

**2018 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention
Program Session Outline**

Monday Workshops and Tour	
010 FSMA	060 Managing Your Farm Business
020 Biocontrols	070 Managing Your Retail Market
030 Computer Record Keeping	080 YGA Orchard Trellis Construction
040 Pesticides Lic. Training	090 UK Cider
050 Urban Community Farming	099 Marketing Tour
Tuesday Morning	Tuesday Afternoon
110 Tomatoes	210 Tomatoes
120 Organic Veg. Prod.	220 Organic Veg. Prod.
130 Rhubarb	230 Cut Flowers
140 Kale/Brussels Sprouts	240 Root Vegetables
150 Application of Drones	250 Ethnic/Specialty Vegetables
160 Micro Greens	260 Farm Management
170 Food Trends	270 Agritourism
180 Tree Fruit	280 Tree Fruit
190 Keynote Presentation	Tuesday Evening
	Grower Reception
	Grower Banquet

Wednesday Morning	Wednesday Afternoon
310 Pumpkins/Vine Crops	410 General Vegetables
320 Greenhouse Ornamentals	420 Greenhouse Ornamentals
330 General Vegetables	430 Cover Crops
340 Soil Health/Reduce Tillage	440 Educating Consumers and Media to Your Advantage
350 Farm Market Development	450 Wholesale Marketing
360 Small Fruit	460 Small Fruit
370 Wine Grapes	470 Wine Grapes
380 Tree Fruit	480 Tree Fruit
390 Spanish	490 Spanish
Wednesday Evening	
Apple Reception	Ice Cream Social
Forming Peer Discussion Groups	
Thursday Morning	Thursday Afternoon
510 High Tunnels	610 High Tunnels
520 Sweet Corn	620 Third Party GAP Audits
530 Potatoes	630 Potatoes
540 General Vegetables	640 Farm Labor
550 Alternative Activities for On-Farm Marketing	650 Marketing on Social Media
560 Small Fruit	660 Small Fruit
570 Asparagus	
580 Tree Fruit	

2018 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention Detailed Program

as of November 1, 2017, and subject to change

Monday, January 29, 2018 – Pre-Convention Workshops

010 FSMA Grower Training- (\$150 with a \$130 discount from PDA for PA farmers - one discount per farm – includes lunch and required training materials) (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Intended for fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course will satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c), which states:

"At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration."

Approximately seven hours of instruction time will be spent on the following modules:

- Introduction to Produce Safety
- Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
- Agricultural Water (Part I: Production Water; Part II: Postharvest Water)
- Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

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

020 Biocontrols – (fee \$75) (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m, includes lunch) details to be announced

Biocontrols offer growers tools to better control many insects, mites and plant diseases. This one day school will focus on indoor production of vegetables and herbs. Many of the concepts and techniques will be applicable to outdoor production.

9:00 *How and Why Biocontrol Systems Can Break Down - Alex Traven, Peace Tree Farms,

10:00 *Managing Soil-Borne Diseases with Biocontrols - Steven Bogash

10:45 Break

11:00 *Managing Foliar, Flower and Fruit Diseases Using Biocontrols - Steve Bogash

11:45 Lunch

12:45 *Implementing a successful Banker Plant Program, Alex Traven

1:30 *Aphid Management Using Beneficial Insects and Mites - Suzanne W. Evans, Buglady Consulting

2:30 Break

2:45 *The Promise and Peril of Using Bio-Insecticides in Protected Culture - Thomas Ford, Penn State Extension

3:30 *Mite Management using Beneficial Insects and Mites - Suzanne W. Evans, Buglady Consulting

4:30 *Realities of Starting with Biocontrols - Lloyd Traven, Peace Tree Farms

5:00 *Adjourn

030 Computer Record Keeping – (fee \$30) (12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m.)

This workshop presented by Penn State Extension Educator Robert Goodling will be an overview of computer software and apps on other electronic devices that can help growers better manage their farm operations. It will cover the following:

--Using financial records to make business decisions (1 hour)

a. Using Quickbooks/classes and inventories to track sales and COP

b. Using spreadsheets/pdfs to do the same (using some of the PSU already have available).

