

2017 OPGMA Congress Speakers

Adams, Emily	OSU	Phillips, Ben	MSU
Alicandro, Jeff	agr.assistance	Pirro, Erin	Farm Credit East
Bapst, Brad	OSU	Pitts, Bill	Wafler Nursery
Barrett, Eric	OSU	Reid, Judson	Cornell
Bergefurd, Brad	OSU	Roddy, Elaine	OMARFA
Bowers, Whittney	OFBF	Rose, Mary	OSU
Carter, Melissa	OSU	Scheckelhoff, Beth	OSU
Clarke, Gregory	Valent USA	Schwallier, Phil	MSU
Converse, Jarred	JB Farm Market	Seymour, Natalie	NCSU
Danyluk, Michelle	University of Florida	Shearer, Stanley	Northwest Mutual
Dieterich Mabin, Molly	OSU	Snyder, Abigail	Cornell
Dodson, John	Comspeq Consulting	Sundin, George	MSU
Doohan, Doug	OSU	Tewksbury, Drew	McGowan Insurance
Draper, Erik	OSU	Wang, Zheng	OSU
Dresbach, Sereana	Consultant	Welch, Christie	OSU
Gahler, Allen	OSU	Welty, Celeste	OSU
Gammie, Brooke	Quarry Hill Orchards	Wirth, James	Risk Control 360/CareWorks
Gao, Gary	OSU		
Gardner, Charissa	OSU		
Gastier, Michael	OSU		
Griffith, Mary	OSU		
Hall, Peggy	OSU		
Hamilton, Carol	OSU		
Hanson, Eric	OSU		
Hartfiel, Scott	USDA		
Himmelheber, Joe	Caito Foods		
Hu, Chengsong	OSU		
Ilic, Sanja	OSU		
Ivey, Melanie	OSU		
Jackemeyer-Street, Katie	Trellis Growing Systems		
Jasinski, Jim	OSU		
Kessel, Christoph	OMAFRA		
Klaman, Theresa	US FDA		
Kleinhenz, Matthew	OSU		
Kowalski, Jacqueline	OSU		
LaBarge, Greg	OSU		
Leeds, Rob	OSU		
Lejeune, Jeff	OSU		
Lesicko, Yvonne	OFBF		
Long, Elizabeth	OSU		
Marqu�ez-Posey, Ronnie	ODJFS		
Miller, Sally	OSU		
Orshinsky, Angela	University of Minnesota		
Patrick, Alison	Cuyahoga County		

Speaker Bios

Adams, Emily: Emily serves as OSU Extension Educator in Coshocton County. Utilizing her food science expertise, she helps food business entrepreneurs with regulatory, product development and direct marketing opportunities. She also has a passion for growing confidence and connections for women in agriculture. Emily's most important role is mom to 9-year-old Nathan and 7-year-old Julia.

Alicandro, Jeff: MS- University of Massachusetts 1982. Began agr.assistance crop consulting firm in western NY in 1985- working with fruit and vegetable growers on crop production and regulatory compliance issues. agr.assistance provides services to approximately 50 fruit growers on about 15,000 orchard acres.

Bapst, Brad: Brad is a Certified Business Advisor with the Business Development Network at The Ohio State University South Centers. Brad has been an employee of the Ohio State University since 1995. His career began at the South Centers working with the Soil and Water Resources program and also served as the Pike County Extension Educator in 4-H Youth Development. In 2005, he joined the South Centers' Business Development program serving as Program Director/ Business Counselor for the Manufacturing and Technology Small

Business Development Center. He currently serves as Director of the Ohio District 7 Small Business Development Center located at the South Centers. He has a B.S. Degree from Shawnee State University in Plastics Engineering Technologies. A lifelong resident of Pike County, Brad is very much interested in assisting new and existing business owners in the region with needs that they may not be able to address themselves. In addition to his work with the University, Brad has a strong interest in agriculture. He currently owns and operates a diversified 500 acre farming operation which in recent years has added plasticulture strawberries to the existing crops of corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and beef cattle. Brad also serves as President of the Eastern Local School District Board of Education where he has been a member for 15 years.

Barrett, Eric: Eric Barrett is an Assistant Professor and Extension Educator, specializing in marketing and local foods. He has been teaching and leading OSU Extension programs since 1996. He works with many aspects of agriculture, including urban farming. His passions are teaching and helping farmers improve marketing practices.

