

# NEWS

for the commercial vegetable, potato and berry grower

February 2021 / Volume 44 Number 2

## Celebrate Spring by Contacting Your Legislator



Every spring the Agricultural Council of America sets aside a day to highlight to the public the vital role agriculture plays in our society. This year's National Ag Day is March 23. PVGA is urging its members to celebrate spring by making plans to contact their state and federal legislator's office to discuss the Association's priorities for 2021. While legislators may not be available to meet in person this year, phone calls, letters or emails can be quite effective. Copies of the Association's state and federal priorities are in

the center of this newsletter. They will also be available at <https://www.pvga.org/priorities-and-policies/>.

State senators and representatives are often available in their local offices on Thursdays and Fridays because the General Assembly normally only schedules session days on Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please make it a point to connect with your legislator sometime this spring (before you get any busier!) to go over the PVGA priorities with him or her.

You might also want to invite your legislator to visit your farm or market later in the year like July or August when the General Assembly recesses for the summer.

You as a grower taking the time to contact your legislator gives him or her the opportunity to personally communicate with you and understand how government decisions can hurt or help your business. If they have met growers in person and are familiar with their businesses, they are more likely to be conscious of how their decisions can affect your business when they are deciding how to vote on different issues.

Please take the time to deliver, mail or email a copy of the Association's state or federal legislative priorities to your state and

*Continued on page 2*

## 2021 PVGA Annual Award Given to Steven Bogash



The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is pleased to give its 2021 Annual Award and a Life Membership to Steven Bogash. The Annual Award recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding level of service and dedication to the Association and/or the vegetable, potato or berry growers of Pennsylvania. Steve easily meets those qualifications.

Steve received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland. He worked for time at the USDA Apiary. He also

was the owner/operator of Greener Horizons, landscape company in Westminster, MD. After selling his business Steve started his cooperative extension career as a part-time horticulture instructor with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service in Carroll County. Steve later would become the lead educator for the USDA/University of Maryland grant project that focused on Income Opportunities for Private Landowners.

Moving to Pennsylvania, he started with Penn State Extension in Blair County before becoming the regional small fruit

and vegetable Extension Educator for the south-central counties based in Franklin County and later in Cumberland County. Besides his extension activities of working directly with growers, he carried on numerous research projects on grower farms and at Penn State's Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Landisville. He conducted numerous tomato variety trials and high tunnel production projects as well as working with the annual flower trials at the center. He also worked closely with the Master Gardner program as well as the Capital Hunger Garden and Victory Salsa Garden projects and as an internship mentor.

Along with fellow Extension Educator Thomas Ford, he organized and conducted several Biocontrol School programs for vegetable growers. Steve retired from Penn State Extension in June 2016. Since retiring, he joined Marrone Bio Innovations as their NE / Mid-Atlantic Product Development and Territory Business Manager. His territory runs from Raleigh, NC to Caribou, ME to the Western edge of OH. He now oversees several dozen university and private research company product trials as well as many on-farm demonstration trials using Marrone Bio Innovation products for pest management.

For over 20 years he has been heavily involved in planning various sessions and workshops at the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, making several presentations each year

*Continued on page 4*

## NEWS



**Pennsylvania  
Vegetable Growers  
Association**

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

*President*

**Brian Campbell '24**  
*Berwick*

*First Vice President*

**Rita Resick '23**  
*Somerset*

*Second Vice President*

**Peter Flynn '24**  
*West Chester*

*Secretary-Treasurer*

**William Reynolds '22**  
*Waynesboro*

*Past President*

**Jonathan Strite '22**  
*Harrisburg*

*Directors*

**Tina Forry '22**  
*Palmyra*

**Christopher Harner '23**  
*State College*

**Barron Hetherington '22**  
*Ringtown*

**Alan Kemmerer '22**  
*Berwick*

**Arthur King '24**  
*Valencia*

**Amy Metrick '24**  
*Butler*

**Michael Orzolek '24**  
*State College*

**Christopher Powell '23**  
*Strasburg*

**John Shenk '23**  
*Lititz*

**Robert Shenot '22**  
*Wexford*

**Jeffrey Stoltzfus '23**  
*Atglen*

**Mark Troyer '24**  
*Waterford*

**Joel Weaver '23**  
*Windber*

*Executive Director*  
**William Troxell**  
*Richfield*

## Virtual 2021 Mid-Atlantic Convention Quite Successful

Over 900 people registered for the first ever virtual Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention and the consensus is that the educational sessions were a big success. While overall registration was only about half the regular registration, actual attendance at some of the educational sessions was comparable to attendance at the in-person event. While the virtual format provided good access to the educational programming, growers still missed the personal interaction with other growers in the hallways and the opportunity to see, touch and taste the exhibits in the trade show and talk to the vendors. But given the situation of the current pandemic, the virtual event was a good substitute for an in-person event.

In a survey of the attendees, most appreciated the ability to view the recordings of the sessions after the live event in case they missed it at the original time or were attending another session being held at the same time.

The Mid-Atlantic Convention Joint Committee is grateful to all the companies that exhibited at, sponsored or contributed to the 2021 virtual event. That financial support along with the registration fees made the Convention a financial success – far below what an in-person Convention usually is but still on the positive side. That will enable the Convention and its five sponsoring organizations to continue on and start planning for the 2022 Mid-Atlantic Convention in Hershey. The dates for the next year's Convention are February 1 to 3, 2022.

## Celebrate Spring by Contacting Your Legislator

*continued from page 1*

federal legislators. Just a short, handwritten note explaining that you are a PVGA member and asking that your legislator keep PVGA's priorities in mind would be a big help in making our legislators aware of the industry's needs. If a legislator gets one copy of the Association's priorities from a voter in his or her district, it will have more impact than the same set of priorities mailed from the PVGA office. If they get copies of the priorities from several growers in their district, it will have an even greater impact.

If call and your legislator is not available talk to you but a staff person is available, go ahead and take the time to talk with the staff person. Staff people are the ones who brief the legislators on what their constituents are saying to them on a particular issue, so getting PVGA's priorities and your farm's story before a legislative staff person is equally important. This is particularly true for federal representatives and senators who have more constituents and also larger staffs.

Remember to connect with at least one of your five legislators: your state representative, your state senator, your federal representative and/or Senator Robert Casey or Senator Pat Toomey. To find your local legislators and their offices, consult your local telephone directory's blue or government pages, go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/> or call PVGA at 717-694-3596.

We would greatly appreciate if you could let PVGA which legislators you have contacted. Please send us an email at [pvga@pvga.org](mailto:pvga@pvga.org), call us at 717-694-3596.

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 Director, at the above address.

## NEWS

## Kathy Demchak Receives PVGA Life Membership



The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is pleased to present a Life Membership to Kathleen Demchak. Life Membership is an honor given by the Board of Directors to persons who have a longstanding record of service and dedication to the Association. In 2013, Kathy received the PVGA Annual Award for her service to Pennsylvania growers. She has rightfully gained the respect and confidence of the berry growers in Pennsylvania and her fellow

berry researchers across the nation for her knowledge, dedication and hard work on their behalf.

Kathy is a native of Clearfield County and majored in Horticulture at Penn State. She then went on to pursue a Master of Science degree at Virginia Tech where she worked with Dr. Ronald Morse on strip mine soil reclamation for vegetable crops. Kathy then returned to Penn State in 1983 to work as a Research Aide in plant nutrition with Dr. Cyril Smith. She spent several summers traveling all over Pennsylvania planting and harvesting Dr. Smith's extensive vegetable nutrition trials. In 1991, Demchak became a Research Associate working in the area of small fruits with Dr. Barbara Goulart. When Dr. Goulart left Penn State in 1998, she was hired as an Extension Associate and for the past 22 years she has led the Penn State small fruit extension program.

She performs applied research on a broad range of topics involving strawberries, brambles, and blueberries to support her extension activities. Kathy is a regular contributor to Penn State's Vegetable and Small Fruit Gazette and she coordinates the educational small fruit program for the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention. She has developed a national reputation by coordinating the writing and the revision of the Mid-Atlantic Berry Guide and she is a recognized authority on berry crop production in high tunnels. Currently she is a member of the spotted wing drosophila IPM working group, and she was a principal investigator on a Northeast IPM Center project to monitor spotted wing drosophila. She was also one of the lead investigators in a 5-year multi-state SCRI project that studied the feasibility of the protected production of berry crops.

Kathy, and her husband live in Port Matilda. She and her two sons were veteran volunteers at the PVGA Ag Progress Days booth each year.

Life Memberships are normally presented at the annual Growers Banquet at the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey. This year the award was announced instead on a special page on the website of the virtual 2021 Mid-Atlantic Convention.



## Wyatt Schriver Receives PVGA Young Grower Award

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is pleased to award its 2021 Young Grower Award to Wyatt Schriver. The Young Grower Award is given to recognize PVGA members who are 35 years old or younger, who have been successfully growing vegetables, potatoes or berries for less than five years and who have contributed to advancing or promoting the Pennsylvania vegetable, potato or berry industries. The prize is free registration for the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention plus lodging at the Hershey Lodge (which this year will be carried over to 2022).

Wyatt is a 21-year-old PVGA Member, and an agricultural entrepreneur. He owns the fall produce stand, The Mum Farm, in Jonestown, Pennsylvania, where he grows a wide variety of pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, mums, corn shocks, and many additional seasonal items. He purchased the business from the previous owner in December of 2019 and just concluded his first season.

On the property he planted and grew 4.5 acres of pumpkins and gourds this year. The plants' water and proper nutrients are provided through a computer-controlled irrigation system. The retail portion of the season begins in mid-August and continues through the end of October.

The business contributes to the advancement and promotion of the Pennsylvania vegetable industry through advertisements on social media and local marketing outlets. This season was quite successful with many customers coming from the local area and from out of state. They sold out of multiple varieties. Looking into the next few years, Wyatt is considering expanding the quantity and variety of products for even greater success in the future.

Wyatt graduated high school only two years ago, where he was an active member in the FFA program. Being in that program is what helped prepare him for his future in agriculture and to teach good habits of a successful business owner. He not only contributes the vegetable growing industry with his ideas and willingness to try new things but also is an encouragement to other young people starting out in the agricultural industry. He shows with some hard work and determination that even at a young age you can accomplish great things.



## NEWS

## Six Directors Re-elected

The results of the balloting for members of the Board of Directors were announced at the Annual Meeting of the Association held virtually on February 17 at 1:00 p.m. Incumbent directors Brian Campbell, Amy Metrick, Arthur King, Michael Orzolek and Peter Flynn were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board by the members in the mail-in balloting. Incumbent Mark Troyer was selected by the Board to represent potato growers and the northwestern part of the state. Each year the members elect five members of the Board and the Board selects one additional director – chosen to insure diversity, geographic representation, and/or special expertise on the Board.

Matt Christner and Ted LeBow were also on the ballot for election to the Board but were not elected. While the terms of seven directors expired, only six directors were elected to new terms as the number of directors is being reduced from 21 to 18 over a three-year period beginning in 2019. Director Robert Amsterdam chose not seek re-election and for 2021 the number of Directors is again 18.

Following are brief biographies of the newly re-elected Directors:



Brian Campbell is a fresh market grower in Berwick, Columbia County, who was first elected to the Board in 2007. He specializes in sweet corn, pumpkins, broccoli, lettuce, and other crops which he ships in wholesale quantities. He also operates a roadside farm market which he started when he was 14 years old. A 1990 graduate of Penn State University, he and his wife have two daughters and a son. He is currently President of the Association but had also served as President in 2012 and 2013.



Amy Metrick is part of Metrick's Harvest View Farm and Market along with her parents Ken and Cathy Metrick and her sister Laura in Butler County. They farm 50 acres of vegetables and apples that they sell at their retail farm market on the farm. Their family also runs a greenhouse in the spring, a CSA from June through November and a cider press from September through December. She grad-

## 2021 PVGA Annual Award Given to Steven Bogash

*continued from page 1*

and serving as the Vegetable Program Chair and overseeing the annual attendee survey for many years. He has also been a frequent presenter at the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture annual conference as well as a member of their organizing committee.

Steve and his wife Roberta live in Harrisburg and are renovating a home near the Susquehanna river built in 1933. Steve is a long-time member of the PVGA Educational Committee as well as a regular volunteer at the Farm Show Food Booth and formerly at the Ag Progress Days Food Booth. He is currently also serving on the Association's Succession Planning Committee.

With this Award, the Association is recognizing not only Steve's willingness to step up and do the hard work to organize educational opportunities for growers and conduct practical production research trials, but also the esteem Pennsylvania growers have for Steve and his ability to communicate his knowledge to them.

The Annual Award is normally presented at the annual Growers Banquet at the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey. This year the award was announced instead on a special page on the website of the virtual 2021 Mid-Atlantic Convention.

uated from Pennsylvania College of Technology with an associate degree in ornamental horticulture plant production and a bachelor's in business management in 2014. She currently works for Penn State Extension as the Butler County 4-H Educator. She is a member of the Butler County Farm Bureau, Butler Farm Show and Mt. Chestnut Presbyterian Church. She is beginning her second term on the Board of Directors.



Arthur King operates Harvest Valley Farms with his son David and his brother Larry in Valencia, Pennsylvania, just north of Pittsburgh. Their marketing is just as diversified as their product list. Over 58 varieties of small fruits and vegetables are grown on 160 acres. They have a 530 member CSA, sell at three farmers markets, a home farm market, one wholesale account and host pick-your-own pumpkin activities in October. Art holds a BA Degree in Nature Conservation from California University of Pennsylvania and an associate degree in Business Management from Butler Community College. He is Past President of the Association and has served four terms on the Board. He also serves on the Capacity Development Committee.