c. Predicting the future (models series for vegetables or fruits from start Farming)

--Using software to maintain pesticide application records (1 hour)

--Making the most of your spreadsheets (1 hour)

a. Other useful spreadsheets

b. Being aware of what is needed/time invested

--Using the smartphone in the field and other useful apps (1 hour)

a. Extension scouting app

b. Other essential apps (beyond weather)

c. Participant group share

040 PA Pesticide License Training – (fee \$65 includes lunch and required training materials) (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

A presentation of the information needed by pesticide applicators to be able to successfully pass the required test to become a licensed pesticide applicator in Pennsylvania. The test will be administered on the morning the following day, January 30, 2018.

050 Urban Community Farming, A Cornucopia of Opportunity (fee \$75) (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., includes lunch)

All across America entrepreneurs and community groups are working to eliminate food deserts in urban areas through the establishment of urban farms. This day-long course featuring some of the Mid-Atlantic's top experts will provide a primer for new and experienced urban farmers on a variety of topics that are central to the success and growth of their urban farm.

9:00 **Registration**

9:30 **Soil Health and the Urban Farmer** - Neith Grace Little, Univ. of Maryland Extension

10:15 **Crop Scheduling for a Continuous Harvest** - Amy Cook, Educator/Consultant

11:00 **Break**

11:15 **Nutrient Management on the Urban Farm** - Neith Grace Little, Univ. of Maryland Extension

12:00 **Lunch**

12:45 **Pollination Basics for the Urban Farmer** - Tom Butzler, Penn State Extension

1:15 **Irrigation Design & Management on the Urban Farm** - Bill Wolfram, Toro Micro-Irrigation

2:00 **Season Extension Techniques for Urban Farmers** - Tommy McCann, Penn State Extension

2:30 **Utilizing Biocontrols for Insect & Disease Management** - Dr. Carla Burkle, Penn State Extension

3:15 **Postharvest Food Safety and The Urban Farmer** - Justine Beaulieu, Univ. of Maryland Extension

4:00 **Adjourn**

060 Managing Your Farm Business (fee \$45) (9:00 to 11:45 a.m.)

9:00 **Leadership** - Jason Weigle, Penn State Extension

9:45 **Tracking Costs Across All Enterprise** - Peter Hicks, Hicks Brothers, LLC

10:30 **Break**

11:00 **Financial Management Tools** - Michael Sciabarrasi, Univ. of New Hampshire Extension

11:45 **Adjourn**

070 Managing Your Retail Market (fee \$45) (1:00 to 4:30 p.m.)

1:00 **Business Development** - Jason Weigle, Penn State Extension

1:45 **Evaluating an New Enterprise** - Ginger Myers, Univ. of Maryland Extension

2:30 **Break**

3:00 **Working to Maximize Sales Per Square Foot** - Joshua Smith, Frecon Orchards

3:45 **Market Forecasting and Analysis** - Michael Sciabarrasi, Univ. of New Hampshire Extension

4:30 **Adjourn**

080 Best Practices for Orchard Trellis Construction – (fee \$20) (1:30p.m. – 3:30p.m.)

To be held at the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center (FREC), 290 Univ. Drive, Biglerville, PA 17307

Have you had to repair a trellis that failed due to a wind storm or heavy crop load? Do you struggle with decisions on cost-effective trellis materials and design features? Do you have trouble-shooting questions for a trellis you've already installed?

Join us for this workshop held the afternoon prior to the start of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention. Our speakers are John Wall, John Wall, Inc., who will provide a field training on trellis design principles, and Lynn Kime, Penn State Extension, who will discuss trellis economics.

John Wall, originally from New Zealand, introduced high tensile smooth wire from for U.S. fencing and trellises, and he has taught courses at 48 universities and numerous contractor schools. John designed and built the largest assembly in the world of international trellis systems and developed a construction manual on design specifications. This manual continues to be the "go-to" reference for engineering trellises that will last. Focused on safety, simplicity, and ease of installation, John's company has more than 13 patents. John will focus on the key components of a strong trellis system, including treatment of posts, coating of wires, methods of wire attachment, and end-post assemblies. The workshop is intended to be interactive, so bring any trouble-shooting and other questions you have!