Bergefurd, Brad: Brad Bergefurd is Extension Educator, Agriculture/Natural Resources and Horticulture Specialist with Ohio State University Extension, with county and statewide responsibilities for outreach and research to the commercial agriculture & fruit and vegetable industries, urban agriculture and consumer horticulture including Master Gardener Volunteer training, and community gardening. Bergefurd conducts field research, authors publications, and teaches on plasticulture strawberry, vegetable crops and hops production, produce auction development, urban agriculture, produce auctions and food hubs. Bergefurd is located at OSU Extension Scioto County in Portsmouth and at the OSU Piketon Research & Extension Center in Piketon and has been with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) and OSU Extension for 28 years. Bergefurd's responsibilities include: Co-Leader of the OSU Vegetable Crops Team; Co-Director of the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group; Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Educational Advisor; Ohio Hops Guild Academia Director; North Central SARE Research & Education Technical Committee and Co-leader of an agriculture development project in Senegal, Africa.



Bowers, Whitney: Whitney Bowers is the Director of Grassroots and Political Outreach at Ohio Farm Bureau. In this position she works with the members of Ohio Farm Bureau to help them better interact with their elected officials, with advocacy opportunities and training. Whitney studied

Agricultural Communications and Animal Science at The Ohio State University, and received her Master's in Public Relations at Kent State University. Whitney lives on a grain farm with a cattle feedlot operation in Fairfield County with her husband and son.

Carter, Melissa: Melissa Carter assists Southern Ohio businesses with creating and enhancing their web-based marketing and developing a social media presence. She has been an employee of The Ohio State University South Centers Business Development Network since 2006. Melissa has both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Business Administration from The Ohio State University. Melissa, her husband, Tristen, and daughter, Gracie, also operate a construction business, help on her family's farming operation and are active in the Ross County 4-H program.

Clarke, Gregory: After completing his PhD at Penn State in 1992, Gregory Clarke has been working in field research for Abbott Laboratories, Valent BioSciences and Valent USA in the northeastern US. He has been involved in the development of several PGRs and biorational products for the tree fruit industry including ReTain and MaxCel. Greg lives with his family in Dillsburg, PA.

Converse, Jarred: Jarred Converse and his wife own JB Farm Market near Richwood, Ohio. They currently have 6 acres of blackberries and are getting ready to go into their 4th harvest using the rotating cross arm trellis system. The blackberries are sold mostly wholesale as well retail at local farmers markets.

Danyluk, Michelle: Dr. Michelle Danyluk is an Associate Professor of Food Safety and Microbiology in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, at the University of Florida. She is situated in the Citrus Research and Education Center, in Lake Alfred, FL. Michelle completed a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology from the University of Alberta, a Master's Degree in Food Science and Technology from the University of Georgia and her Ph.D. in Food Science from the University of California at Davis. Upon accepting her position at the University of Florida in 2007, she fulfilled her life goal of

living with palm trees. Her current research and extension interests include microbial food safety and quality, emphasizing the microbiology of fruit juices, fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts. Her primary research focuses on *Salmonella* in produce and nuts, along with the produce product and processing environments, its movement within these environments, and the subsequent implications for public health. Michelle's extension program includes involvement teaching FSMA, HACCP, GAPS and other specialized food safety, security or beverage processing programs to stakeholders. Michelle has been awarded a Research Foundation Professorship Award, an Excellence Award for Assistant Professors and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Richard Jones Outstanding New Faculty Research Award from the University of Florida. She also received the Larry Beuchat Young Researcher Award in 2010 and the Presidents Recognition Award in 2011 and 2013 from the International Association for Food Protection.

Dodson, John: Secretary/Treasurer for Comspeq Consulting Inc. He has been involved in the Amusement industry since 1986, where he worked with state agencies, fixed parks, and private consulting. His services included providing inspections that met regulatory standards as well as other industry standards including ASTM, OSHA, & NEC. John has held certification with NAARSO, AFO, & CPO. He has also provided instruction at multiple safety seminars across the country.