Michael Orzolek is Professor Emeritus of Vegetable Crops in the Department of Plant Science at The Pennsylvania State University. Before his retirement in July 2012, he had a three-way appointment – 60% Extension, 22% Research and 18% Teaching. Since his retirement he has kept active conducting applied field research. He is currently a consultant for Douglas Plant Health. He had conducted extensive research on stand establishment, plastic mulches, high tunnels, weed management and tillage systems. Dr. Orzolek formerly was Extension Vegetable Specialist at the University of Delaware (1974-81). He received his B.S. in Biology from Alliance College, his M.S. in Horticulture from West Virginia University, and his Ph.D. in Horticulture/Botany from the University of Maryland. He is beginning this third term on the Board.



Peter Flynn began dairy farming on the Jones's farm, now the current site of the Bayard Rustin High School, in 1986. In 1989 he planted sweet corn on one-eighth of an acre and sold his harvest from the back of his pick-up truck. Deciding to concentrate solely on growing produce, he sold his cows in 1992 and opened his first stand. In 2000, Pete moved his operation to Westtown School. Built on 170 acres of the school's land, the large farm market stands on the north side of Street Road/Route 926 and grows some of the finest produce in the area. Pete, an active board member of the Chester County Food Bank, designates roughly 5 acres of land to grow for the less fortunate members of our community. In 2014, that 5 acres yielded approximately 120,000 lb. of fresh produce for the Chester County Food Bank. Customers and local chefs from all over the region travel for miles to purchase Pete's produce. Pete is beginning his second term on the Board of Directors and is the Association's Second Vice President.



Mark Troyer owns and operates Troyer Growers in Waterford, Erie County, consisting of 1,600 acres of grains and 400 acres of potatoes for processing and chips. He is a board member and past president of the Erie County Farm Bureau as well as chairman of the Pennsylvania Potato Research Board. He is beginning his third term on the Board.



# OUTSTANDING SEED COMPANY, LLC®

B R E E D E R | P R O D U C E R

Outstanding Seed is an innovative seed company specializing in breeding, production, and marketing of proprietary, large handled, high yield potential, Powdery mildew resistant pumpkin, gourd, and winter squash hybrids.

Outstanding Seed hybrids are bred for large handles, high yield potential, and Powdery mildew resistance. For this reason, Outstanding Seed hybrids are market leaders in yield potential and profit potential.

Over forty hybrids are available to meet many different needs. Call today to place an order or request our 2021 Catalog.

## **Moon Light<sup>F1</sup>**

- White, flat, extra-large, lobed fruit, are great for stacking.
- Fruit average 18 lbs.
- Excellent color that holds well.
- Strong Powdery mildew resistance.
- Excellent yield potential.
- Well suited for retail or mixed bin sales.
- FarMore® treated seed and Untreated seed are both available.

P.O. Box 1584 | Beaver Falls, PA 15010 | 800.385.9254 | [www.outstandingseed.com](http://www.outstandingseed.com)

## NEWS

## Members Adopt Resolutions at Virtual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the General Membership of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association was held virtually on Wednesday, February 17. Normally held during the Mid-Atlantic Convention at Hershey, this year's meeting was of necessity held virtually and also postponed until a week after the Convention. The members approved additions to the Policy Resolutions and received reports from the officers and committees on the Association's activities for the year.

### Resolutions

The following additions to the Association's policy resolutions were adopted by the members. The underlined text is to be added to the resolutions.

#### State Resolutions

1. Supporting provisions that agricultural vehicles which are less than 14'0" in height traveling on the road or in the road right of way not be liable for any damage resulting from knocking down low hanging tree limbs and branches encroaching the road right of way.
2. Supporting state appropriations for an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program that will be sufficient to reduce the level of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff estimated from agriculture by at least 50 percent by 2025.
3. Supporting an exemption for farmers from regulations for draining wet areas on croplands if the area drained is two acres or less.
4. Supporting a collaboration between the Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture and Labor and Industry and the agriculture industry to identify ways to improve workforce development at the state and local level and to assist growers in providing or accessing housing for H-2A workers.
5. Supporting changes in the PA Game Commission definition of a "farmer" to include any individual or entity that actively cultivates, operates, or manages land for a profit when determining wildlife harvests for crop damage.
6. Supporting provisions that all agriculture and agriculturally-related businesses, including but not limited to farm markets, farmers markets and greenhouses and their retail operations be deemed "essential" during a disaster emergency.
7. Supporting modifications to the permitting and engineering requirements for the construction of farm ponds to make such ponds more economically feasible for growers.
8. Supporting a prohibition for counties and municipalities in Pennsylvania to enact and enforce zoning ordinances that require tracts or parcels of agricultural land, consisting of 10 or more acres, to be re-zoned if the agricultural land is being used for commercial purposes.

#### Federal and State Resolutions

1. Supporting research to combat new emerging pests (e.g., Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, the Spotted Wing Drosophila Fruit Fly, Bermuda Grass Stem Maggots, the Spotted Lanternfly, etc.).
2. Supporting efforts to have all 48 contiguous states develop a reciprocal agreement regarding their farm plate registrations and to have at least Pennsylvania pursue such agreements with neighboring states.
3. Supporting incentives and support be given to utilities to offer three-phase power to farm operations at a more reasonable cost.

#### Federal Resolutions

1. Supporting efforts to harmonize food safety audits with what is required under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to reduce duplication.

### Reports Given

The members reviewed the year-end financial reports which showed a balance of \$276,428 in the General Fund, \$200,712 in the Keystone Fund and \$7,714 in the Onion Committee Fund. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Reynolds also reviewed the current balances of \$317,540 in the General Fund, \$208,720 in the Keystone Fund and \$7,717 in the Onion Committee Fund.

President Brian Campbell reported that the Executive Committee had recently reviewed the Crisis Management Plan and that the Succession Planning Committee had met to begin planning for the expected retirement of the Executive Director.

Campbell also noted the deaths of four members or former members over the past year: Mollie Geise, Life Members Ernest Bergman and Edward Hopkins, and former President James Kohl.

Past President Jon Strite, as chair of the Leadership and Recognition Committee, announced the results of the balloting for the Board of Directors as reported in a separate article. He noted that Steve Bogash had been given the Annual Award and Life Membership and that Kathy Demchak had also been granted Life Membership. Wyatt Schriver received the Young Grower Award and Nicole Guise, Clayton Harner, and Wyatt Kosa received Rudolph Grob Memorial Scholarships.

Secretary-Treasurer William Reynolds reviewed the General Fund budget adopted by the Board. It is anticipating \$168,700 in income (compared to \$481,600 in the 2020 budget) and \$240,000 in expenses (compared to \$472,300 in the 2020 budget) for a deficit of \$71,700. With the Association's reserves, it should still leave a 2021 year-end balance of about \$199,400 – sufficient to cover any continued decreases in income from the 2022 Farm Show and 2022 Mid-Atlantic Convention if they do not return to normal.

Reynolds also noted that membership was 599 after the last day of the convention, down from last year's post-convention membership of 810. Last year's membership at the end of the year was 983. He also noted the cancellation of the Farm Show was a loss of over \$73,000 net income for the Association. The meeting agenda noted that to date members had donated \$7,610 to the Association to increase the amount available for research while the Directors had contributed or pledged another \$18,375 for the General Fund to support the financial stability of the Association.

Robert Amsterdam reported for the Capacity Development Committee which filed the necessary forms to transition the Association to a 501(c)3 organization. That morning the Board approved renaming the Committee the Strategic Planning Committee to better reflect its function.

Educational Committee chairman Rita Resick reported that the Association's convention attendance was about 318, only a fraction of last year's registration 1,254. Nonetheless, despite the lower registration numbers, this year's virtual Mid-Atlantic Convention was considered quite successful and attendance was very good in the educational sessions. Hopefully regional educational events can be planned for the summer and fall. The Association will continue to communicate with members through the newsletter, website and email updates.

It was reported that the Board had approved increasing the amount budgeted for vegetable research from the \$30,000 proposed in December to \$40,000 due to the research donations from members. Thus, the Association and the Vegetable Marketing and Research Program will be funding nine research projects for 2021 totaling \$58,021. The Board also approved \$3,562 for a third small fruit research project bringing the total for berry research to \$10,261.

Mark Troyer, chair of the Potato Committee, reported the Potato Research Board had approved \$30,000 for a potato germ



**Four outstanding varieties to grow your profits this season.**



**ORIZABA**

**A very high quality jalapeño with heavy, firm fruits for more consumer appeal.**

Orizaba is very spicy, erupting with flavor, and features very thick walled fruit with little cracking, and a large strong plant with excellent leaf cover.



**ORANGE SUNRISE**

**A fantastic precocious yellow, early-maturing pumpkin.**

Orange Sunrise has a good deep orange color (where many precocious are neon orange) and features a nice round shape, weighs 12-18 lbs, and has a relative maturity of 75-80 days.



**LASALLE**

**Consistently high yields of easy to pick pods for efficient harvests.**

Lasalle features an upright plant to keep pods off the ground and exhibits good heat tolerance for increased adaptability.



**TRIBUTE**

**A very high yielding zucchini with up to 30% higher yield than leading varieties.**

Tribute has good PRSV and ZYMV resistance for a reliable crop and features a medium vigor open plant for ease of harvest.

For more information, visit:  
[www.seedway.com](http://www.seedway.com)  
 or call us at  
 800-836-3710



Regional Sales Contact:  
 Jim Cicalese  
 (717) 363-0755  
[jcicalese@seedway.com](mailto:jcicalese@seedway.com)

## NEWS

## Directors Use Donations to Increase Research Budget

The Association's Board of Directors held their regular winter meeting virtually on the morning of February 17, 2021 just prior to the Annual Meeting. The Board adopted the budget for 2021 approving extra funding for vegetable research using the income from member donations.

At their December meeting, the Board's tentative budget only included \$30,000 for vegetable research and \$10,000 for berry research because of the loss of income this year due to the cancellation of the Farm Show and in-person Convention. Normally the Association would budget \$60,000 for vegetable research and \$14,000 for berry research. They had decided at that meeting to ask Pennsylvania PVGA members for donations to increase the amount available for research. (Only Pennsylvania members were asked to donate because the Association is only registered to ask for donations in Pennsylvania.)

In response, PVGA members have contributed about \$7,700 to increase research funding – with \$1,185 designated for vegetable research and \$300 for berry research. Contributions ranged from \$10 to \$1,000. The Board is grateful for the response from members to this request. In addition, an anonymous Director challenged the other Directors to match a \$10,000 donation to the General Fund resulting in \$18,375 being given or pledged from the Board members.

As a result of the research donations, the Board increased the vegetable research budget from \$30,000 to \$40,000 which covered the research proposals received by the Association and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program. The General Fund budget for 2021 anticipates \$168,700 in income (compared to \$481,600 for the 2020 budget) and \$240,400 in expenses (compared to \$472,300 for 2020) for a deficit of \$71,700. Besides the decreased amounts for research from normal years, the other major decreased expenses for 2021 are for the Farm

Show Food Booth and the Convention. The expenses for board and committee meetings will also be less since most meetings will be conducted by Zoom. While the Board plans at this point to hold their December 2021 meeting in person, they have decided to hold the committee meetings usually planned for the day before by Zoom to save expenses for this year.

The Board approved renaming the Capacity Development Committee which has been responsible for transitioning the Association to a 501(c)3 charitable organization and exploring ways to fund an increase in the Association's staff. Since much of the Committee's work has really been looking strategically at the Association's future, the Board renamed it the Strategic Planning Committee and added the President as a member of the Committee.

The Succession Planning Committee reported that they had their initial meeting to begin the process for selecting a new Executive Director when William Troxell retires in the next several years.

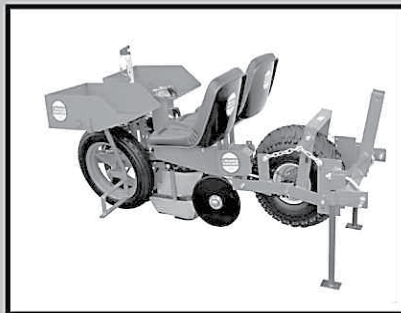
The Board elected Mark Troyer to a three-year term on the Board to fill the seat they are required to fill. Mr. Troyer serves as chair of the Pennsylvania Potato Research Board and is the only large-scale potato grower on the Board, so the Board felt it was important to re-elect him. He also is the only Director from the northwestern part of the state.

While the Board usually plans to visit legislators in the state Capitol in conjunction with its spring meeting, they will plan to schedule virtual meetings with members of the agriculture committees.

The Berry Committee indicated that they would be planning open Zoom meetings with berry growers in the winter and spring. They are also creating a Facebook group for commercial berry growers.

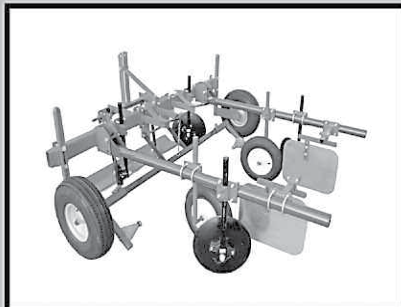
Finally the Board reviewed a draft of a new workplan for 2021 which they will consider at their April meeting. They agreed to add initiatives to seek new members at the produce auctions.