090 UK Cider – (fee \$150) (1:00 to 4:00 p.m.)

To be held at Wyndridge Farm, 885 S. Pleasant Ave., Dallastown, PA

Guest speakers Tom Oliver from Oliver's Cider and Perry in Herefordshire and Gabe Cook, the Ciderologist, will cover the following topics:

U.K. Cider—Tradition & Today Statistics show that the U.S. cider industry follow U.K. trends. Find out if this holds true for English Cider & Perry traditions and what the industry is up to today.

Wild Fermentation Have you tried your hand at wild fermentation? Learn tricks of the trade from Tom Oliver on his preferred methods, lessons learned and why using wild yeast is his preference.

Blending—Structure & Practice Try your hand at blending techniques popular in the U.K. and discuss how to best use the delicate balance between acids, tannins and sweetness.

Sensory Analysis Hone your olfactory skills as The Ciderologist and Tom Oliver walk you through the nuances of tasting English and North American ciders.

Your Cider Analyzed Drop off a cider sample at the workshop and we will supply you individual tasting notes from the Ciderologist via postal mail following the event. Use this information to assist in refining your product, developing your own tasting vocabulary or enhancing your labels.

099 Farm Market Tour – (fee \$60) (includes bus and lunch) details to be announced

Tuesday Morning, January 30, 2018

110 Tomatoes – Trinidad Room

- 9:00 **To be announced**
- 9:30 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 9:45 **Tomato Disease Update** – Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 10:30 **Adjourn to Keynote Session**

120 Organic Vegetable Production - Empire Room AB

- 9:00 **Impacts of Conventional Pest Management Practices on Organic Farming** - Galen Dively, Univ. of Maryland
- 9:30 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 9:45 **Managing Weeds in Organic Vegetables** – Alan Leslie, Univ. of Maryland
- 10:30 **Adjourn to Keynote Session**

130 Rhubarb - Empire Room CD - to be announced

- 9:00 **How We Grow Rhubarb in Colorado** – Dennis Duncan, High Altitude Rhubarb
- 9:30 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 9:45 **How We Grow Rhubarb in Ontario** – William French, Lennox Farms
- 10:30 **Adjourn to Keynote Session**

140 Kale/Brussels Sprouts - Crystal Room

- 9:00 **Increasing Success with Brussels Sprouts: Varieties, Topping and Insect Management** – Dr. Rebecca Sideman, Univ. of New Hampshire
- 9:30 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 9:45 **How We Do Kale** – grower panel: David Miller, Miller Plant Farm; Richard Calimer, Scenic View Orchards
- 10:30 **Adjourn to Keynote Session**

150 Application of Drones and Mapping – Where is This Going? - Magnolia Room AB

- 9:00 **Drone and Satellite Mapping - The Exciting News** - Justin Croner, GrowMarkFS
- 9:30 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 9:45 **Veris Mapping Why Should We Do This?** - Justin Croner - GrowMarkFS
- 10:30 **Adjourn to Keynote Session**

160 Microgreens - Wild Rose Room

- 9:00 **Selection Criteria and Use of Microgreens by Chefs** - Zach Ford, U.S. Hotel Restaurant & Tavern
- 9:30 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 9:45 **Microgreens Production II** - Dr. Robert Berghage, Penn State Univ.
- 10:30 **Adjourn to Keynote Session**

170 Food Trends - Cocoa Terrace/Cocoa 1 – to be announced

180 Pome Fruit - Nigerian Room

- 9:00 **Invocation** – Ed Weaver, Weavers Orchard
- 9:05 **President's Address** – Tad Kuntz, Masonic Homes
- 9:15 ****Core category presentation** – to be announced
- 9:45 **George Goodling Lecture: How to Optimize Light Management in the Canopy** - Dr. Stefano Musacchi, Washington State Univ.
- 10:30 **Adjourn to Keynote Session**

190 Keynote - Nigerian/Trinidad Room

- 10:45 **Federal Legislative Update**
- 11:00 **Keynote: Values, Trust and Science – Building Trust in Our Post-Truth Tribal World** – Charlie Arnot, The Center for Food Integrity
- 12:00 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