Draper, Erik: Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture from Utah State University- 1986 Master of Science in Plant Science from Utah State University- 1991. Erik Draper has been a Commercial Horticulture Educator for The Ohio State University Extension in Geauga County for over 24 years. Erik is an Assistant Professor in The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. He specializes in teaching, developing, refining and utilizing both critical thinking and observational skills to correctly diagnose biotic and abiotic plant disorders. Erik works with Amish and Yankee vegetable producers, landscapers, tree fruit and small fruit growers and arborists. He is devoted to applying the science of phytoforensics and always ready to conduct plant autopsies to discern the true cause of the wreckage.

Dresbach, Dr. Sereana: BA/BA - Iowa State University 1984 (Phys Ed and Recreation/Political Science), MS/MAS - University of Wyoming 1987 (Outdoor Recreation Management/ Applied Statistics), PhD - Ohio State University 1992 (Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology). Dr. Sereana Howard Dresbach has a

background that spans several states and agencies, but the focus has been transferring information so people can use it to make their lives better. She has held positions with various organizations including the program director with the YMCA, planner for the US Forest Service, ranger with the National Park Service, Deputy Director at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and professor at The Ohio State University in the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences and the College of Medicine. Advocating for the state's largest industry and the issues that impact it, Dr. Dresbach has served as higher education chair for American Agri-Women, spokesperson for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Food Safety Network, served as president of Pickaway County Farm Bureau, and founding trustee of an agricultural foundation. Dr. Dresbach was named one of the 100 Women of Ohio Agriculture this year. Being a representative of industry is more than just agricultural organizations, Dr. Dresbach has served on the local Extension advisory board, been a 4H volunteer, local hospital board and its foundation board raising funds to improve health services for all populations, a founding member of the Pickaway Competitiveness Network Advisory Board, township zoning board, and the local Chamber of Commerce. With private donations, she and other leaders in her county implemented a successful executive leadership development program that is receiving national attention. She has written and produced numerous publications and programs about human health, leadership and consumer decision making (over 300), secured extensive research and program funds (over \$7 million), including a recent W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant for community economic competitiveness and philanthropy. Most importantly, she lives in rural Pickaway County with her husband, Eric, and they are the parents of three children who all see agriculture as their future.

Gahler, Allen: As the Extension Educator in Sandusky County, Allen focusses his research and educational programming on vegetable crop production, and is responsible for variety trials at the North Central Agricultural Research Station in Fremont, which over the past 3 years have included cabbage, sweet corn, and several species of peppers. As a cattle and forage producer at home, he also specializes at work in hay production and annual forages, and beef reproduction and nutrition. Allen has been with OSU Extension for 8 years, 3 of those being in Sandusky County. He resides in Ottawa County with his wife and 4 children, on their family's grain, hay, and beef cattle operation.

Gao, Gary: Dr. Gary Gao is an extension specialist and an associate professor with OSU South Centers. He conducts research and extension programs on small fruits crops, such as aronia, blackberries, blueberries, elderberries, goji berries, raspberries, and wine grapes. Dr. Gao has been working at OSU Since 1994. He received his Ph.D. and Master's from The Ohio State University. He is a co-author of the Midwest Blueberry Production Guide, Midwest Home Production Guide. He also writes for the American Fruit Grower Magazine.

Gardner, Charissa: Charissa Gardner is a graduate from Peebles High School. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Arts and English Humanities from Shawnee State University, Portsmouth, Ohio. Charissa is a former teacher of English and Literature at the high school levels. After almost five years of teaching, her career took a change in 2011. Charissa began a new career at The Ohio State University, working at the South Centers location located in Piketon, Ohio. Charissa is the program assistant to the OSU Horticulture and Direct Marketing programs. For Horticulture she serves as the coordinator, news and event publications coordinator, website and social media manager and serves as the assistant to the Program Leaders, Dr. Gary Gao, and Mr. Brad Bergefurd. For Direct Marketing she serves as the coordinator of the Ohio MarketMaker program, news and event publications coordinator, website and social media manager and serves as the assistant to the Program Leader, Christie Welch and the Direct Marketing Team. Charissa is also the Co-Editor of the VegNet Newsletter, she manages the VegNet blog, and she currently manages 13 of our OSU South Centers ListServes for various program areas and our Facebook pages. Charissa can be reached at gardner.1148@osu.edu or at 740.289.2071 ext. 132.

Gastier, Mike: Mike Gastier is an Extension Educator for The Ohio State University based in Huron County, Ohio. Mike graduated from The Ohio State University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture. He worked in the hybrid seed corn industry for many years before joining OSU Extension in 2006. Mike was raised on a vegetable farm in Erie County and still enjoys production agriculture. He is an Ohio Certified Crop Advisor and holds an MBA from the Dauch School of Business at Ashland University.