## MECHANICAL TRANSPLANTER COMPANY



### Model 1000

- \* Excellent for bare root and small cells. Our most popular transplanter.



### Model 90

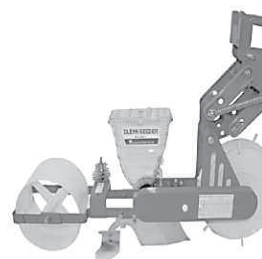
- \* Lays any size mulch from 3-6 feet wide.

### NEW CLEAN SEEDER



### MODEL JP-1

- \* Excellent for small seed
- \* Lightweight & easy to handle
- \* Accurate spacing



### MODEL JPH

- \* Row spacing as close as 7"
- \* Mounts on 2" square toolbar

Mechanical Transplanter Company, LLC \* 1150 Central Avenue \* Holland, MI 49423

Phone: 616-396-8738 or 800-757-5268 \* Fax: 616-396-3619

website: [www.mechanicaltransplanter.com](http://www.mechanicaltransplanter.com) \* e-mail: [mto@mechanicaltransplanter.com](mailto:mto@mechanicaltransplanter.com)



IN MEMORY

In Memory



**James F. Kohl**

Former PVGA President James Kohl of Northumberland met his Lord and Savior face to face on January 21, 2021 at the age of 72. The son of the late James and Alice (Furman) Kohl and grandson of John and Emma Furman, founders of Furmano Foods, he retired in 2018 as Vice President of Farm Operations and Dry Bean Procurement from the family business where he worked tirelessly for over 50 years to help grow the company. As part of the third generation of the Furman family in the business he believed his role was to pass it on to the fourth generation to continue the family legacy and honor the Lord. He was honored to help kick off the company's 100th tomato season this past fall.

Jim was a 1968 graduate of Penn State earning an associate's degree. Besides serving as PVGA Director for nine years and President for two years, he was a member of the Penn State Ag Council, Northumberland County Farm Bureau, Tuckahoe Fire Company, Penn State Alumni Association and the Point Township Vacancy Board, where he served as the chair. He was awarded the Guard Society of the Food Industry Outstanding Young Professional Service Award. He had just recently helped with the design, development and dedication of the Furmano's display at the Lewisburg Children's Museum.

Jim served as a deacon at Sunbury Bible Church where he helped lead the building of the new church facilities in Northumberland in 1991. In 2017 he spearheaded the conversion to solar power to save financial resources. He also served on the board of SEND International, a missions agency, and served on missions trips to Russia, Nicaragua, Haiti and Philadelphia.

A wrestler as youth, he followed Nascar racing and was a 40-year Penn State football season-ticket holder, traveling to the Bowl games as well. He faithfully attended his children's and grandchildren's sporting and other events. He is survived by his wife Phyllis, daughters Jody and Gretchen and their husbands, son Jared and his wife, eight grandchildren, two sisters and two brothers.

He is survived by his wife Phyllis, daughters Jody and Gretchen and their husbands, son Jared and his wife, eight grandchildren, two sisters and two brothers.

**Mollie T. Giese**

Mollie Giese was welcomed into the arms of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on January 25, 2021. She was the wife of the late William Giese. She and her husband were PVGA members who operated Geise's Sweet Corn farm in Northumberland.

They began their farming career raising hogs and field crops. They then started growing some sweet corn to sell in front of their home. As the sweet corn business grew, they eventually got out of raising hogs and concentrated their farm operation on sweet corn.

She and her husband were very active in the Northumberland County Farm Bureau where Mollie served as president, secretary and newsletter editor. In 2015 she and Bill received the statewide Farm Bureau Distinguished Local Affairs Leader Award.


A faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Danville, where she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir and served as financial secretary. She is survived by her son William Jr. and his wife, daughter Betsy and her husband, three grandchildren, one brother, two sisters and one sister-in-law.

## STAND 'N PLANT

### SEEDER

Use for...

- Seeds
- Onions
- Garlic




*Easily plant hundreds of seeds or plants per hour into plastic covered or bare ground seed beds.*

### PLANTER

Use for...

- Transplants
- Potatoes
- Bulbs



**Stand 'N Plant**  
95 Rose Road, Saltsburg, PA 15681  
Phone: 724-639-3965 or visit: [www.standnplant.com](http://www.standnplant.com)

Two Locations to Serve You Better!



**Nolt's Greenhouse Supplies**

Specializing in Greenhouse and Nursery Growing Supplies

**(717) 354-8376**

151 E. Farmersville Road  
Ephrata, PA 17522



**Nolt's Produce Supplies, LLC**

Specializing in Vegetable Growing Supplies and Equipment

**(717) 656-9764**

152 N. Hershey Avenue  
Leola, PA 17540



Compact Raised Bed Mulch Layer



Greenhouses & High Tunnels



Hyd Reset Mulch Lifter



Hyd Drive Wrapper



Water Wheel Transplanter

Please contact us for our free commercial growers catalogs or view it on our website: [www.noltsproducesupplies.net](http://www.noltsproducesupplies.net)

## NEWS

## Three Receive PVGA Scholarships

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is pleased to be able to offer Rudolph Grob Memorial Scholarships each year to students pursuing higher education. This year three scholarships were given as follows:



**Clayton Harner** - Penn State University, \$1,500

Clayton is the son of Chris Harner and Tarrah Geszvain of State College. He is a freshman at Penn State University majoring in Agricultural Science with the goal of being a vegetable grower.



**Wyatt Kosa** - University of Northwest Ohio, \$1,500

Wyatt is the son of Joel and Darla Kosa of Ulysses. He is a student at the University of Northwestern Ohio majoring in Agricultural Equipment Tech with a goal of becoming a farm equipment mechanic.



**Nicole Guise** - Penn State University, \$1,000

Nicole is the daughter of Amy and Denton Guise of Spring Grove. She is a senior at Penn State University majoring in Agricultural and Extension Education with the goal of becoming a Secondary Agriscience Educator.

The Association gives the annual scholarships 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 scholarship is to assist students in obtaining a baccalaureate or associate degree that will enable them to pursue a career in the vegetable, potato or berry production or related industries or businesses. Children or grandchildren of an Association member who has been a member in good standing for one or more years and who are pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related field may also be considered.

Preference will be given first to children or grandchildren of Association members who are pursuing career in the vegetable, potato or berry production or related industries or businesses. Second preference will be given to non-member students who are pursuing a career in the vegetable, potato or berry production or

related industries or businesses. Last preference will be given to children or grandchildren of members who are pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related field but necessarily in the vegetable, potato or berry industries.

Applicants must be currently enrolled or be planning to enroll in a two-year associate or four-year baccalaureate degree program at an accredited institution and be in good academic standing.

Two \$1,000 scholarships become available each year. Funds that are not awarded in any year are held over to be added to the amount available in subsequent years. If funds are available and there are not other qualified applicants, the committee may award scholarships of up to \$2,000. 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.

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.
  - Describe your previous experiences in agriculture and the role you hope to play in agriculture upon graduation.

Applications must be received or postmarked by April 30, 2021, and are available by contacting PVGA at 717-694-3596 or [pvga@pvga.org](mailto:pvga@pvga.org). The application is also available on the website at <https://www.pvga.org/services/rudolph-grob-memorial-scholarship/>. The scholarship 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.

---

## Members Adopt Resolutions at Virtual Meeting

*continued from page 6*

plasm trial at Penn State. Art King noted that while the Simply Sweet Onion program overall is going well, 2020 was not the best growing season for onions and demand for the Simply Sweet Onion continues to exceed the supply available.

Beth Gugino reported that the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences was grateful for the flat funding for extension and research for the 20/21 fiscal year. The College is working on filling the horticultural/vegetable extension vacancies in Franklin and Butler counties as well as the Central Susquehanna counties vacancy that will be created by the March retirement of John Eslinger.

# BIO 360

Biodegradable | Compostable Mulch Film®



Made from Mater-Bi



BPI Certification



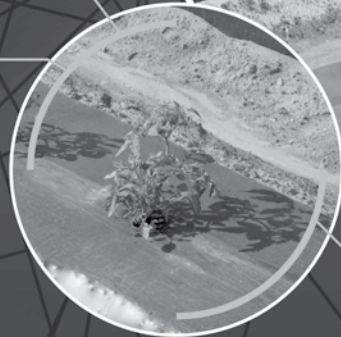
No negative impact on soil



Suitable for many types of crops



Several thicknesses available



Sustainably produced



Nolt's Produce Supplies

717-656-9764 - Leola, PA

[noltsproducesupplies.net](http://noltsproducesupplies.net)

For other regions, contact us

1-844-4BIO360 (1-844-424-6360)



## NEWS

## PVGA Continues to Fund Vegetable and Small Fruit Research Projects

This year, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association will contribute \$38,021 towards vegetable research and \$10,261 for small fruit research. The Board of Directors originally planned to budget \$30,000 from the Association's reserves for vegetable research and \$10,000 for small fruit research. However, they also asked Pennsylvania members to consider making special donations to the Association to increase the amount of funding available for research. Members have responded by donating over \$7,800 to this research fund with \$1,185 being designated for vegetable research and \$300 for small fruit research. Because of this generous response from the members, the Board approved increasing the amounts available to cover the proposals received that felt were important to fund. This year's contributions put PVGA's funding for research over the past 33 years at \$1.3 million.

The following nine vegetable projects are being funded in conjunction with the Vegetable Marketing and Research Program, which will contribute \$20,000 towards the \$58,021 total cost of the projects. The projects approved for funding with their objectives are listed below.

### **No-till vs. Plasticulture Tomatoes: Examining Yield, Earliness, and Soil Health** **\$10,000**

*Elsa Sánchez, Sjoerd Duiker and Francesco Di Gioia - Penn State Univ.*

- to address the early yield problem using row covers and grafting onto cold-tolerant rootstock in summer crops.

### **Expanding Suppressive Microbial Communities to Manage Bacterial Spot of Tomato** **\$8,596**

*Kevin L. Hockett - Penn State Univ.*

- to acquire 6-12 distinct microbial communities from different tomato sources in PA and NY and repeatedly transfer communities from objective 1 to select for those that suppress bacterial spot in a greenhouse setting. If successful, the results of this project will strengthen the idea that such an approach could be used on a wide array of vegetable diseases.

### **Breeding Fresh-Market Tomatoes for Production in PA** **\$8,000**

*Majid R. Foolad - Penn State Univ.*

- to evaluate 98 FM large-size F<sub>1</sub> hybrids with EB resistance (Regular FM F<sub>1</sub> Hybrids).
- to evaluate 77 FM large-size F<sub>1</sub> hybrids with EB + LB resistance (LBR FM F<sub>1</sub> Hybrids).
- to evaluate 104 FM grape tomato hybrids with EB and/or EB + LB resistance (Grape Tomato F<sub>1</sub> Hybrids).
- to evaluate Penn State elite large-size FM tomato breeding lines (Regular FM Inbred Lines).
- to evaluate elite inbred lines of large-size FM tomato breeding lines with LB resistance and other desirable characteristics (LBR FM Inbred Lines).
- to evaluate elite inbred lines of FM grape tomatoes with various desirable characteristics (Grape Tomato Inbred Lines).
- to establish a project to identify and map genes for bacterial canker resistance to be used for breeding purposes.

### **Breeding Processing Tomatoes for Production in PA** **\$6,000**

*Majid R. Foolad - Penn State Univ.*

- to evaluation of a total of 41 PROC tomato F<sub>1</sub> hybrids with EB resistance (Regular PROC F<sub>1</sub> Hybrids).
- to evaluation of 54 PROC tomato F<sub>1</sub> hybrids with EB + LB resistance (LBR PROC F<sub>1</sub> Hybrids)
- to continue development and evaluation of elite inbred lines of PROC tomato with EB resistance (Regular PROC Inbred Lines)
- to continue development and evaluation of elite inbred lines of PROC tomato with EB + LB resistance (LBR PROC Inbred Lines).

- to establish a project to identify and map genes for bacterial canker resistance and move towards production of resistant breeding lines.

### **Exploring Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation as a Biological Method to Manage Root-Knot Nematodes and Enhance Soil Health in High Tunnel Vegetable Production Systems** **\$10,000**

*Francesco Di Gioia and Beth Gugino - Penn State Univ.*

- to assess the efficacy of ASD in managing root-knot nematodes (RKNs) in high tunnel production systems under PA environmental conditions. This will be achieved in two steps testing the technique first in preliminary pot studies and then on farm at field scale.

### **Herbicide Timing Effects on Snap Bean Development and Yield** **\$2,474**

*Lynn Sosnoskie - Cornell Univ., Mark VanGessel - Univ. of Delaware and John Wallace and Dwight Lingenfelter - Penn State Univ.*

- The objective of this study is to evaluate the impacts of herbicide application timing, with respect to crop development, on crop growth and development, harvest timing, and yield quantity and quality. This trial will be conducted at three locations (PA, DE, and NY) to evaluate consistency across regional production environments and practices.

### **Evaluating Burndown Options for No-till Snap Bean** **\$2,500**

*Mark VanGessel - Univ. of Delaware, John Wallace and Dwight Lingenfelter - Penn State Univ., and Lynn Sosnoskie - Cornell Univ.*

Evaluate potential burndown herbicides for no-till snap bean production.