Tuesday Afternoon, January 30, 2018

210 Tomatoes - Trinidad Room – to be announced

220 Organic Vegetable Production - Empire Room AB

- 1:30 **Toigo Organic Farms: How we grow tomatoes** – Kevin Mathews, Toigo Organic Farms
- 2:00 ***Using Biocontrols to Manage Aphids in High Tunnels** – Elsa Sánchez, Penn State Univ., Margaret Skinner and Cheryl Frank, Univ. of Vermont
- 2:30 **Growing Organic Belgian Endive for Winter Markets** - John Eisenstein, Jade Family Farm
- 3:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 3:15 ***Heat Treating Seed** – Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 4:00 **911 – High Tunnel Rescue** – Elsa Sánchez and Tom Ford, Penn State Univ.
- 4:30 **Adjourn**

230 Cut Flowers - Empire Room CD

- 1:30 **New and Exciting Cut Flowers Introductions for Mid-Atlantic Growers** - Tom Caan, Fred C. Gloeckner Company
- 2:00 ***Weed Management in Field Grown Cut Flowers** - Thomas G. Ford, Penn State Extension
- 2:30 **Butterbee Farm Sustainably Grown Flowers for Baltimore** - Laura Beth Resnick, Butterbee Farm
- 3:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 3:15 ***Utilizing Biocontrols in High Tunnel and Field Grown Cut Flowers** - Dr. Lily Calderwood, Cornell Cooperative Extension
- 4:00 **Factors that Influence Stem Length in Cut Flowers** - Dr. Robert Berghage, Penn State Univ.
- 4:30 **Adjourn**

240 Root Vegetables - Crystal Room

- 1:30 **How We Grow and Market Root Crops** - Chris Brittenburg, Who Cooks for You Farm
- 2:00 **Sweet Potato Production in Pennsylvania** - Dr. Mike Orzolek, Penn State Univ.
- 2:30 ***Insect and Disease Pests of Carrots and Beets** - Dr. Carla Burkle, Penn State Extension
- 3:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 3:15 **Healthy Soils for Roots, Tubers and More** – Dr. Sieglinde Snapp, Michigan State Univ.
- 4:00 **Production of Overwintered Bulbing Onions in Low Tunnels** - Dr. Rebecca Sideman, Univ. of New Hampshire
- 4:30 **Adjourn**

250 Ethnic/Specialty Vegetables - Magnolia Room AB

- 1:30 **Best Hot Pepper Varieties** - James Weaver, Meadow View Farm
- 2:00 ****Sprayer Cleanup** - Bill Riden, Penn State Extension
- 2:30 **Outstanding Specialty Melons for the Mid-Atlantic Region** - Pam Guigley, Seedway Inc.
- 3:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 3:15 **Growing Ethnic Vegetables and Attracting the People Who Buy Them** - Lenny Burger Sr., Burger Farms
- 4:00 ***Managing Phytophthora: 2017 Research Results** - John Esslinger, Penn State Extension
- 4:30 **Adjourn**

260 Farm Management - Wild Rose Room – to be announced

270 Agritourism - Cocoa Terrace/Cocoa 1 – to be announced

280 Tree Fruit - Nigerian Room

- 1:30 **Current Options for Frost Control in Orchards** - Dr. Hemant Gohil, Rutgers Univ.
- 2:00 **Grower Use of Frost Protection Strategies – Grower Panel** - Dr. Hemant Gohil, Rutgers Univ.
- 2:45 **Show & Tell**
- 3:00 ***Trials & Tribulations of 2017 Chemical Thinning** - Dr. Jim Schupp
- 3:30 **Penn State Ag & Biological Engineering Update** - Dr. Dana Choi and Dr. Long He
- 4:10 **Adjourn**