Griffith, Mary: Mary has been an OSU Extension Educator since 2014. Prior to this, Mary worked for OSU's Farm to School Program and for OSU's Integrated Pest Management Program. She has Masters' degrees in Agricultural Economics and Plant Health Management, both from the Ohio State University.

Hall, Peggy: Peggy Kirk Hall is an Assistant Professor and Field Specialist in Agricultural and Resource Law at The Ohio State University. She directs OSU Extension's Agricultural & Resource Law research and outreach program and teaches Agribusiness Law in the College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences at OSU. Hall is a partner in the national Agricultural & Food Law Consortium, a multi-institutional agricultural law research initiative directed by the National Agricultural Law Center. She has served as President of the American Agricultural Law Association and Chair of the Ohio State Bar Association Agricultural Law. Committee. Hall holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from The Ohio State University and earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Wyoming, College of Law, where she served on the Land and Water Law Review. Hall and her family own and operate a grain farm in central Ohio.

Hamilton, Carol: Carol Hamilton is a program coordinator for Extension in the City in Delaware County. Her background is in food science and technology with an interest in food production, manufacturing and marketing.

Hanson, Eric: Eric Hanson is a Professor and Extension specialist in Horticulture at Michigan State University. His primary responsibility is working with MSU Extension to provide production information to berry crop producers. He also researches a variety of production topics, including fertilization, weed management, high tunnel berry production, growth regulator use, cultivar evaluation, and recently organic production challenges for blueberries and raspberries. He also teaches classes on Plant Mineral Nutrition, Tree fruit Production and Viticulture and Berry Crop Production.

Hartfiel, Scott: Scott Hartfiel is a Senior Mediator/Investigator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Perishable Agriculture Commodities Act (PACA) Division, Eastern Regional Office. In this position, Mr. Hartfiel is responsible for carrying out a variety of investigations related to compliance and enforcement of the Perishable Agriculture Commodities Act. Mr. Hartfiel also acts as a mediator/dispute resolution specialist, assisting fruit and vegetable industry members in resolving contract disagreements. Scott has a B.S. in Logistics and Supply Chain Management from Missouri State University, an M.B.A. from Columbia College, and maintains certifications as a mediator, specialized investigator, and an advanced interviewer.



Himmelheber, Joe: Joe Himmelheber has been an associate of Caito Foods since 1987, initially as a Merchandiser and currently as Director of Merchandising and Marketing. He frequently addresses both Produce and Supermarket Industry audiences, with past speaking engagements

at the National Grocers Association (NGA) Convention, the NGA Supercenter Share Group meeting, and numerous Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky State Association events. He is currently the IGA Institute's Produce Department trainer, speaking each year to a diverse, worldwide group of participants at the IGA Institute Supermarket Training classes in Atlanta. Joe is credited with having created a vast amount of the Produce Department training currently made available on the IGA Institute website. His greatest career accomplishment has been being part of the team that, annually, creates and produces the Caito Foods Educational Seminar, viewed by many as one of the Produce Industry's most interesting and relevant events. In 2015, Joe was nominated for United Fresh Produce Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Joe and his wife Jan (Marketing Coordinator at Caito Foods) live in Carmel, Indiana, next door to four of their wonderful grandchildren.

Hu, Chengsong: Chengsong Hu is currently a research associate at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. His work focuses on executing weed management experiments and testing new ingredients/uses of herbicides. Before proceeding to his current position, he studied in the master's program at the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science in OSU and worked on the Chef's Garden farm.

Ilic, Sanja: Sanja Ilic, PhD, The Ohio State University, has over 10 years of experience in food safety of fresh produce through her work in academia and industry. She studies microbial food safety including human pathogen bacteria *E. coli*, *Salmonella* spp. and *Listeria monocytogenes*. Her interest is in transmission, dissemination and proliferation of bacterial pathogens as well as food handler's food safety behavior, food safety behaviors in high risk populations (cancer patients, visually impaired, food insecure) and food safety education.

