversary there would be an anniversary cake at the Ice Cream Social that evening. The Convention planning meeting will be held in March in State College. It was also noted that the Board of Directors had met with Richard Roush, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State the previous afternoon to highlight the need to refill vegetable extension and research positions. The Dean emphasized the budget crisis that was threatening the very existence of Penn State Extension and urged the Association and its members to contact their state legislators about this situation.

**Memorial for Deceased Members** - Mr. Shenot noted that the following Association members and friends had passed away in 2015: Kolleen Siebel, Francis Janoski; Everett and Olive Weiser and Janet Knouse.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, Dr. Orzolek and Mr. Reynolds moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was adopted at about 1:00 p.m. The Board of Directors immediately convened to elect officers for 2016.

*William Troxell*

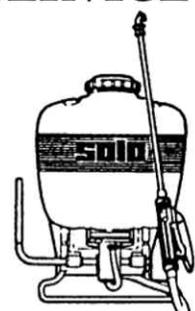
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## Growing Cover Crops for Nitrogen on Vegetable Farms

Elsa Sanchez and Charles White

There are a lot of good reasons for using covers crops on vegetable farms including recycling or adding nitrogen to the soil.

Many different cover crops can recycle or add nitrogen to the soil. Legume cover crops are most often associated with adding nitrogen because they have developed relationships with symbiotic soil bacteria which can convert nitrogen gas in the air, which plants cannot uptake, to ammonia, which plants can use. Non-legumes, such as grasses and brassicas, take up nitrogen from the soil and prevent it from leaching away into groundwater. When cover crops are killed and begin to decompose, nitrogen can be released from the residues back into the soil where it can feed the next crop. Recent research has looked at using single species and mixtures of cover crop species for adding and recycling nitrogen.

Charlie White, a research associate at Penn State who studies cover crops, provided Figure 1 here showing how different cover crops and mixtures of cover crops affect nitrogen availability or tie-up. The figure has a two-way arrow with carbon-to-nitrogen ratios of cover crop residues starting at 5:1 and going to 40:1. Carbon-to-nitrogen ratios are important in determining nitrogen availability or tie-up by affecting mineralization when cover crop residues decompose. Mineralization is the process where organic nitrogen, which is largely not available to plants, is converted by soil microorganisms into inorganic (or 'mineral') nitrogen that is readily plant available.

When carbon-to-nitrogen ratios of plant material are below about 20:1 these microorganisms release excess nitrogen into the soil which plants can then use. When ratios are above about 20:1 microorganisms tie-up nitrogen from the soil which can result in plants being nitrogen deficient. Looking at the figure, clovers, peas, and radish have low carbon-to-nitrogen ratios while oats and sorghum sudangrass have high ratios. Ratios of canola, cereal rye, triticale, and annual ryegrass are highly variable.

This has to do with when the cover crop is terminated. If it is terminated when it is still young and lush, before it has produced flowers and seed, carbon-to-nitrogen ratios are lower than if terminating when the cover crop is mature. Cover crop mixtures from grower's farms and those tested at the Penn State research farm also had variable carbon-to-nitro-



Rye Hairy Vetch. Photo: Elsa Sanchez

gen ratios. When the mixture had more rye in it the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio was on the higher end of the scale, meaning it would tie-up nitrogen upon decomposition.

When using rye as a cover crop, growing it for maximum above-ground growth is a good strategy when your goal is to harvest it or leave it on the soil surface as a mulch. When rye is tilled into the soil it can inhibit the growth of vegetables by tying-up nitrogen and allelopathy (producing harmful substances to vegetable plants). To add nitrogen to the soil, till in

rye while it is still lush and green. Also consider planting it with hairy vetch to add more nitrogen to the mix. Research at Penn State and elsewhere suggests that a seeding rate for non-legumes in a mixture that is 20% to 30% of the typical monoculture seeding rate provides a good balance between soil nitrogen scavenging by the non-legume and atmospheric nitrogen fixation by the legume, with carbon-to-nitrogen ratios generally staying below the critical 20:1 threshold.

A seeding rate of the non-legume species greater than 30% is likely to smother the legume companion and increase the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio. So for rye, which has a typical monoculture seeding rate of 120 lbs/acre, use a seeding rate between

*(continued on page 26)*



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VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

# Sanitation When Transitioning High Tunnels

Elsa Sanchez

Integrated Pest Management or IPM is a strategy for pest management that uses a combination of practices to minimize risks to people and the environment while reducing pest problems.

Figure 1 below, Overview of the IPM Strategy, depicts the IPM process using a pyramid. The IPM process starts at the bottom of the pyramid with sanitation and cultural methods as the first step. The last step, pesticide application, is used only when



High tunnel tomatoes. Photo: Elsa Sanchez

other practices are ineffective at keeping pests below acceptable levels. Today Scott DiLoreto, manager of the College of Agricultural Sciences 50,000 ft<sup>2</sup> greenhouse facility, talked with students in our Hydroponics and Aquaponics course and reminded us about the importance of sanitation.