Wednesday Morning, January 31, 2018

310 Pumpkins/Vine Crops - Magnolia Room ABCD – to be announced

- 9:00 **Pumpkin Variety Trial Results** – Dr. Elsa Sanchez and Dr. William Lamont, Penn State Univ.; Dr. Timothy Elkner, Thomas Butzler, and Robert Pollock, Penn State Extension
- 9:30 ***The Squash Bees of Pennsylvania** - Dr. Margarita López-Urbe, Penn State Univ.
- 10:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 **Why Are My Cucurbits Collapsing** – Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 11:00 **To be announced**
- 11:30 **PVGA Annual Meeting** – Crystal Room
- 12:30 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

320 Greenhouse Ornamentals - Empire Room AB

- 9:00 **Pesticide Applicators for Ornamental Annuals** - Tom Ford, Penn State Extension
- 9:30 **Best Annuals of the PSU Flower Trials** - Sinclair Adam, Penn State Extension
- 10:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 **Ornamental Plant Nutrition** - Fred Hulme
- 11:00 **Mealybug Management** - Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State Univ.
- 11:30 **Marketing Your Business as No One Will** - Maria Zampini, UpShoot, LLC
- 12:30 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

330 General Vegetables - Crystal Room

- 9:00 ***Biopesticides: What We Have Tried and What Has Worked** - Abby Seaman, NYS Ag Experiment Station
- 9:30 **Using Shade Cloth to Increase Marketable Yields of Tomatoes and Peppers** - Dr. Gerald Brust, Univ. of Maryland
- 10:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 **High Tunnel Tomato Nutrient Management: Lessons Learned** – Dr. Rebecca Sideman, Univ. of New Hampshire
- 11:00 ****Sprayer Calibrations** - Robert Pollock, Penn State Extension
- 11:30 **PVGA Annual Meeting** – Crystal Room
- 12:30 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

340 Soil Health/Reduced Tillage - Empire Room CD

- 9:00 **Challenges and Opportunities for Soil Health in Organic Vegetables** – Dr. Franklin Egan, PA Assoc. for Sustainable Ag (PASA)
- 9:30 **No-till vs Plastic Bed Vegetables (title tentative)** – Drs. Elsa Sanchez and Sjoerd Duiker, Penn State Univ.
- 10:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 **Biological Aspects of Soil Health Related to IPM** – Dr. Mary Barbercheck, Penn State Univ.
- 11:00 **Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs in Weed Control in No-Till Vegetable Systems** – Dr. Gerald Brust, Univ. of Maryland
- 11:30 **PVGA Annual Meeting** – Crystal Room
- 12:30 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

350 Farm Market Development - Trinidad Room

- 9:00 Barb Dietrich, Oley Valley Organic
- 9:30 Doug & Lynn Nuys, Hillsboro Farm Country Market
- 10:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 Caleb Torrice, Tabora Farm
- 11:00 **“From The Ground Up”, Starting a Retail Farm Market** – Jen Brodsky, Kitchen Table Consultants
- 12:00 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

360 Small Fruit - Wild Rose Room – to be announced

370 Wine Grapes - Cocoa 1

- 9:00 **Should You Be Growing Grapes? Pros, Cons, and Site Selection** - Gary Pavlis, Rutgers Univ.
9:40 **How To Protect Grapevines From Spring Frost Damage** - Dr. Michela Centinari, Penn State Univ.
10:10 **Show & Tell**
10:20 ***Etiology and Management of Sour Rot in Grapes** – Dr. Megan Hall, Cornell Univ.
11:00 **Clonal Choices – Factors and Methods** – Hemant Gohil, Rutgers Univ.
11:30 ***Herbicide Injury to Grapes: Awareness and Prevention** – Andy Muza, Penn State Univ.
12:00 **Lunch**

380 Tree Fruit - Nigerian Room

- 9:00 to be announced
9:30 **Ernie Christ Memorial Lecture: The Effect of Early Season Temperatures on Peach Fruit Size** - Dr. Ted DeJong, Univ. of California-Davis
10:15 **Show & Tell**
10:30 **Delayed Harvest & Storage Performance of Firm-Fleshed Peaches** - Dr. Dan Ward, Rutgers Univ.
11:15 ***The Whys & Whens of Basic Arthropod Pests in Peaches** - Dean Polk, Rutgers Univ.
12:00 **Lunch**