Ivey, Melanie: Dr. Melanie Lewis Ivey is an assistant professor in the Department of Plant Pathology, Ohio

State University, Wooster, with responsibility for research, extension and teaching in fruit crop diseases. Lewis Ivey's research focuses on the development and integration of economical and sustainable co-management tactics to reduce on-farm plant disease and food safety hazards on small and tree fruit, and vegetable crops. She works with bacterial, fungal, and oomycota phytopathogens and bacterial human pathogens. Lewis Ivey has conducted research in temporal and sub-tropical climates and places a strong emphasis on integrated pest management (IPM) approaches, which can be applied to commercial, home garden and workplace production settings in any environment. Of special interest is the assessment of the microbial quality and safety of irrigation water and seed or transplant stock.

Jackemeyer-Street, Katie: Katie Jackemeyer-Street, Crop Advisor and Farm Manager for Trellis Growing Systems. Managing a five acre certified organic blackberry plantation utilizing the RCA (Rotating Cross-Arm) Trellis System.

Jasinski, Jim: Mr. Jim Jasinski has a BS in Biology and a MS in Entomology, and is currently the OSU IPM Program Coordinator. He has been an Extension Educator for over 23 years, and has worked with many specialty crops but has focused on pest management in cucurbits over the last 16 years. For the past two years he has conducted field trials with UAVs to detect insect pests, PM and DM in pumpkins and cucumbers.

Kessel, Christoph: Christoph is the Soil Fertility Specialist (Horticulture) with OMAFRA. He works with industry associations, researchers and ministry colleagues to improve crop fertility management in horticultural crops through research projects, demonstrations and workshops. After graduating from the University of Guelph, he worked in the nursery/ landscape industry before joining OMAFRA as the Nursery Crops Specialist. He is a Certified Crop Advisor and has the 4R Nutrient Management Specialist designation.

Klaman, Theresa: Theresa C Klaman, Consumer Safety Officer with the Produce Safety Network | North Central Region. Food and Drug Administration/ Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition/Office of Food Safety/Produce Safety Brand/Fresh Produce Division- The Produce Safety Network is responsible for collaborating and communicating with regional partners to build on existing programs to achieve high levels of compliance in the farming community. Responsibilities include conducting outreach, education, training, farm inspections, outbreak investigations and providing technical assistance on in the growing conditions and

practices in North Central Regions to facilitate work planning for farm inspections. My experience includes conducting international and domestic farm inspection and outbreak investigations with the USDA, serving as a compliance officer with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and conducting research on agricultural ecosystems at the University of Minnesota.

Kowalski, Jacqueline: Jacqueline is currently the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator for Summit County. Previously she served as the ANR Educator for Cuyahoga County. In this role, she provides Ohioans with research-based information to improve communities and lives. Her primary focus area is small and urban farm development and sustainability with additional responsibilities in agriculture and natural resources.

LaBarge, Greg: Greg LaBarge is a graduate of the University of Missouri, Columbia with a BS and MS degree in Agronomy. He has been with Ohio State University Extension since 1987, serving as Extension Educator in Fulton County from 1988 until 2011. Since 2012 he has been in a statewide role of Field Specialist, Agronomic Systems. His areas of focus included Integrated Pest Management of disease and insects, soil fertility/nutrient management and precision agriculture. He has represented the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences and OSU Extension at various nutrient management/water quality related events and committees. He has served on the Ohio Phosphorus Task force Phase 2 and been part of a group establishing a 4R Certified Ag Retailer program for the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Leeds, Rob: Leeds is an Agricultural/Natural Resources Extension agent in Delaware County. Leeds has worked in Extension for 25 years ago with a specialty in Direct Ag Marketing. Leeds has served as an educational advisor for Ohio Direct Marketing Association and served on North American Farmers Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA) board. Leeds is also the owner/ operator of Leeds Farm. Some of the farm actives over the years include: Combine slide straw maze, corn maze, children's play area, education granary, farm animals, fishing pond, banana bus, jumping pillow and three 400' ziplines.

LeJeune, Jeff: Dr. LeJeune is a professor at the Ohio State University, Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center. He has been conducting research on the microbial safety of fresh vegetables for the last decade.