### **Evaluation of Atrazine Alternatives for Postemergence Weed Control in Sweet Corn** **\$2,451**

- John Wallace and Dwight Lingenfelter - Penn State Univ., Lynn Sosnoskie - Cornell Univ., and Mark VanGessel - Univ. of Delaware*
- to compare the weed control efficacy of key postemergence HPPD inhibiting herbicides (Group 27) applied alone or in combination with atrazine, Basagran, Maestro or Starane Ultra. This trial will help determine if these potential atrazine alternatives can produce similar levels of weed control. The trial will be conducted at three locations (Rock Springs PA, Geneva NY, Georgetown DE), which will allow us to compare weed control responses across diverse weed communities and environments.

### **Impact of Management Practices on Soil Health Indicators in Conventional and Organic Vegetable Cropping Systems (multiyear- Year 2)** **\$8,000**

- Gladis Zinati - Rodale Institute*
- to assess the physical and chemical properties in soil samples taken in 48 plots at the 0-4 inch (0-10cm) depth, and 4-8 inch (10-20cm) depth.
  - to assess selected biological properties in soil samples taken from 0-4 inch (0-10 cm) depth and 4-8 inch (10-20 cm) depth in 48 plots.
  - to disseminate the results to growers during the annual field day and in a web article discussing the influence of management practices on selected soil health indicators by depth.

The Vegetable Marketing and Research Board had listed one additional proposal for possible funding, but it was a lower priority and the Association Board voted not to fund it:

### **Improving Sweet Corn Yield and Nutrient Content by Using Mycorrhizal Fungi in Conventional and Organic Vegetable Cropping Systems (two-year project)** **\$2,600.00**

*Gladis Zinati - Rodale Institute*

**NEWS**

The three small fruit proposals being funded this year are as follows and total \$10,261. The first two were approved for funding last year but were not able to be carried out due to pandemic restrictions.

**Characterizing Anthracnose Fruit and Crown Rot Fungi in PA Strawberry Plantings \$1,798**

*Kathleen Demchak and Sara May - Penn State Univ. and Mengjun Hu, Univ. of Maryland*

- to collect samples from anthracnose-affected plants on growers' farms across PA, focusing on those farms that utilize an assortment of production methods, varieties, and plant sources.
- to isolate and obtain 20 to 30 clean cultures of anthracnose isolate from these samples.
- to conduct genetic testing to identify which species are present.
- to maintain cultures at the Univ. of Maryland for fungicide resistance screening work and use in future research.

**Comparing Media Types for Soilless Strawberry Production \$4,901**

*Kathleen Demchak, Timothy Elkner and Krystal Snyder - Penn State Univ. and Extension*

- to trial and demonstrate a containerized day-neutral strawberry production system in a warmer portion of the state relative to where it was developed, and
- to assess renewable media components that could substitute for the non-renewable components.

**Identifying Weed Hosts of Fruit and Crown Anthracnose in Strawberry Fields \$3,562**

*Leah Fronk, Sara May, Kathleen Demchak, and Richard Marini - Penn State Extension and Univ. and Mengjun Hu - Univ. of Maryland*

- to collect weed and fruit samples from five strawberry farms in Pennsylvania, including a strawberry nursery, to identify species of *Colletotrichum* present on weeds in strawberry fields.
- to evaluate the relationship between the species of *Colletotrichum* present on the weeds in the strawberry fields and the species present on the strawberry plant and fruit.

**Do You Need Earn Pesticide Applicator Update Credits BY MAIL?**

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**

Penn State Extension is now offering a new series of workbooks that allow one to earn category and core pesticide credits by mail.

Call 1-877-345-0691 to order the workbooks.

**They cover the following topics:**

- Pumpkin Diseases (2 category credits)
- Tomato Diseases (2 category credits)
- Forage Diseases (2 category credits)
- Pesticide Spills Protocol (2 core credits)
- Adjuvants (2 core credits)
- Pollinators & Pesticides (1 core credit)
- Pesticide Recordkeeping (2 core credits)

**ProducePackaging.com®**

*for all your produce packaging needs*

**1-800-644-8729**

Kurt Zuhlke & Assoc., Inc.  
P.O. Box 609, Bangor, PA 18013



*Over 45 Years In The Industry*

For over 45 years, Kurt Zuhlke & Assoc., Inc. has been a part of the many innovative packaging concepts utilized by the produce industry.



*High Quality Products And Services*

Our packaging is designed to protect produce, provide excellent visibility to the consumer, reduce shrinkage and enhance the product. We also offer professional labeling design and application.



*From Farmers To Repackers*

Whether you are ordering a case or a truck load, you can rest assured that we have the ability and capacity to service your orders quickly.



## NEWS

## National News Briefs

### Apply Now for Expanded COVID-19 Relief Programs

Farmers can apply now for two of the expanded relief programs included in the recently adopted federal COVID-19 relief package.

The application window is open through March 31 for the second round of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.

The program is open to businesses with fewer than 300 employees that show a 25 percent loss between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020. Farmers and business owners can apply for the loans through a participating lender.

Learn more at [www.sba.gov/ppp](http://www.sba.gov/ppp).

In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has reopened Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to producers who were not previously eligible but now qualify due to the relief bill. In addition, USDA will allow certain producers to modify existing CFAP applications to reflect updated payment calculations. Visit <http://bit.ly/3iftMP7> for details on updated payment calculations for:

Certain producers of specialty crops, aquaculture, tobacco, specialty livestock, nursery crops and floriculture.

Certain producers with crop insurance coverage who grew barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, and wheat.

Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP application or producers who need to modify an existing one should contact their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible. New applicants can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877.508.8364.

Learn more at [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap).

From **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**,  
Penna. Farm Bureau, February 2021.

### Vilsack Confirmed as USDA Secretary

The U.S. Senate recently confirmed President Joe Biden's nomination of Vilsack as USDA secretary, allowing Vilsack to resume the post he held from 2009 through 2016. A Pittsburgh native, Vilsack was governor of Iowa before he was picked to lead USDA by President Barack Obama. Vilsack served throughout the Obama administration.

Farm Bureau congratulated Vilsack on his confirmation. American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said Vilsack brings with him "a track record of leadership and previous experience at USDA."

"Secretary Vilsack and I have spoken several times in recent weeks about opportunities and challenges facing America's farmers and ranchers, and I look forward to close collaboration," Duvall said. "We have a lot of work to do as we overcome obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We must commit to resuming CARES Act programs and continue to build on advances made in trade. We must move forward on the successes made in climate-smart practices while seeking partnerships to ensure new environmental policies remain market-based and voluntary. We also recognize the importance of strengthening the farm bill and bringing broadband to every community in America."

From Penna. Farm Bureau

### Ag Employers Compliance Kit Available

The WHD has made available a Compliance Assistance Toolkit for agricultural employers, which can be found here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/compliance-assistance/toolkits/agriculture>

The Toolkit contains fact sheets and guides on a variety of topics related to agricultural employment.

The WHD may be contacted at 1-866-4-USWAGE (1-866-487-9243), or by visiting <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd>.

The Wage and Hour Division (WHD) enforces federal minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, and child labor requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act. WHD also enforces the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, the Employee Polygraph Protection Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, wage garnishment provisions of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, and a number of employment standards and worker protections as provided in several immigration related statutes (H-1B, H-2A, H-2B).

### USDA Halts Foreclosures, Other Actions on FSA Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is temporarily suspending foreclosures and past-due debt collection on certain Farm Service Agency loans to give distressed borrowers relief as they contend with continued economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The move affects distressed borrowers under FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan and the Direct Farm Loan programs. USDA estimates more than 12,000 borrowers—about 10 percent of the 129,000 producers who borrow from the agency—are eligible for the relief.

Specifically, USDA will temporarily suspend non-judicial foreclosures, debt offsets or wage garnishments, and referring foreclosures to the U.S. Department of Justice. In addition, USDA will work with the U.S. Attorney's Office to stop judicial foreclosures and evictions on previously referred accounts.

USDA has also extended deadlines for producers to respond to loan servicing actions, including loan deferral consideration for financially distressed and delinquent borrowers and added flexibility to the Guaranteed Loan program.

From Penna. Farm Bureau



**PREMIUM PROFESSIONAL  
PEAT-BASED SUBSTRATES**



**lambert  
LM-GPS**

Optimized Germination, Plug  
Germination, Plugs  
and Seedlings  
Optimisé pour la germination,  
Germination, boutures  
et semis  
Optimisé pour la germination,  
Germination, plugs  
y semenciers

3.8 55  
107 25



**lambert  
LM-AP**

All Purpose  
Substrat pour usage professionnel  
Tout usage  
Substrat de semenciers professionnels  
Usage general

3.8 55  
107 25

**FOR ALL YOUR GERMINATION  
AND ALL PURPOSE NEEDS**



products available  
**OMRI**  
LISTED  
Para Producción Orgánica  
For Organic Use

**JEFFREY P. BISHOP**  
Cell: (315) 480-1900  
Toll Free: (888) 632-8808  
[lambertpeatmoss@aol.com](mailto:lambertpeatmoss@aol.com)  
[www.lambertpeatmoss.com](http://www.lambertpeatmoss.com)



# Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association

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

815 Middle Road, Richfield, Pennsylvania 17086-9205  
717-694-3596 pvga@pvga.org www.pvga.org

President

**Brian Campbell '24**  
Berwick

First Vice President

**Rita Resick '23**  
Somerset

Second Vice President

**Peter Flynn '24**  
West Chester

Secretary-Treasurer

**William Reynolds '22**  
Waynesboro

Past President

**Jonathan Strite '22**  
Harrisburg

Directors

**Tina Forry '22**  
Palmyra

**Christopher Harner '23**

State College

**Barron Hetherington '22**

Ringtown

**Alan Kemmerer '22**

Berwick

**Arthur King '24**

Valencia

**Amy Metrick '24**

Butler

**Michael Orzolek '24**

State College

**Christopher Powell '23**

Strasburg

**John Shenk '23**

Lititz

**Robert Shenot '22**

Wexford

**Jeffrey Stoltzfus '23**

Atglen

**Mark Troyer '24**

Waterford

**Joel Weaver '23**

Windber

Executive Director

**William Troxell**  
Richfield

## Federal Legislative Priorities for 2021

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is an association of commercial vegetable, potato and berry growers with over 700 members representing an industry that annually produces crops valued at over \$147 million on 3,950 farms with 50,000 acres of farmland across the Commonwealth.

### Labor

**Immigration and Farm Labor Reform** – Our members regularly list immigration reform and labor availability as one of their main legislative concerns. Our growers need an affordable and dependable labor supply to stay in business. We need immigration reform that creates a legal labor force with reasonable verification requirements. A mandatory E-verify bill without a workable agricultural guest program would be disastrous for American agriculture.

**Card Check** – We are opposed to the elimination of the secret ballot for employees in deciding on union representation and to mandatory arbitration to resolve failed union and employer contract negotiations.

### Environmental

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Regulations** – Local governments are imposing burdensome costs on Pennsylvania farms as they seek to cover their costs of complying with this federal mandate.

### Food Safety

**Food Safety Modernization Act – Water Use Rule** – We support safe food production systems, but these mandates should not be so burdensome so as to prevent our small growers from competing in the marketplace for negligible improvement in food safety.

### Appropriations

**Specialty Crop Funding** – The Specialty Crop Block Grants have been a major source of funding for our industry's promotion and research activities. These funds need to be maintained.

**Land Grant Agricultural Research and Extension Funding** – Federal funding of these key agricultural support programs has continued to dwindle. Farmers depend on the research and extension activities of their land grant institutions.

**Nutrition Funding** - The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, Children clients and senior citizens is of great benefit to both of these groups and our growers.

### Taxes and Health Care Costs

**Health Insurance** - Most of our members are self-employed and/or small employers. Spiraling health insurance costs threaten their ability to expand or even maintain their operations.

**Business Depreciation Deduction Limit (Section 179)** – This limit needs to remain at least at \$500,000.

**Inheritance Tax** – This tax should be eliminated.

# Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association



## **2021 Policy Resolutions**

*The Members of the Association recently adopted these additions to our Policy Resolutions putting the Association on record as:*

### **Federal and State Resolutions**

- 1. Supporting state appropriations for an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program that will be sufficient to reduce the level of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff estimated from agriculture by at least 50 percent by 2025.*
- 2. Supporting an exemption for farmers from regulations for draining wet areas on croplands if the area drained is two acres or less.*
- 3. Supporting modifications to the permitting and engineering requirements for the construction of farm ponds to make such ponds more economically feasible for growers.*
- 4. Supporting research to combat new emerging pests (e.g., Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, the Spotted Wing Drosophila Fruit Fly, Bermuda Grass Stem Maggots, the Spotted Lanternfly, etc.).*
- 5. Supporting efforts to have all 48 contiguous states develop a reciprocal agreement regarding their farm plate registrations and to have at least Pennsylvania pursue such agreements with neighboring states.*
- 6. Supporting incentives and support be given to utilities to offer three-phase power to farm operations at a more reasonable cost.*

### **Federal Resolutions**

- 1. Supporting efforts to harmonize food safety audits with what is required under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to reduce duplication.*

*The Association's complete Policy Resolutions are available at [www.pvga.org](http://www.pvga.org)*





# Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association

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

815 Middle Road, Richfield, Pennsylvania 17086-9205  
717-694-3596 pvga@pvga.org www.pvga.org

President  
**Brian Campbell '24**  
Berwick

First Vice President  
**Rita Resick '23**  
Somerset

Second Vice President  
**Peter Flynn '24**  
West Chester

Secretary-Treasurer  
**William Reynolds '22**  
Waynesboro

Past President  
**Jonathan Strite '22**  
Harrisburg

Directors  
**Tina Forry '22**  
Palmyra

**Christopher Harner '23**  
State College

**Barron Hetherington '22**  
Ringtown

**Alan Kemmerer '22**  
Berwick

**Arthur King '24**  
Valencia

**Amy Metrick '24**  
Butler

**Michael Orzolek '24**  
State College

**Christopher Powell '23**  
Strasburg

**John Shenk '23**  
Lititz

**Robert Shenot '22**  
Wexford

**Jeffrey Stoltzfus '23**  
Atglen

**Mark Troyer '24**  
Waterford

**Joel Weaver '23**  
Windber

Executive Director  
**William Troxell**  
Richfield

## State Legislative Priorities for 2021

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is an association of commercial vegetable, potato and berry growers with over 700 members representing an industry that annually produces crops valued at over \$147 million on 3,950 farms with 50,000 acres of farmland across the Commonwealth.