390 Spanish - Cocoa Terrace

- 9:00 **Actividad de Apertura (Welcome and Ice-Breaker)**
9:15 **Producción Integrada de Frutas/ MIP para Insectos, Enfermedades y Malezas (Integrated Fruit Production)** - Grupo de discusión (Round Table Discussion led by Growers)
9:45 ***Manejo Ecológico de Plagas en la Agricultura (Ecological Framework for Pest Management)** - Beth Sastre, VCE-Loudon Extension
10:30 **Establecimiento de Hortalizas en el Campo (Vegetable Crop Establishment)** - Dr. Anamaria Gomez, Independent Consultant
11:15 **Empezando un Huerto (Starting an Orchard)** - Maria Gorgo-Gourovitch, Penn State Extension
12:00 Almuerzo (Lunch)

Wednesday Afternoon, January 31, 2018

410 General Vegetables - Magnolia Room ABCD

- 1:30 **Enhancing Microbial Populations for Optimizing Vegetable Yields** - Dr. Mike Orzolek, Stoller/Penn State
- 2:00 ***Allium Leafminer: Life Cycle, Location and Management** - Dr. Shelby Fleischer, Penn State Univ.
- 2:30 ***Managing Flea Beetles in Both Cole Crops and Eggplant** - Dr. Tom Kuhar, Virginia Tech Univ.
- 3:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 3:15 to be announced
- 4:00 **Vegetable Stand Establishment** - Lee Stivers, Penn State Univ.
- 4:30 **Adjourn**

420 Greenhouse Ornamentals - Empire Room AB

- 1:30 ***Chemical Control of Ornamental Diseases** - Virginia Brubaker, Griffin Greenhouse Supplies
- 2:00 **Results of the PSU Perennial Plant Trials** - Sinclair Adam
- 2:30 **Using Consumer Trends to Market your Business** - Maria Zampini, UpShoot, LLC
- 3:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 3:15 ***Managing Western Flower Thrips** - Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State Univ.
- 4:00 ***Biological Controls for Ornamental Growers** - Matthew Krause, BioWorks, Inc.
- 4:30 **Adjourn**

430 Cover Crops (and Other Soil Amendments) - Crystal Room

- 1:30 **Cover Crops for Vegetable Production (title tentative)** - Matt Steiman, Dickinson College
- 2:00 **Using leaf mulch as an organic amendment (tentative title)** - Bob Muth, Muth Family Farm
- 2:30 **Designer Cover Crops for Multiple Uses** – Dr. Sieglinde Snapp, Michigan State Univ.
- 3:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 3:15 ***Cover Crops for Fertility and Weed Management (tentative title)** - Dr. Steven Mirsky, USDA-ARS Beltsville
- 4:00 **Are Cover Crops Improving Soil Health Indicators? What We've Learned from On-Farm Demonstrations** – Megan Chawner, Penn State Extension
- 4:30 **Adjourn**

440 Educating Consumers and Media to Your Advantage - Trinidad Room – to be announced

450 Wholesale Marketing - Empire Room CD – to be announced

460 Small Fruit - Wild Rose Room – to be announced

470 Wine Grapes - Cocoa 1

- 1:30 **Cane versus Cordon/Spur Pruning: Comparison of Pros and Cons** – Dr. Joseph Fiola, Univ. of Maryland
- 2:10 **Tools for Vineyard Vigor Management** – Dr. Dan Ward, Rutgers Univ.
- 2:40 **Show & Tell**
- 2:50 ***Grape Disease Management Review and Research Update** – Bryan Hed, Penn State Univ.
- 3:30 ***Grape Berry Moth Management** – Jody Timer, Penn State Univ.