Sanitation practices limit resources pests need to survive, kill existing pests, and also minimize pests from spreading. Practices include cleaning equipment, removing infested

plants and plant parts, removing crop residues, weeding, avoiding the re-use of potting mix, and disinfecting pruning, cutting tools, pots, and flats. When transitioning high tunnels from spring/summer to fall/winter crops or vice versa, sanitizing tunnels before planting next season's new seed or planting stock is a great strategy to avoid the spread and build-up of certain pests.

It can be difficult to find the time to clear and clean out a tunnel entirely before planting the next crop and having a combination of spring/summer crops with fall/winter crops during the transition is common. However, this sanitation step can really help with pest management later in the growing season as is shown in Figure 2. Crop Production Timeline.

Two situations are presented in the figure. The top arrow, labeled "dirty start", illustrates what can happen when a crop is started without adequate sanitation practices. The bottom arrow, labeled "clean start", illustrates what can happen when a crop is started after sanitation practices have been used. In both situations crop seeding is done at the same time. For the dirty start, pests are discovered and exceed thresholds much sooner than for the clean start, requiring four pesticide applications before harvest. In this example, when plants are started in a clean, sanitized growing space only two pesticide applications

(continued on page 27)

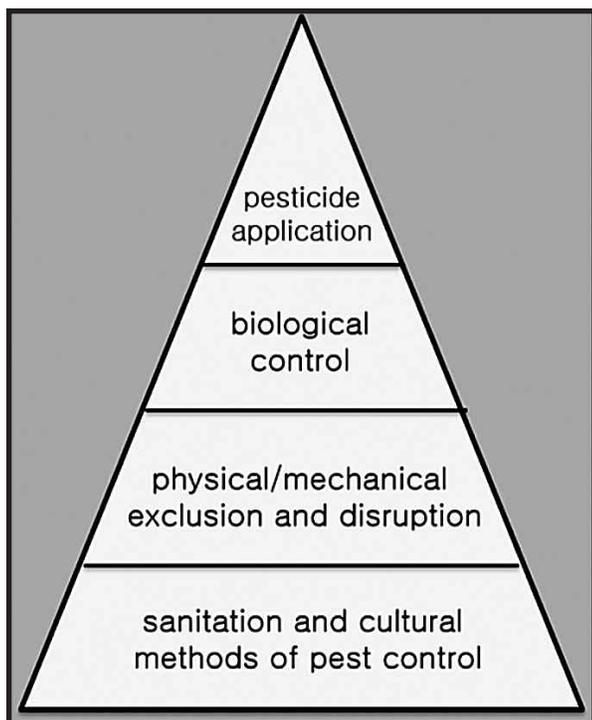


Figure 1. Overview of the IPM Strategy. Provided by Scott DiLoreto

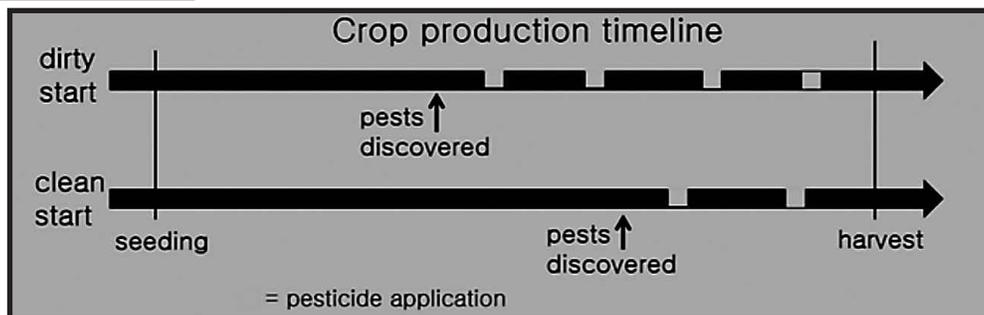


Figure 2: Crop Production Timeline, provided by Scott DiLoreto

## BERRY PRODUCTION

## Matted-Row Strawberry Variety Trial—Second-Year Results

Kathleen Demchak

We collected data on performance of sixteen cultivars or advanced selections of strawberries in the second harvest year of a matted-row trial. Some were great, and others had a few issues.

Unlike last year, when nearly all of the cultivars started to fruit at the same, there was some separation in the fruiting time of the varieties.

'Earliglow', and 'Jewel', our early-season and mid-late season standards, respectively, continued to perform as expected, with yields up relative to last year and fruit size dropping off a bit, as would be expected. 'Earliglow' produced total yields of 9,900 lb/a with a mean berry weight of slightly less than last year, at 9.0 g/berry while Jewel produced 14,200 lb/a of fruit averaging 9.2 g/berry.