**Unemployment Compensation for H-2A Labor** – Unlike Pennsylvania, many states follow the Federal guidelines that clearly state H-2A employers are exempt from unemployment contributions for H-2A workers. The H-2A program is already very expensive and employers are required to provide a 75% guarantee of the workers' contracted wages. Moreover, the employees usually are not in the country long enough to collect any benefits. We strongly support exempting H-2A employers from making unemployment contributions on H-2A wages.

**Penn State Agricultural Extension and Research Appropriations** - Funding for Penn State Extension and Research is critical to maintain agriculture's cutting edge and should be continued at least at current levels. The vegetable and berry industries have given over \$1.97 million to research in the past 31 years, but we need the extension and research infrastructure that is supported by state appropriations.

**Agritourism Liability Limitation** - Many of our growers have found that adding agritourism activities to their on-farm markets greatly increases their ability to attract more customers for their farm products. However, it also has sometimes opened them up to frivolous lawsuits. We strongly support HB 101 which enables farmers to decrease their liability exposure from agritourism activities.

**High Tunnel Stormwater Management Requirements** – Recent exemptions for high tunnels from stormwater management plan requirements do not cover many farm situations because the farms currently have very limited amounts of impervious area.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Regulations** – Stormwater fees being imposed by local governments need to account for the water absorbing capacity of farmland and should be reduced accordingly for farmland.

**Broadband Internet Access** – High-speed broadband internet access has become a necessary utility for small businesses like our members' farms to be competitive in today's marketplace. The state should make every effort to accurately identify those areas of the state that do not have general access to such high-speed service so that resources can be focused on alleviating this deficiency.

**Farmers' Market Nutrition Program** - Both the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) and low-income senior citizens coupons have greatly increased farm market sales while providing nutrition to needy Pennsylvanians.

# Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association



## **2021 Policy Resolutions**

The Members of the Association recently adopted these additions to our Policy Resolutions putting the Association on record as:

### **State Resolutions**

1. *Supporting provisions that agricultural vehicles which are less than 14'0" in height traveling on the road or in the road right of way not be liable for any damage resulting from knocking down low hanging tree limbs and branches encroaching the road right of way.*
2. *Supporting a collaboration between the Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture and Labor and Industry and the agriculture industry to identify ways to improve workforce development at the state and local level and to assist growers in providing or accessing housing for H-2A workers.*
3. *Supporting changes in the PA Game Commission definition of a "farmer" to include any individual or entity that actively cultivates, operates, or manages land for a profit when determining wildlife harvests for crop damage.*
4. *Supporting provisions that all agriculture and agriculturally-related businesses, including but not limited to farm markets, farmers markets and greenhouses and their retail operations be deemed "essential" during a disaster emergency.*
5. *Supporting a prohibition for counties and municipalities in Pennsylvania to enact and enforce zoning ordinances that require tracts or parcels of agricultural land, consisting of 10 or more acres, to be re-zoned if the agricultural land is being used for commercial purposes.*

### **Federal and State Resolutions**

1. *Supporting state appropriations for an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program that will be sufficient to reduce the level of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff estimated from agriculture by at least 50 percent by 2025.*
2. *Supporting an exemption for farmers from regulations for draining wet areas on croplands if the area drained is two acres or less.*
3. *Supporting modifications to the permitting and engineering requirements for the construction of farm ponds to make such ponds more economically feasible for growers.*
4. *Supporting research to combat new emerging pests (e.g., Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, the Spotted Wing Drosophila Fruit Fly, Bermuda Grass Stem Maggots, the Spotted Lanternfly, etc.).*
5. *Supporting efforts to have all 48 contiguous states develop a reciprocal agreement regarding their farm plate registrations and to have at least Pennsylvania pursue such agreements with neighboring states.*
6. *Supporting incentives and support be given to utilities to offer three-phase power to farm operations at a more reasonable cost.*

The Association's complete Policy Resolutions are available at [www.pvga.org](http://www.pvga.org)

## State News Briefs

### PA House Passes Agritourism Liability Bill

A bill that would limit civil liability for farms that invite the public onto their property for agritourism activities, one of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's top legislative priorities, has cleared the state House.

Representatives voted 142-60 in favor of House Bill 101, sending the legislation to the Senate for consideration.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Barb Gleim of Cumberland County, would offer commonsense legal protection to farms that invite the public onto their property for agritourism activities, such as corn mazes, pick-your-own produce, hayrides, and similar attractions. Specifically, the bill would grant farms that offer agritourism activities reasonable protection from lawsuits that arise from circumstances beyond their control as long as they warn visitors of the inherent risks of being on a farm. At the same time, farmers would still need to take steps to ensure guest safety.

"We are thankful that the State House of Representatives agrees with Pennsylvania farmers that reforming civil liability for agritourism should be a top priority for the new legislative session, especially as we work to rebuild our economy following the COVID-19 pandemic," PFB President Rick Ebert said. "For Pennsylvania agriculture to be preserved for generations to come, farmers need to be able to diversify their businesses, be innovative, and take advantage of market trends. Agritourism helps farms do just that by delivering what consumers increasingly want: Opportunities to connect with their food and make lasting memories on local farms. But the threat of frivolous lawsuits—and the related difficulty of insuring agritourism operations—remains a significant barrier for farms that want to begin or continue offering agritourism experiences."

The legislation would protect farms from lawsuits in cases where no party is at fault if they warn visitors of potential risks by either having them sign a waiver or printing a disclaimer on a ticket or other material that's given to visitors. The measure would not give farms a free pass from ensuring guest safety and farms could still be held accountable if they fail to fix or warn patrons of obvious and dangerous safety risks. The bill is modeled off similar laws already on the books in at least 20 other states, including New York and Ohio.

"Farmers make safety a top priority," Ebert continued. "But farms are natural environments. Factors such as weather, uneven ground, and unpredictable animals make it impossible to eliminate every hazard, despite farmers' best efforts. This commonsense reform would help farmers continue to safely invite the public to experience Pennsylvania agriculture and preserve their farms for future generations."

Reforming civil liability for agritourism has been a longtime priority for PFB and other agriculture organizations. The measure passed the state House last fall with a bipartisan, 120-81 vote. It cleared the Senate after being amended into a separate bill related to COVID-19 but was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Tom Wolf. Wolf cited concerns about the COVID-19 measure as the reason for his veto and did not signal any objection to the agritourism bill.

*From Penna. Farm Bureau*

### Governor's Budget Proposal Would Maintain Funding for Key Agriculture Programs

Gov. Tom Wolf's 2021-2022 state budget proposal would largely maintain funding for key agriculture programs, setting a

*Continued on page 16*



### Seed and Service

Stokes Seeds offers a comprehensive product line from world-class suppliers for commercial growers of all sizes.

Stokes Seeds provides grower-specific seed prescriptions to meet growers' production and profit goals.

### Stokes Seeds' Pennsylvania Seed Consultants



**Tom Pagels**  
609-247-7140  
tpagels@stokeseeds.com



**Tom Dauria**  
908-489-4896  
tdauria@stokeseeds.com



**Blake Myers**  
585-303-3252  
vegetableseeds@aol.com

— Quality Seed Since 1881 —

800-962-4999 | www.stokeseeds.com | 13031 Reflections Dr Holland MI 49424

## NEWS

## State News Briefs *continued from page 15*

good starting point for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to advocate for greater investment in agriculture.

The spending plan would maintain existing funding levels for several key programs, including Penn State University's agricultural research and Cooperative Extension services and University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's food safety and animal welfare programs. The Department of Agriculture's General Government Operations, which provides funding for jobs and services that support Pennsylvania agriculture, would receive a \$1.3 million—or 4 percent—boost. Meanwhile, funding would be cut from some programs.

"We are pleased that the governor's budget proposal recognizes the importance of supporting Pennsylvania's number one industry by maintaining funding for several key agriculture programs," PFB President Rick Ebert said. "We believe this plan will serve as a good starting point as we advocate for more investments to help farm families innovate to grow their businesses and rural Pennsylvania's economy. The COVID-19 pandemic piqued the public's interest in buying local food and underscored the critical role that farmers play in ensuring that our commonwealth has an abundant and accessible food supply. We will continue to highlight opportunities for Pennsylvania to benefit by restoring proposed funding cuts and moving beyond the status quo to invest more in farmers' success."

The plan also calls for increasing funding for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System, which assists with getting excess food from Pennsylvania farms and food processors into the charitable food system. The program was boosted last year by federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding and proved instrumental in helping both farmers and families in need during the pandemic.

The governor's plan would zero out funding for several agriculture line items, including programs related to agricultural research; agricultural promotion, education, and exports; hardwoods research and promotion; livestock and consumer health protection; animal health and diagnostics; and food marketing and research. PFB plans to work with members of the General Assembly to restore funding in those areas.

*From Penna. Farm Bureau*

### Applications Opening Soon for Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

The first opportunity to apply for Pennsylvania's new Beginning Farmer Tax Credit opens Feb. 1.

And it's important to act soon. Credits will be given on a first-come, first-served basis based on when applications are received.

Last summer, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development launched the program. The application window opening Feb. 1 will be for the 2020 tax year.

The income tax credit provides an incentive to lease or sell land, buildings and/or equipment to beginning farmers. The program allows for a one-time tax credit for property sold to a beginning farmer or a multi-year credit for property leased. The tax credit could be used to aid in family transitions—such as sales from a parent or grandparent to a child or grandchild—or to help an unrelated beginning farmer.

Beginning farmers who participate in the program must be certified by DCED by demonstrating that they have the experience or transferable skills needed to work in agriculture, have not received income from farming for longer than 10 years, and plan to farm in Pennsylvania, providing the majority of the labor and

## Refrigerated and Ventilated Cooling Systems for Fruit and Vegetable Storages

- COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION
- DESIGN, SALES AND SERVICE
- SERVING AGRICULTURE FOR OVER 70 YEARS

Free Consultation and Quote

Call Mike Mager at 585-343-2678

**ARCTIC**  
REFRIGERATION CO. OF BATAVIA

26 Cedar Street, Batavia, NY 14020  
www.arcticrefrigeration.com

## Improve the planting, maintenance and harvesting of your produce!



**RoHand II** - Work smarter, not harder.



25 Old Leacock Rd  
Ronks PA 17572  
717-768-7619

**HarvestProMFG.com**

*Innovative equipment  
for produce farmers.*

Manufactured in  
Lancaster County by:



**NEWS**

management for their operation.

Property owners can claim a credit equal to 5 percent of the sale price or fair market value (whichever is lower) of an asset sold to a beginning farmer, up to a maximum of \$32,000. For rental agreements, the credit is equal to 10 percent of gross rental income for the first, second and third years of the rental agreement, up to a maximum of \$7,000 per year. The program is capped at \$5 million for the 2020 tax year.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has information about the program, including state guidance documents and forms, available on its website. Visit [www.pfb.com/BeginningFarmerTaxCredit](http://www.pfb.com/BeginningFarmerTaxCredit) to learn more.

*From Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update, Penna. Farm Bureau, February 2021.*

**Farm Groups, State Agencies Call for More Specifics in Proposed Conowingo WIP**

Five Pennsylvania agricultural organizations including PVGA are urging the Chesapeake Bay Partnership to include more specifics in its proposal for curbing nutrient pollution that enters the bay via the Conowingo Dam.

Specifically, the groups' joint comments on the proposed Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (or C-WIP) call for the plan to be revised to include much more detail on how its pollution reduction goals will be achieved and how those efforts will be funded. The farm groups also urged the CBP to involve Pennsylvania farmers and state officials in its planning process since the proposed plan would put responsibility for achieving its goals almost entirely to the Keystone State—and the agriculture sector in particular. The groups also warned that finalizing the plan without addressing strategies and funding could deal a significant setback to efforts already underway in Pennsylvania to improve

water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

“Pennsylvania farmers have been leaders in implementing conservation practices to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and are continuing to do even more,” Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Rick Ebert said. “We understand even more work is needed to respond to pollution entering the bay via the Conowingo Dam. But we are concerned that the proposed C-WIP’s approach of putting that responsibility almost entirely on Pennsylvania without clearly identifying how those goals can be reasonably achieved or financed will jeopardize our ongoing and future efforts to improve water quality. We are urging the C-WIP Steering Committee to revise its proposal following the principles that have guided Pennsylvania’s planning related to the Chesapeake Bay: Establishing clear and realistic strategies, identifying funding to achieve goals, and working in partnership with the farmers who will ultimately implement the plan at the ground level.”

Other agricultural organizations, in addition to PFB, that jointly filed the comments were Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers, Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association, Pennsylvania State Grange, and Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association.