480 Tree Fruit - Nigerian Room

- 1:30 to be announced
- 2:00 Update on ROSBREED
- 2:30 **Show & Tell**
- 2:45 **Apple Variety Showcase** – Moderators: Rob Crassweller, Jim Schupp, Chris Walsh
- 4:00 **Adjourn**

490 Spanish - Cocoa Terrace

- 1:30 ****Insectos Benéficos (Beneficial Insects/Pesticides)** - Dr. Margarita López-Urbe, Penn State Extension
- 2:15 **Estamos Contigo (We are with You)** - Alicia Kerber-Palma, Mexican consul, and consulate staff
- 3:15 **Evaluación (Survey)**
- 3:30 **Cierre del Evento (Session adjourned)**

Wednesday Evening, January 31, 2018

7:30 Forming Peer Discussion Groups

We all learn from peers that we respect. Peer to peer discussion groups consist of farmers that meet regularly to discuss and exchange ideas of concern to their operations. The power of these groups is they are self-directed and rely on shared knowledge. Discussing the pros and cons of an idea or practice allows for idea sharing, offering advice and formulation of opinions on practices that can be implemented at the home farm. We are all better for having a strong network of peers.

The concept for this Round Table is to discuss the features of Peer Discussion Groups, and gauge interest in piloting this method of learning in a few locations across Pennsylvania. John Berry is leading the round table and brings twenty years' experience utilizing this unique adult education technique. From vegetable grower study circles, novice farmer discussion groups, grain marketing clubs, and facilitating small group activities countless times; John brings a wealth of understanding and skill centered on effectively using peer discussion groups to strengthen and grow your business.

Thursday Morning, February 1, 2018

510 High Tunnels - Magnolia Room ABCD – to be announced

- 9:00 **Indoor Cukes in Bags**, David King, Harvest Valley Farms
- 9:30 ****Pesticide Calculation and Sprayer Calibration for High Tunnels**, Steven Bogash **
- 10:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 ***Managing Early Season Insects in HT with a Biological Focus**. Steven Bogash
- 11:00 **Learning the Potential of Grafted Heirlooms in HT** - Kaitlin Horst, Re Devined
- 11:30 **Update on Colored High Tunnel Bell Peppers** - Dr. Timothy Elkner, Penn State Extension
- 12:00 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

520 Sweet Corn - Trinidad Room

- 9:00 **Sweet Corn Varieties and Genotypes: Where We are Headed** - Blake Meyers, Seigers Seed
- 9:30 ***Weed Control and the Transition to No-till** – H. Grant Troop, AgXplore
- 10:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 ***Managing Sweet Corn Insects and Resistance Problems with Today's Options** – Dr. Galen Dively, Univ. of Maryland
- 11:00 **Bird damage in Sweet corn: Risk Factors and Management Strategies** – Dr. Catherine Lindell, Michigan State Univ.
- 11:30 ***Organic Sweet Corn Without the Worms: It Can Be Done!** – Jennifer Glenister, James and Moie Crawford, New Morning Farm
- 12:00 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

530 Potatoes - Empire Room AB – to be announced

- 9:00 **Update on Programs at the Potatoes USA** - Bryan Bender, Bender Potato Farms
- 9:30 **The 2017 Potato Growing Season in Review** – Robert Leiby, Pa Co-operative Potato Growers
- 10:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 **The Colorado Potato Breeding and Selection Program** – Dr. David Holm, Colorado State Univ.
- 11:00 ***Insect Control Update** – Dr. Tom Kuhar, Virginia Tech Univ.
- 11:30 ***Potato Disease Update** – Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 12:00 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

540 General Vegetables - Crystal Room

- 9:00 **Supporting Bee Populations for Cucurbit Crops** - Dr. Shelby Fleischer, Penn State Univ.
- 9:30 **Basics of Drip Irrigation for Vegetable and Small Fruit Production** - Dr. William Lamont, Penn State Univ.
- 10:00 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 **Tillage and Cover Crops in Snap Bean/Pea Production** - Dr. Gordon Johnson, Univ. of Delaware
- 11:00 ***Mildew Management in Cucurbits** - Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 11:30 ***How to Control Gyphosate Resistant Weeds** - Dwight Lingenfelter - Penn State Univ.
- 12:00 **Luncheon Buffet** - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