'Galletta' ripened three days later than 'Earliglow', the first variety to ripen. 'Galletta' was developed for plasticulture, but produced sufficient runners to fill the rows in very nicely after last year's renovation. 'Galletta' was still a little low-yielding in this system, producing 7,000 lb/a, but had nice-sized fruit averaging 11.1 g/berry.

'Laurel' was another early-season variety, and continued to perform well, yielding 13,100 pounds per acre, and nice-sized berries averaging 9.8 g/berry. Flavor is good, but not excellent. It is resistant to foliar diseases. Unfortunately, it isn't available from any U.S. nurseries that I know of.

'Sonata' was the top-yielder, producing 18,800 lbs/acre of average-tasting fruit, averaging 9.3 g/berry, and fruiting in the mid-season. Flavor is average.

'Rubicon' produced fruit at the same time as 'Sonata'. Yields were perfectly acceptable at 11,800 lb/a, but berries were on the small side averaging only 8.8 g/berry. The fruit were tart as they were last year, but much less of the fruit was lost to gray mold, probably because we had a considerably drier harvest season.

'Mayflower' fruited at about the same time as 'Jewel'. Its yield increased considerably over last year, coming in at 11,900 lb/a. As happened last year, this cultivar had the highest percentage of marketable fruit compared to any other variety, at 75% marketable fruit. This is fairly impressive, especially considering that no fungicides or insecticides were applied to this



'Malwina' fruit sprouting leaves. Photo: Kathy Demchak

plot this year. The flavor wasn't the best, but seemed somewhat improved compared to last year.

'Malwina' was again in a harvest season all its own, not beginning to fruit until June 24 when only 'Jewel', 'Mayflower', and 'Rubicon' were still fruiting decently, and continuing to produce until July 13. A tiny percentage of the fruit (only a few berries) sprouted leaves, which is just a genetic disorder with this variety, and some of the caps looked like they were trying to mimic leaves. Seeing this does get one's attention!

Two of the four Cornell advanced selections had good total yields, but fruit tended to be on the small side. One of the Rutgers advanced selections had

amazing flavor later in the harvest season, and yields of all three were decent ranging from 7,100 to 10,000 lbs/acre.

Disease and insect incidence was fairly low overall, with the main reason for unmarketable fruit being small berry size.

Thanks to the *Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association* for providing funding for this trial.

Ms. Demchak is with the Department of Plant Science at Penn State Univ. From the *Vegetable, Small Fruit and Mushroom Production News*, Penn State Extension,

<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/vegetable-fruit>, December 2, 2016.

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BERRY PRODUCTION

# Upcoming High and Low Tunnel Workshops in Central NY, and Long Island

As dramatic weather events increase, pest pressure intensifies, and local markets vitalize, berry growers are looking for ways to protect their crop and lengthen their season.

Growers and educators are trialing techniques for growing berries under cover. Berry farmers can attend one of two regional workshops offered by the New York State Berry Growers Association (NYSBGA) this winter to learn more about these innovations in berry growing. These day-long workshop will feature multiple short presentations, interactive activities, and words from growers discussing the newest research in tunnels and exclusion netting.

Many New York State farmers experimenting with growing berries undercover are having great successes. "I am so glad I listened to Marvin Pritts' recommendation to grow my day neutral strawberries under low tunnels," said Guinevere Panek, co-owner of Panek's Pickin Patch. "There was much less water damage and disease pressure, resulting in more marketable berries. I picked two to three weeks longer than usual. I was able to supply my CSA members with strawberries right through the end of October. There was even ice on top of the tunnels one morning, but the berries underneath were beautiful!"

Presentations by Cornell researchers, Extension educators from Penn State and Cornell Cooperative Extension, and experienced berry growers will address advances in growing under cover. These include: day-neutral strawberry cultivars for low tunnels, choosing and recycling tunnel plastic, using technological tools to predict weather events, disease and insect man-

agement, growing raspberries in high tunnels, and using exclusion netting to protect against Spotted Wing Drosophila. Attendees will participate in hands-on activities and those that register a week before the workshops will receive a take-home resource guide and supplies. Lunch is included at the Portland and Riverhead locations.

Workshop registration is \$25 per person for NYSBGA Members, and \$50 per person for Non-Members.

Regional dates and locations:

- January 17, 2017: Oncenter Convention Center Syracuse, NY at the Empire State Producers EXPO
- March 7, 2016: Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County Extension Education Center 423 Griffing Avenue, Suite 100 Riverhead, New York 11901-3071

NYSBGA President, Dale Ila Riggs says, "Berries are one of the most sought after agricultural products and enjoy only positive attributes. The ground-breaking research on protected culture currently being done in our region enables berry production to occur five to even seven months a year."