State agencies—including the Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture, Environmental Protection, and Conservation and Natural Resources—expressed similar concerns in separate comments they jointly filed on the C-WIP. The state agencies raised particular concerns about funding, the need to engage stakeholders—particularly farmers—and the potential for undermining existing efforts.

“How will new outreach tools and strategies for the Conowingo WIP address and mitigate potential stakeholder fatigue from multiple Chesapeake Bay WIPs and from changing targets and goals due to impacts from climate change or modeling chang-

*Continued on page 18*



**Gristmill Farm**  
201 Gristmill Road  
New Holland PA 17557  
717-354-8443



**Ginegar Greenhouse and High Tunnel Plastic**  
Now Cutting custom lengths from master rolls!

- Clear
- Anti-Drip
- Infrared
- Black & White

**Produce Growing Supplies**  
**Early Order Discounts**  
**Starting Dec. 14 2020**  
**Through Jan. 15 2021**



**Irrigation Fittings**  
**Ginegar Plastic Mulch**  
**Bio-degradable Mulch**  
**Tomato Stakes**  
**Tomato Twine**  
**Floating Row Cover**  
**Trellis Net**  
**Blue Layflat Hose**

**Irritec Drip Tape**  
3.2 oz. Ground cover  
2.2 oz. Ground cover  
1 & 1.25 mil. Black Cast Embossed  
1 & 1.25 mil. White Cast Embossed  
1 mil. Clear Cast Embossed  
.6 .7 & .9 mil. Black Bio-degradable  
.7 & .9 mil. White Bio-degradable

**Call for Catalog.**



**sungro**  
HORTICULTURE  
Our Expertise is Growing®  
**Now available!!!**  
**Sungro Potting Mixes**






## NEWS

## State News Briefs *continued from page 17*

es?” the state agencies wrote. “To maintain and expand critical stakeholder engagement and partnership in the development and implementation of the Conowingo WIP, we believe it will be important to look for opportunities to reinforce the fact that the work done to date by the agricultural community has made a difference in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and that we are continuing to move in a positive direction.”

Pennsylvania and other states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are on a federally mandated timeline to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in the bay. Pennsylvania is in the process of implementing its Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), which details how the state will reach pollution-reduction goals for 2025. Pennsylvania’s plan takes a ground-up approach with counties in the watershed establishing localized action plans for implementing farm conservation measures and other practices to meet water quality goals.

The Conowingo Dam, located near the mouth of the Susquehanna River in northern Maryland, has historically played a role in trapping nutrients and sediment before they reach the bay. Calculations used to determine states’ pollution-reduction goals in 2010 took that into account. Research since then has found that the dam is reaching its capacity to trap pollution. The proposed C-WIP was developed by a committee of staff from the CBP and partner states with the intent of planning additional, upstream pollution reductions to offset the additional nutrients—particularly nitrogen—released by the dam.

The proposed C-WIP calls for 95 percent of its proposed nitrogen load reductions to come from Pennsylvania, with 90 percent of those reductions coming from the agricultural sector. Reaching the goals outlined in the plan would cost an estimated \$53.3 million per year, \$45.44 million of that related to implementing additional farm conservation practices.

“With the extensive conservation measures that must be performed and the significant additional costs that must be incurred in achieving C-WIP’s envisioned goals, the pervading question to be raised and answered is how can achievement of these goals be practically accomplished and feasibly financed,” the farm groups wrote in their joint comments. “Yet the Draft C-WIP provides essentially no answer to this question.”

The C-WIP Steering Committee did recently issue a draft financing strategy after opening the draft C-WIP to public comments. PFB is reviewing that proposal.

The farm organizations also voiced concerns that the proposed C-WIP could interfere with Pennsylvania’s efforts to improve water quality as part of its Phase 3 WIP by competing for

the same financial and administrative resources. And they cautioned, effectively moving the goal post for Pennsylvania without seeking greater public input and buy-in could undermine the enthusiasm and spirit of cooperation surrounding Pennsylvania’s ongoing efforts.

“Placing a new layer of performance obligations now on Pennsylvania will further deflate the will and confidence of Pennsylvania officials and stakeholders to more proactively pursue and implement the Commonwealth’s Phase 3 WIP,” the groups wrote. “We...believe that a ‘final’ release of the C-WIP in its current or similar form at this time would be a serious blow to the momentum in spirit and personal commitment among Pennsylvanians to materially improve water quality in Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed.”

*From Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update, Penna. Farm Bureau, February 2021.*


### PGC Gives Preliminary Approval to Sunday Hunting Expansion, Other Changes

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners gave preliminary approval to a slew of changes to the seasons and bag limits for the upcoming 2021-2022 hunting seasons at their virtual meeting on Jan. 23. Included in these changes are the expansion of species that would be allowed to be hunted on two of the authorized Sundays.

The board approved a measure that would expand the species allowed to be hunted on Sunday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 21 to include most small game species, along with deer -archery and bear-firearms, which were allowed for the first time last season. The species to be added are squirrel, ruffed grouse, rabbit, ring-necked pheasant, bobwhite quail, woodchuck (groundhog), opossum, striped skunk, weasel, raccoon and porcupine.

Also approved were a 14-day concurrent antlered and antlerless deer season, a move to allow hunters to apply for and carry extra antlerless tags, and an extension to the DMAP application deadline.


The ‘unlimited’ antlerless tag provision would allow hunters to purchase extra antlerless licenses over the counter starting on the second Monday of Sept. Hunters would be allowed to have four unfilled tags at a time, and could purchase more as they fill their tags, as long as there are tags still available. The PGC hopes to get more allocated antlerless tags filled during the hunting season with this change. The first three rounds of application would remain unchanged.



**Liquid Kelp Concentrate**


Fertrell Liquid Kelp, packed with trace minerals and plant hormones to create healthier more stress resistant plants!

**Special - 10% OFF these GREAT products during February**



**Liquid 3-4-3**

Fertrell Liquid 3-4-3 is formulated to meet the nutritional demands of high producing crops in a liquid fertilization program or a supplemental drip program.



**Liquid #3 2-3-1**

Use as a transplant solution or apply during stress periods of plant growth i.e. early growth, budding, pod formation, fruiting, prior to frost, and crops damaged by herbicides.

**Contact your local Fertrell Rep. or Fertrell’s main office to get further information on our liquid fertilizers.**

**CONTACT US: 800-347-1566 | INFO@FERTRELL.COM | WWW.FERTRELL.COM**

## NEWS

The board also approved an extension of the deadline to apply to enroll their properties in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). The annual deadline would be extended from May 1 to June 1.

All of the above changes are preliminary and would need to be approved at the next board meeting in April. Comments can be submitted to the board ahead of the meeting by emailing pgcomments@pa.gov

From **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**,  
Penna. Farm Bureau, February 2021.

### Plenty of Funding Available for Farm Conservation Planning

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has lots of funding still available to reimburse farmers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed for costs associated with developing conservation plans.

As of mid-December, the Agricultural Plan Reimbursement Program still had more than \$700,000 available to reimburse producers for the cost of hiring technical experts to develop Nutrient and Manure Management and Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control plans. Plans developed after Jan. 1, 2019 are eligible.

More than one plan may be submitted for reimbursement, for up to a maximum of \$6,000. Plans must be submitted by May 31, 2021 to be eligible for reimbursement.

More information about the program is available at <http://bit.ly/2Nranxh>.

For additional questions, farmers in Bradford, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Elk, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Union, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties should contact Josh Glace of Larson Design Group at [jglace@larsondesigngroup.com](mailto:jglace@larsondesigngroup.com) or 570.374.5700, extension 4011.

Farmers in Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cambria, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Somerset, and York Counties should contact Jedd Moncavage of TeamAg at [jeddm@teamaginc.com](mailto:jeddm@teamaginc.com) or 717.721.6795.

From **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**,  
Penna. Farm Bureau, February 2021.

### Six Pa. Counties Included in Disaster Designation for Spring Frost

Six Pennsylvania counties—McKean, Potter, Susquehanna, Tioga, Warren, and Wayne—have been included in a federal disaster designation related to freeze and frost that damaged crops last spring.

Farmers in those counties will be eligible to apply for assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, including emergency loans, to help with losses. In McKean, Susquehanna, Warren and Wayne counties, the designation covers freeze and frost that occurred between April 1 and June 1, 2020. In Potter and Tioga counties, the designation covers freeze that occurred between April 15 and June 1, 2020.

The deadline to apply for emergency loans under this designation is Sept. 15, 2021.

While the disaster designation primarily covers counties in New York, contiguous counties in Pennsylvania are also eligible.

For more information about assistance, contact your FSA county office or visit [www.farmers.gov/recover](http://www.farmers.gov/recover).

From **Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update**,  
Penna. Farm Bureau, February 2021.

## TEW MANUFACTURING CORP.

**Fruit & Vegetable Cleaning & Sizing Equipment & Parts**

**Quality Latex & Poly Sponge Rubber Drying Donuts**

**Tuff Foam® Protective Padding**

**Brushes • Bearings • Sizing Chains**

**Belting • Scrubber Rubber**

**New Stainless Steel Machines**

**CALL TOLL FREE 800-380-5839  
FOR CATALOG & PRICES**

TEW MFG. CORP.

P.O. BOX 87

PENFIELD, NY 14526

585-586-6120

FAX: 585-586-6083

[www.tewmfg.com](http://www.tewmfg.com)



- > Pistol grip spray gun
- > Tee-Jet 6B control valve
- > Pressure regulator
- > Jet agitation
- > Calibration disc

Produced by:  
**Martin's Repair Shop LLC**  
27 W Mohler Church Rd. Ste 1  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
717-733-3015

See a video of the ATX and MRS units in operation at  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CGn\\_Bhcx8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CGn_Bhcx8)

## VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

# Cherry Tomatoes

Amy Ivy

### Pruning & Training

Cherry tomatoes thrive in the protected conditions of a high tunnel and are less prone to cracking where water supply is controlled. Well trained tomatoes are easy to work around, have better air circulation, optimum light penetration, and have higher yields since excess foliage is removed to focus plant energy on producing and ripening fruit. If left untrained, tomatoes will quickly form a tangled mess that is difficult to maneuver through and harvest.

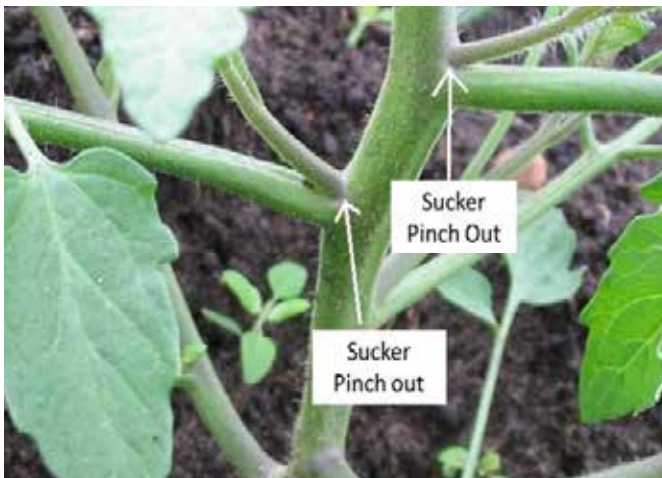
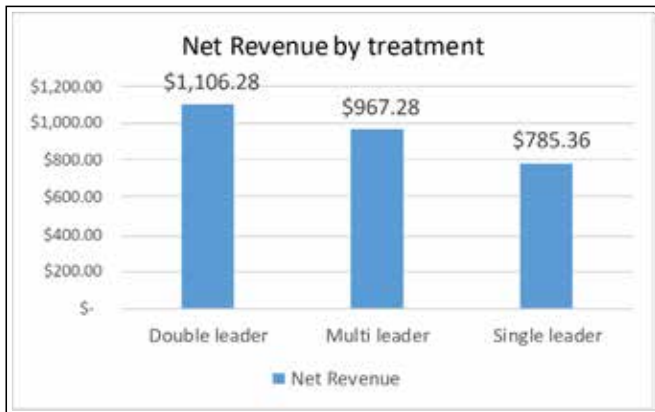
There are many types and varieties of small-fruited tomatoes. In this publication we are focused on indeterminate 'cherry' tomatoes, as compared to the larger 'slicing' tomatoes.

### Is it worth the labor cost to prune and train? Yes!

In response to growers' questions we conducted two seasons of research, comparing three pruning/training systems: an intensively pruned single leader, a double leader and a less intensive system (dubbed multi leader) which started as a double leader and had no additional pruning once harvest began.

**The double leader system proved to be optimal for yield and labor**

- The single leader used the least labor for pruning and harvesting but had the lowest yield
- The multi leader had an acceptable yield but took longer to harvest, reducing net profit
- The double leader was moderately efficient to harvest and had the largest yield and largest net revenue when labor was factored in.



### How Tomatoes Grow

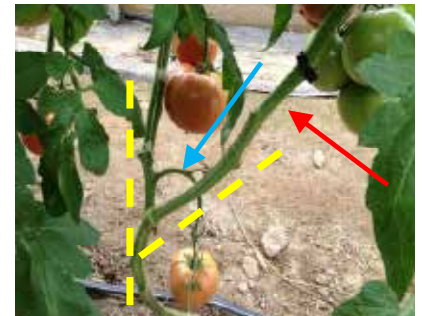
Cherry tomato varieties have an indeterminate growth habit. This means they keep growing and bearing as long as temperature and light allow. They are essentially a vine and produce the most fruit when carefully pruned and trained vertically.