550 Alternative Activities for On-Farm Marketing - Cocoa Terrace/Cocoa 1

- 9:00 **Practical Safety Considerations with On-Farm Activities** – William Bamka, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 9:30 **Hunting and Fishing Activities for Guests on the Farm** – Stephen Komar, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 10:00 **Athletic Activities on Agritourism Farms** – Michelle Infante-Casella, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 10:30 **Agritourism Offerings: If We Plan it, Will They Come?** - Ginger Myers, Univ. of Maryland Extension
- 11:00 **Gleaning to Fight Hunger and Reduce Food Waste: The Role of the Farmer** – Brian Strumfels and Elyse Yerrapathruni, NJ Agricultural Society, Farmers Against Hunger
- 11:30 **Industry Show and Tell**
- 11:45 **Adjourn**

560 Small Fruit - Wild Rose Room – to be announced

570 Asparagus - Empire CD- to be announced

580 Tree Fruit - Nigerian Room

9:00 **Rapid Apple Decline Status** - Dr. Kari Peter, Penn State Univ.

9:30 **Orchard Training Systems for Apples & Pears** - Dr. Stefano Musacchi, Washington State Univ.

10:15 **Show & Tell**

10:30 **Controller Peach Rootstocks for Stone Fruits** - Dr. Ted DeJong, Univ. of California - Davis

11:00 ***Postharvest Pome Disease Problems** - Dr. Keith Yoder, VPI & SU

11:30 **Vertically Integrated Fruit Production** - Mr. Chalmers Carr, Titan Farms

12:00 **Lunch**

Thursday Afternoon, February 1, 2018

610 High Tunnels - Magnolia Room ABCD

- 1:30 **Heirloom Tomatoes in High Tunnels** - Chris Brittenberg, Who Cooks For You?
- 2:00 **Reconditioning High Tunnel Soils** - grower panel
- 2:45 ***Challenges of Soilborne Disease Management in High Tunnels** – Dr. Beth Gugino, Penn State Univ.
- 3:15 **High Tunnel Economics** - Arthur King, Harvest Valley Farms
- 3:45 **New Introductions of Parthenocarpic Cucumbers for HT Growers** - Steve Bogash
- 4:15 **Adjourn**

620 Third Party GAP Audits - Crystal Room

- 1:30 **Can I have a GAP certificate by Monday? Steps to a 3rd Party Audit** - Jeff Stoltzfus, Penn State Extension
- 2:00 **5 Things an Auditor Won't Tell You**- Auditor Panel
- 2:45 **Collaborating for Food Safety Success** - Lindsay Gilmore, Food Safety Consultant
- 3:15 **I survived a 3rd Party Audit**- Grower Panel
- 4:00 **Adjourn**

630 Potatoes - Empire Room AB – to be announced

- 1:30 **Strategies for Incorporating Value-Added Traits in New Potato Cultivars**- Dr. David Holm, Colorado State Univ.
- 2:00 **Variety Licensing and Its Implications**- Dr. Walter DeJong, Cornell Univ.
- 2:45 **2017 Potato Trials in Pennsylvania and Promising Varieties**- Robert Leiby, Pa Co-operative Potato Growers and Dr. Xinshun Qu, Penn State Univ.
- 3:15 **How to Conduct On Farm Potato Research**- Dr. Curtis Frederick, Sterman Masser Potato Company
- 3:45 **Adjourn**

640 Farm Labor – Nigerian Room

- 1:30 **Current Labor Situation: What Can Be Done** - Chalmers Carr, President USA Farmers
- 2:15 **Mexico's "We Are With You Program"** - Mexican Consulate
- 2:45 **Getting the Labor Situation Moving** - U.S. Apple Association
- 3:15 **Current Labor Situation in the Mid-Atlantic** - Mr. Sean High – Penn State Center for Agricultural & Shale Law
- 3:45 **Questions for all the Speakers**
- 4:15 **Adjourn**

650 Marketing on Social Media - Cocoa Terrace/Cocoa 1

- 1:30 **Creating a Digital Marketing Kit** – Kim Rush Lynch, Univ. of Maryland Extension
- 2:00 **Farm Approach to Social Media** - Kelly Jackson, Emily's Produce
- 2:45 to be announced
- 3:15 **Tricks of the Trade – Moderator** - Shannon Dill, Univ. of Maryland Extension
- 3:45 **Adjourn**

660 Small Fruit - Wild Rose Room – to be announced