The workshops are sponsored by the NYS Berry Growers Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, with funding support from the NYS Legislature.

From the **Vegetable, Small Fruit and Mushroom Production News**, Penn State Extension, <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/vegetable-fruit>, December 2, 2016.

## Growing Cover Crops... (continued from page 23)

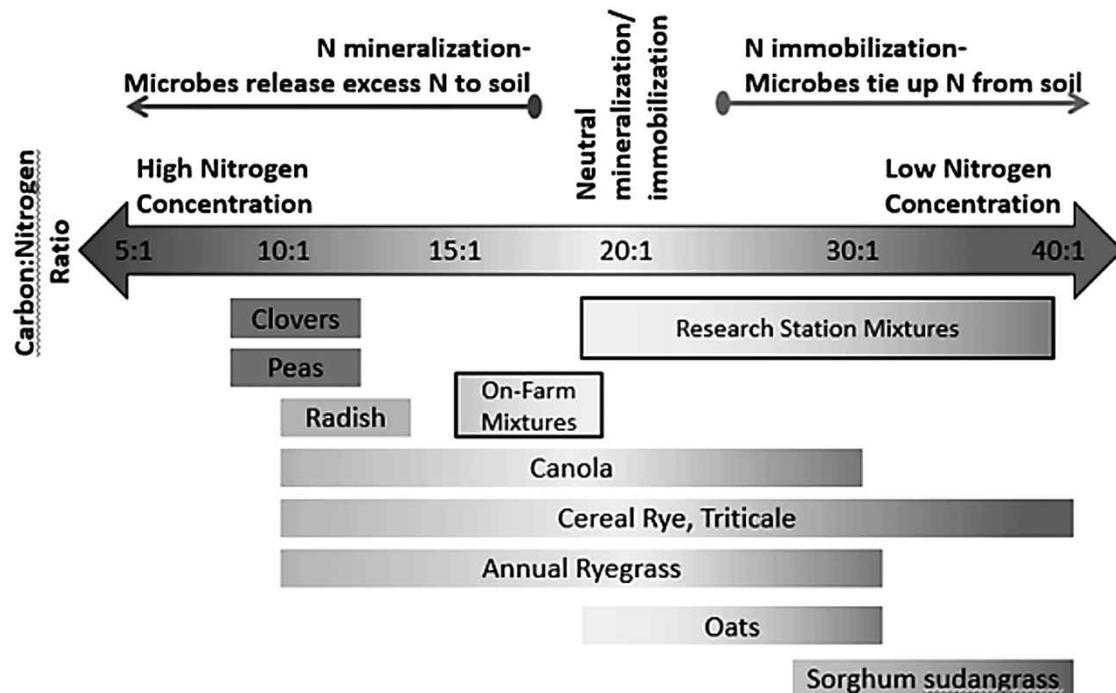


Figure 1. C:N ration of cover crop residues regulates N supply vs. N tie up. Graphic by Charlie White, Penn State.

24 and 36 lbs/acre with a 70% to 80% of monoculture seeding rate for the legume companion.

To download the publication "Growing Cover Crops for Nitrogen on Vegetable Farms", go to [http://extension.psu.edu/plants/vegetable-fruit/news/2016/growing-cover-crops-for-nitrogen-on-vegetable-farms/pdf\\_factsheet](http://extension.psu.edu/plants/vegetable-fruit/news/2016/growing-cover-crops-for-nitrogen-on-vegetable-farms/pdf_factsheet).

Dr. Sanchez and Dr. White are with the Department of Plant Science at Penn State Univ. From the **Vegetable, Small Fruit and Mushroom Production News**, Penn State Extension, <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/vegetable-fruit>, November 18, 2016.

## VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

## CLASSIFIED

**Sanitation When...** (continued from page 24)

are required to secure the crop. Good sanitation practices provide growers with a longer pest free window, reducing the need for pesticide and reducing labor and expenses associated with pesticide application.

How does this apply to transitioning high tunnels? For example, if summer crops are not removed and tunnels are not cleaned out before switching out crops, pests can use summer crops as hosts and then easily move to newly planted crops. We are seeing this happen in a high tunnel experiment where we are studying aphid management. Aphids will move from tomato plants to the next crop of lettuce or other leafy greens. When this happens, aphid outbreaks in lettuce and leafy greens usually occur very early in the crop production timeline. Good sanitation when transitioning high tunnels can go a long way to avoid this problem.

*Dr. Sanchez is with the Department of Plant Science at Penn State Univ. From the **Vegetable, Small Fruit and Mushroom Production News**, Penn State Extension, <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/vegetable-fruit>, November 18, 2016.*

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