All tomatoes produce suckers above every leaf. Left unpruned, each sucker will grow into a shoot with leaves and fruit. If every sucker remains, all those shoots, leaves and fruit compete with each other for nutrition, light and water. In cherry tomatoes all these shoots become dense and tangled if left unpruned. By limiting the number of suckers and leaves, plant energy is directed to the remaining shoots for optimum yield and quality and labor efficiency. It is best to remove suckers while still small to direct plant energy upward.

### Pruning to the 'Strong Y'

(see photo of slicing tomato, right)

1. Remove the leaves up to the first flower cluster (blue arrow).
2. Leave the sucker just under the first flower cluster (red arrow) and remove all suckers below that point.
3. The stem should now look like the letter 'Y' (yellow dotted line).



### Tip: Removing Lower Leaves

As tomatoes grow taller their lower leaves no longer contribute to plant health. Removing the lower leaves, up to the lowest fruit cluster, allows for better air circulation for less disease pressure.

A handy method of removing leaves is to first bend the leaf upwards and then downwards. Listen for a soft 'snap' with each movement. If the leaves only bend and do not snap, use a sharp knife to cut them off close to the stem.

Snapping is preferred to cutting so the leaf can separate at its natural point of attachment. Use caution to not tear off the leaves which may leave a ragged stump or tear that will be slow to heal over. A clean snap will seal off quickly. And will be easier in the morning when the plants are turgid.





## VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

### Training and Pruning Indeterminate Cherry Tomatoes

#### Training - Provide vertical support

1. Decide on 1 or 2 leaders per plant. Our research found that 2 leaders was optimal in terms of labor and yield.
2. Set the plants at the proper spacing. For cherry tomatoes allow 12" in-row spacing between each leader. This means:
  - 12" between single leader plants:  
X X X X X
  - 18" between double leader plants with 2 overhead wires to spread leaders perpendicular to the row  
X X X X X
  - 24" between double leader plants in a double staggered row pattern (best use of space):  
X X X X X  
X X X X X
3. Drop lines down from the overhead support, 1 line for each leader.
4. Use a tomato clip to fasten the line below the first leaves, add clips every 6-12" up the stem (see below for more information about clips).

#### Pruning

1. For a single leader, remove all suckers and all leaves below the first flower cluster. The result is one long vine-like leader with no side shoots. This method takes the least amount of time but has a lower yield.
2. For a double leader (recommended), establish The Strong Y as described on page 2. Each arm of the Y will become a leader, 2 leaders per plant (see photo, right).
3. Maintain the leaders throughout the entire growing season by continually pruning off all suckers that form. This will need to

*Continued on page 22*



After 12 years of grafting...

Let our mistakes along the way pay for your success! We supply custom orders of GRAFTED plants including: Tomato, Pepper, Eggplant and Watermelon.



142 Black Swamp Rd.  
Bainbridge, PA 17502

717-286-7658 ✦ [grafted@redivined.net](mailto:grafted@redivined.net)

## HEALTHY PREDATORS, PARASITES ON PATROL

### Use Biocontrol To Stamp Out:

- Aphids
- Whiteflies
- Fungus Gnats
- Spider Mites
- Thrips

References available  
in your area.

"I was REALLY pleased! I didn't see aphids [on the tomatoes] during the whole growing season."

Vernon Weaver  
McAlisterville, PA

Hearty Beneficials GUARANTEED  
Call 315.497.2063



**IPM Laboratories, Inc.**  
[ipminfo@ipmlabs.com](mailto:ipminfo@ipmlabs.com)  
Since 1981  
[www.ipmlabs.com](http://www.ipmlabs.com)

## VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

### Cherry Tomatoes *continued from page 21*

be done at least weekly, especially during the first 6 weeks.

4. Continue removing lower leaves as each fruit cluster is harvested. Remove leaves gradually, 1-2 each week, rather than too many at once.

5. If using a spool, lower the vines as the lowest fruit clusters are harvested. The vines will bend as they are lowered.

#### Additional Tips

##### Twine and Clips for Trellising

- Various types of twine are available. Nylon is the most durable, natural fibers deteriorate as the weight of the crop increases. Baling twine is not suitable.
- Tomato clips come in 2 weights as well as compostable. Reviews are mixed of the compostable type in regard to durability.
- Be sure each clip holds the line in its hinge. In this way it holds the weight of the crop without sliding down the line.
- Do not place clips directly under leaves or shoots that are not yet fully formed.

##### Suckering

- When pinching out suckers, the earlier they are removed, the better. Once the suckers are thicker than a pencil they will leave a large wound behind when removed.
- Smaller suckers are easy to pinch off with fingers, using a sideways motion; larger suckers are best removed gently with a sharp knife, using care to not damage neighboring issue.
- It takes regular maintenance to keep ahead of the suckers, especially during the first 6 weeks of growth.
- Check at least twice a week during this period to catch the suckers when small. Spending a little time on a regular basis will have much better results than a larger effort, done less often.

#### Useful Websites:

- Cornell High Tunnels:  
<http://blogs.cornell.edu/hightunnels/>
- CCE Team High Tunnel Websites:  
[http://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/greenhouse\\_tunnels.php](http://cvp.cce.cornell.edu/greenhouse_tunnels.php)  
and  
[http://enych.cce.cornell.edu/greenhouse\\_tunnels.php](http://enych.cce.cornell.edu/greenhouse_tunnels.php)  
March 2018

*Text and photos by Amy Ivy with the Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program with editing by Judson Reid, both with Cornell Cooperative Extension. From Cornell Cooperative Extension, [https://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/uploads/doc\\_677.pdf](https://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/uploads/doc_677.pdf).*



**VEGETABLE PRODUCTION**

**Cucurbit Variety and Fungicide Recommendations for 2021**

*Genevieve Higgins*

In the last 15 years, late-summer and fall cucumbers have become increasingly hard to grow—long gone are the days when you could reliably harvest cucumbers until the frost. This is largely due to cucurbit downy mildew, a disease that overwinters in the southern US and is blown northward on storm fronts annually, arriving in MA around mid-August and effectively ending the cucumber season. Previously, cucurbit downy mildew was not a concern for Massachusetts growers because all cucumber varieties were bred to have resistance to the disease. However in 2004, the pathogen evolved and overcame that resistance, and breeders have been working hard to develop new resistant varieties ever since.

For the past 5 years, the UMass Extension Vegetable Program has worked with the NEVBGA and Johnny’s Selected Seeds to conduct cucumber variety trials to evaluate varieties’ susceptibility to cucurbit downy mildew (DM). Over the years, these trials have helped to identify DM-resistant cucumber varieties appropriate for New England markets, including Bristol, DMR401, NYS264, and Citadel. Results from our 2016-17 trials are available in the March 15, 2018 issue of Vegetable Notes at [https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/newsletters/march\\_15\\_2018\\_vegetable\\_notes.pdf?subject=](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/newsletters/march_15_2018_vegetable_notes.pdf?subject=)

In our 2020 trial, we evaluated 8 cucumber varieties—7 slicers and 1 pickler—with 4 replications of each variety organized in randomized complete blocks. We planted three-week old seedlings into raised beds with black plastic mulch, with 1 line of drip irrigation per bed. Each plot was made up of 6 plants, 18 inches apart in-row, with 10 feet of unplanted bed between plots. We then measured downy mildew severity in each plot weekly, and total and marketable yield twice a week. Cucumbers were deemed “unmarketable” if they were misshapen or had significant insect damage (most commonly, striped cucumber beetle damage).

Despite the drought conditions in 2020, DM arrived relatively early in our trial, on July 24. Normally in these trials, we also evaluate the varieties for powdery mildew resistance, but powdery mildew didn’t develop in our trial at all in 2020 since all the varieties tested had resistance to that disease as well. DM appeared first on the variety TSX CU201AS, followed by Marketmore 76 and Green 18 the following week. Plant pathologists commonly compare disease incidence over time using a single value, called the Area Under the Disease Progress Curve, or AUDPC. A higher AUDPC value means more disease over time, and a lower AUDPC means less disease over time.



SV4149, a pickling variety.



TRI-CU234 performed consistently well regarding AUDPC and yield.

Continued on page 24

Since 2001 Authority in Refrigeration for Agro-Industrial Applications in North America.

**PLUG AND PLAY**  **FREE COOLING**

- Thru the Wall
- Portable
- Roof Mounted
- Hydrocoolers
- Custom Designs
- Blast Freezers
- Chillers
- Greenhouse Coolers



1.866.748.7786  
info@kooljet.com

**SEE VIDEOS OF SPRAYERS IN ACTION ON UPDATED WEBSITE!  
NEW HYDRAULIC FOLD SPRAYER FEATURES AIRBAG BOOM SUSPENSION!**



**200, 300 & 400 Gal. Manual Fold • 300 & 400 Gal. Hyd. Fold**

Ask us about the advantages of the front mount boom.

**PENNS CREEK MFG.**

1340 Broadway Rd., Winfield, PA 17889

570-837-1197

[www.pennscreekwelding.com](http://www.pennscreekwelding.com)

**BUILDERS OF DEPENDABLE ECONOMICAL VEGETABLE SPRAYERS**

## VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Cucurbit Variety and Fungicide Recommendations for 2021 *continued from page 23*

- Marketmore 76 and Green 18 had significantly higher AUDPC levels than all other varieties in this trial, showing that they had lower resistance to the disease.
- **TRI-CU234AS** and **TRI-CU236AS** had the lowest AUDPC of all varieties in this trial, and **CU231AS** had a slightly numerically higher but not significantly different AUDPC. This means that these 3 varieties performed equally well and had the lowest downy mildew incidence over time.
- **SV4149**, the only pickling variety in this trial, had the highest marketable yield. Of the slicing varieties, TSX CU201, TSX CU234, Raceway, and Marketmore 76 produced the highest marketable yields. Marketmore 76 had high downy mildew incidence but produced one of the highest marketable yields—this has been a trend observed over the last few years in these trials.
- Of the slicing varieties, **TRI-CU234** performed consistently well in regards to marketable yield and disease resistance.
- TSX CU201AS and CU231AS were also evaluated in the 2019 trial. In 2019, TSX CU201AS was the overall best-performing variety, with high marketable weight and low downy and powdery mildew incidence, and CU231AS had low disease incidence but low marketable yield. In 2020, TRI-CU234AS performed better than both TSX CU201AS and CU231AS.

every year at MSU, as the efficacy of available materials changes frequently and materials come on and off of recommendations list every year. Fungicide applications should consist of a targeted downy mildew material tank-mixed with a broad-spectrum fungicide like chlorothalonil or mancozeb. Rotate between FRAC groups with every application. Some products, including Orondis Opti, Gavel, and Zing! already contain either mancozeb or chlorothalonil, so be aware of that when making up your mixes and rotations.

- Of the targeted materials in the 2020 MSU trials, **Orondis Opti** (FRAC Groups M5 & 49) provided the best control, followed by **Omega** (29), **Gavel** (22 & M3), **Zampro** (45 & 40), **Zing!** (22 & M5), and **Ranman** (21).
- Elumin (22), Previcur Flex (28), Forum (15), Presidio (43), and Cabrio (11) are no longer effective. Elumin and Previcur Flex performed fairly well in the early season but were overcome by DM in the later season.
- Mancozeb and chlorothalonil remain effective broad-spectrum protectants.
- The most effective fungicide program was **Orondis Opti alternated with Elumin + Bravo alternated with Ranman + Bravo alternated with Zampro + Bravo**. Applying **Orondis Opti** early in the program had a significant effect on the program's overall success.

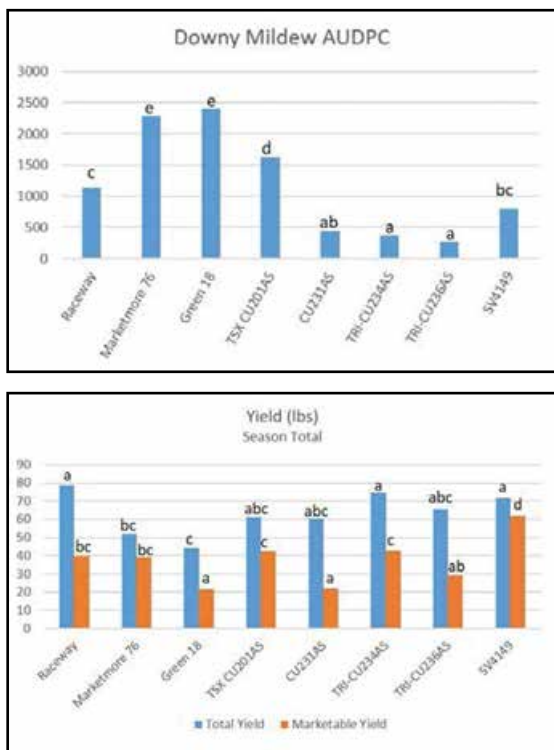


Figure 1 shows the AUDPC, which again represents the disease incidence over time—a higher AUDPC means more disease. Values that are followed by the same letter are not significantly different from each other. For example, the marketable weight for Green 18 is not significantly different from the those of CU231AS or TRI-CU236AS, and the marketable weight of TRI-CU236AS is also not significantly different from that of Raceway or Marketmore 76.

### 2021 Chemical Control Recommendations

Below are chemical control recommendations from Mary Hausbeck of Michigan State University, as presented at this year's Great Lakes Expo. Chemical control of cucurbit DM is evaluated

*Ms. Higgins is with the Univ. of Massachusetts Extension Vegetable Program. From **Vegetable Notes for Vegetable Farmers in Massachusetts**, Univ. of Mass. Extension, Vol. 33, No. 1, January 21, 2021.*

Your Source for . . .

# HIGH TUNNELS



Call Harry Edwards @ 717.606.8021  
or Email [hedwards@rimol.com](mailto:hedwards@rimol.com)

## VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

# Lettuce Rot Diseases in Winter High Tunnels

Genevieve Higgins

In the last few weeks, we have seen a few high tunnels with lettuce rotting from the base upwards, and in some cases, fully melted heads. This can be caused by several different pathogens that are all favored by the cool, humid environment of a winter tunnel. Sometimes, more than one pathogen can be present at once, and they are unfortunately difficult to control in a winter high tunnel environment.

**Gray mold**, caused by the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*, is a common pathogen in high tunnels year round – it loves the high humidity in a tunnel. *Botrytis* produces lots of gray-brown asexual spores on the surfaces of infected tissue, giving them a fuzzy appearance. It is a weak pathogen; the spores cannot infect healthy, robust plant tissues initially but can infect weak or damaged tissues. In high tunnel tomatoes, *Botrytis* spores will infect senescent flowers or stems wounded from pruning, where the fungus is able to grow and gain strength before moving on to infect healthy fruit or stems. The fungus survives between plantings on crop residues and as sclerotia (small, hard, black masses of mycelia that serve as overwintering structures) in the soil. In winter lettuce crops, spores can infect senescent or damaged leaves (e.g. leaves that have been frosted or those cut during harvesting) and then move into the healthy stem and crown of the lettuce plants, causing the whole plant to melt. The leaves need to be wet for the fungus to infect. *Botrytis* often occurs along with other diseases, including bottom rot, moving in as a secondary pathogen.

**Bottom rot** is a similar disease, caused by a different fungus, *Rhizoctonia solani*. This is the same fungus that can cause Lettuce head rot caused by a combination of *Botrytis* and *Rhizoctonia* in a winter high tunnel. Photo: G. Higgins 5 damping off in seedlings, wirestem in brassicas, and other seedling diseases. Similarly to *Botrytis*, it is not a super strong pathogen but can take off when plants are somehow weakened, like in the cold, dark winter when lettuce crops are growing slowly. *Rhizoctonia* survives in the soil, as mycelium or sclerotia, and infects lettuce leaves that are in contact with the ground. Unlike *Botrytis*, it does not produce spores on the surface of the infected tissue. Bottom rot is most commonly seen affecting older lettuce plants.

We have only seen gray mold and bottom rot this season, but **lettuce drop** or **white mold** is a third disease that can be confused for either of the other two. The fungus that causes lettuce drop, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, is a more aggressive pathogen that can infect healthy crops as well, and its host range includes many vegetables such as tomato and bean. It produces sclerotia that can survive in the soil for many years. To distinguish lettuce drop from gray mold or bottom rot: *Sclerotinia* produces fluffy white mycelium on infected tissues, and pea-sized (or larger) sclerotia within the plant tissue. For management recommendations for lettuce drop, see our white mold fact sheet.

### Management

- Till under summer crop residue well. All of these fungi can survive in crop residues and have broad host ranges. Sclerotia of *Rhizoctonia* survive for less time and are less able to infect plants at greater depths.
- Plant into raised beds with good drainage. All of these diseases are favored by wet conditions.
- Plant healthy, vigorous but not overgrown transplants.
- Take measures to reduce leaf wetness: ventilate your high tunnels when it's warm enough to do so, avoid using row cover unless it's needed to prevent frost damage, use drip instead of overhead irrigation, control weeds.

Few fungicides are labeled for *Rhizoctonia* or *Botrytis* and there is little efficacy data on their performance against those diseases. For a list of labeled products, see the lettuce disease section of the Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Recommendations.

*Ms. Higgins is with the Univ. of Massachusetts Extension Vegetable Program. From **Vegetable Notes for Vegetable Farmers in Massachusetts**, Univ. of Mass. Extension, Vol. 33, No. 2, February 11, 2021.*

## Hillside Cultivator Co. LLC



**Hydraulic adjusted cultivator**  
for the edges of plastic mulch



**Cultivators** especially for  
**Strawberries**



**Eco Weeder** for close cultivation  
around individual plants

For more information visit [hillsidecultivator.com](http://hillsidecultivator.com)

Contact: John Shenk 717-669-3158 Lititz, PA [hillsidecultivator@gmail.com](mailto:hillsidecultivator@gmail.com)

## POTATO PRODUCTION

### Resources for Potato Growers Online

The PVGA Potato Committee has identified a listing of potato production information that is available online. Links for the following resources are available on the PVGA website at <https://www.pvga.org/potato-grower-resources/>.

- **Commercial Potato Production in North America** (Potato Assn Of America)
- **Mid-Atlantic Commercial Potato Production Guide** includes weed, insect, and disease controls plus recommendations on soil fertility and variety selection. Updated every two years by land grant university specialists.
- **Managing Seed Potatoes for Planting** - University of Maine - Bulletin #2412, Potato Facts: Selecting, Cutting and Handling Potato Seed - Cooperative Extension Publications - University of Maine Cooperative Extension ([umaine.edu](http://umaine.edu))
- **Penn State University Potato Research Reports** - The 2020 PSU Potato Research Report is not yet completed but will be available soon. You can find it by Googling "Penn State Potato Research Report". The 2019, 2018 and 2017 are available from links on the page.
- **Chip Potato Variety Trial Reports from PA** contained in the. Pennsylvania chip variety field trial results are included in the PotatoesUSA Potato Variety Database with tutorial videos to get you started.
- **PA Cooperative Potato Growers, Inc.** – connecting buyers and growers

## BERRY PRODUCTION

### Berry Growers Facebook Group Formed



The PVGA Berry Committee has established a "PVGA Berry Growers" private group on Facebook to allow berry growers to share their successes and challenges. Since this is a private group, it will only be open to invited persons - which is all PVGA members. Furthermore, posts you make on the page will only be visible to the other members of the group, not the general public or consumers. Thus, if you want to ask how your fellow growers are dealing with customer problems, pest problems or other issues that consumers might misinterpret, you can do so on this page and it will not be seen by non-growers. The Committee's hope is that this will become a valuable resource for berry growers to share information.

To join the group, go to your or to your farm's Facebook page. On the top left-hand corner there will be a search box that says "search Facebook". Type in "PVGA Berry Growers" and search. A list of groups should appear. If "PVGA Berry Growers" does not appear first, keep scrolling down until you see it. Click on the title. You will see a blue button on the right that says Join Now. Click on it. Since this is a private group you will not have access immediately. Once your join request is approved by the PVGA office, you can reach the group by searching the same way you did to join. You will be notified when there are new posts in the group.

Naturally the success of this effort will depend on you as a grower joining the group and then contributing posts and comments throughout the year.

### Like the PVGA Facebook Page

PVGA has had a Facebook page for several years (search for "Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association." We have been using it primarily to share posts from other growers Facebook pages to give you an idea of what other growers are posting. If you use Facebook to reach your customers, send us a message on Messenger so we can "like" your page and see what you are posting. We wouldn't share all your posts to the PVGA page, but we will try to share one from time to time, particularly if it is unique.



## CLASSIFIEDS

### State News Briefs continued from page 19

#### PA Counties Included in Disaster Designation for Drought

Farmers in 25 Pennsylvania counties will be eligible for federal disaster relief to assist with losses that resulted from drought conditions last summer and fall.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued two Secretarial disaster designations covering counties in the central and northwest parts of the state. That means that eligible farmers in those counties will be able to apply for assistance from USDA's Farm Service Agency, including emergency loans.

Farmers in Armstrong, Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Center, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Mifflin, Potter, Union, and Warren counties are can apply for relief related to losses due to drought June 1, 2020, through Nov. 30, 2020. Farmers in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Perry, and York counties can apply for relief related to losses due to drought June 1, 2020, through Nov. 17, 2020.

For more information about assistance, contact your FSA county office or visit <https://www.farmers.gov/recover>.

*From Penna. Farm Bureau*

#### Free Utility Bill Analyses Available for Farmers

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Penn State Extension have launched a new energy assistance program for agricultural producers in Pennsylvania.

Utility bill analyses will be provided free of charge upon request. A utility bill analysis involves review of 12 months of utility bills to determine simple ways for saving energy, to ensure taxes and fees are correct, and to help you make sense of the charges on your bills.

Farmers, take advantage of this free service now by contacting Ed Johnstonbaugh, Penn State Extension, at [exj11@psu.edu](mailto:exj11@psu.edu).

*From Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update,  
Penna. Farm Bureau, February 2021.*

#### Webinar Series to Examine Energy Savings

Penn State Extension and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection are offering a free, lunchtime webinar series to help farmers learn more about options for improving energy efficiency.

The sessions will focus on strategies that farmers can implement to improve their bottom lines by reducing energy costs, while also benefiting the environment. Topics include solar power, information for new farmers, high-efficiency lighting, heating, biogas, analyzing utility bills and strategies specific to dairy and poultry operations.

The hour-long webinars will be held each Thursday at noon March 25 through May 6.

Learn more and register at [bit.ly/farmenergyday](http://bit.ly/farmenergyday).

*From Pennsylvania Agricultural Alliance Issues Update,  
Penna. Farm Bureau, February 2021.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Employment

#### Administrative Assistant - PA Potato Coop

Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers, Inc. is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant, 40 hours/week working remotely on computer, with some in-office work in Harrisburg as necessary. Responsibilities include utilizing QuickBooks, Excel, & Word for entries, reports, financials, transactions & records; as well as performing general office duties. Job includes paid benefits. Please reach out to our office at 717-232-5300 for more information.


### Businesses and Farms

#### FOR SALE BY OWNER - PRICE REDUCED

**GREENHOUSE/GARDEN CENTER OPERATION AT 171** Greenhouse Road (Snyder County), Middleburg, PA 17842. Owners retiring. Proven profitable business model for over 40 years. Turn-key business with records, equipment, inventory, trees, shrubs, retail items. Owner is willing to assist in transition. Creative financing possible. The 18-acre property consists of a two-story, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with small stream and approximately 60,000 sq. ft. total greenhouse area consisting of aluminum structures with flood tables. A 100 gallon+/minute never-failing well. Additional land to lease.

**Call or text Larry at 570-765-6470.**


**Remember — Classified Ads are FREE for PVGA Members for non-commercial sales.**



*Delivering Quality*

High-quality plants.  
Exceptional customer service.

**It's our mission.  
Literally.**



NourseFarms.com | 413-665-2658 | [info@noursefarms.com](mailto:info@noursefarms.com)

**Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association**

815 Middle Road  
Richfield, Pennsylvania 17086-9205  
717-694-3596  
pvga@pvga.org  
www.pvga.org

*Address Service Requested*



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HARRISBURG PA  
PERMIT NO. 533

# Keep Your Cash Longer

*Industry-Leading, In-House Credit Terms Built on Trust*

**J**ust as you trust us with your business, we trust you with ours. With the Harris Seeds credit program, **you don't have to worry about paying us until November 1**, when your season is behind you and your cash is in the bank. And just as we help you keep your hard-earned cash for longer, we're also bringing you the most profitable vegetable varieties to help you earn even more of it.

When you shop with Harris Seeds, you'll enjoy...

- ★ **Generous, multi-tiered discounts**
- ★ **Grower-friendly credit terms**
- ★ **Industry-leading varieties that support your profitability**

★★★★★

**"They should rename Kratos 'The Money Maker.'**

*Second year growing Kratos and I'm going to double down on them for next season. Sold every single one I picked. Best consistency of size and shape, best handles that don't break, best vine health, and best money maker I've had."*

— Patrick R.



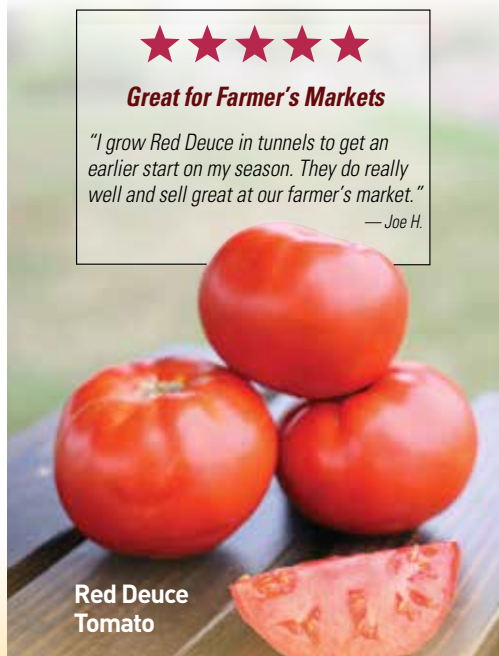
**Kratos Pumpkin**

★★★★★

**Great for Farmer's Markets**

*"I grow Red Deuce in tunnels to get an earlier start on my season. They do really well and sell great at our farmer's market."*

— Joe H.



**Red Deuce Tomato**



**Revolution Pepper**

★★★★★

**Best Pepper Ever**

*"The Revolution pepper is the best I've ever grown and eaten. They are large, thick walled, juicy and sweet. I started mine indoors in March and had peppers by July through to frost. They are great for stuffing as well Love them!"*

— Nancy A.

Call us at 800.544.7938 to take advantage of our credit terms or use the code 1PVGFEb to get 5% off your order\* at harrisseed.com.



\* Discount code valid through April 30, 2021.