Lesicko, Yvonne: Yvonne Lesicko serves as vice president, public policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. She oversees the planning, development and implementation of local, state and federal programs related to member advocacy, policy development, political education and advocacy, and legal issues. Lesicko was formerly senior director of state and national policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation where she managed OFBF's legislative and regulatory team and represented the interests of Farm Bureau members with Congress, the General Assembly and with federal and state regulatory agencies. She began her career at Farm Bureau in 1994 and rejoined the organization in 2012 after being director of government relations for Cincinnati Bell Telephone since 1997. She received her bachelor's degree from Dickinson College and a master's in public administration from Ohio State University. She is a past president of the Ohio Lobbying Association and has been active with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Ohio Commodores and Girl Scouts alumni. Lesicko was raised on a Huron County grain farm where her family also operated a seed processing plant. She and her husband, Scott, have a son, Oscar.

Long, Elizabeth: Recently hired to Ohio State's department of Entomology in January 2016, I am based at the Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster, OH with research and extension efforts focused on integrated pest management of insects in muck vegetable and grape production systems. Theresa received a PhD from the University of Missouri in Plant, Insect & Microbial Sciences where she researched interactions between insect communities and crop plants that have implications for plant pathogens that are transmitted by insects. From there, she moved to Purdue University in Indiana where she conducted research on pollinator exposure to pesticides in field crops landscapes.

Mabin, Molly Dietrich: Molly is a graduate student at Ohio State University pursuing a Master's degree in Entomology working with Dr. Celeste Welty and Dr. Mary Gardiner. Her research is focused on identifying which predatory arthropods contribute to cucumber beetle control and how field management practices influence natural enemy populations and biological control.

Marquez-Posey, Ronnie: Ronnie, originally from Texas, is currently serving as the Program Administrator of two

programs, one of which is the Migrant & Seasonal Farm Worker program, with over twelve years of state government experience focusing on labor exchange in workforce development and benefits compensation in the unemployment sector of the agency. Proven knowledge in the areas of process improvement, systems application improvement & design, technical writing & organizational leadership. Also, serving as the Migrant Agricultural Ombudsperson for the State of Ohio; skilled in the areas of Foreign Labor Certification, Public Arbitration and Non-Profit Board Service. Strong commitment to public service and community involvement, communicating effectively, remaining open to innovative ideas, while addressing concerns; delivering results for both government administration, peers and the public that she serves. Ronnie has an MBA specializing in Public Administration.

Miller, Sally: Dr. Sally Miller is Professor of Plant Pathology at The Ohio State University, OARDC, and Ohio state Extension specialist for vegetable crop disease management. She received her B.Sc. in Biology at Ohio State University, and M. Sc. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research and extension programs focus on disease diagnostics and sustainable management of vegetable crop diseases in conventional and organic open field and protected environment production systems. Her lab provides clinical diagnostic services to vegetable producers. She has participated in integrated pest management research and training programs in a number of countries.

Orshinsky, Angela: Angela Orshinsky, Asst. Professor and Extension Specialist, has a BS Honors degree in Microbiology and a PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. She has since worked postdoc positions at The Ohio State University and a Postdoctoral fellowship at Agriculture and Agrifood Canada. Dr. Orshinsky started her role as an assistant professor and Extension specialist in 2013 with a focus on horticultural crops including vegetables, ornamentals, and turfgrass diseases. Her research goal is to use both basic and applied research to develop sustainable disease management practices. Dr. Orshinsky appreciates working one on one with growers throughout Minnesota to help inform her research priorities and to better understand the challenges facing the growers.

Phillips, Ben: Michigan State University Vegetable Extension Educator serving commercial vegetable growers in the Bay and Thumb regions of Michigan.



Pirro, Erin: CAC, Farm Business Consultant, Farm Credit East, ACA. Erin Pirro has been helping farmers, large and small, make their businesses run better since 2001. As a Farm Business Consultant for Farm Credit East with a background in

agricultural economics, Erin's focus has been on benchmarking and profitability improvement because sustainability means economics, too! At home, Erin's small family farm raises and markets sheep and wool products in southern New England.

Pitts, Bill: Bill Pitts, Nursery Manager of Wafler Farms Inc., has been at the Nursery for 37 years. He manages the nursery but also spends a lot of time in our innovated orchards.

Reid, Judson: Judson Reid is a Senior Extension Associate with the Cornell Vegetable Program. In this position he manages a series of research and education projects throughout New York State for greenhouse, high tunnel and field production of fresh market vegetables. Judson is involved in the evaluation of grafting on tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplants; biological pest control, new cropping techniques and low temperature pest management concerns. An extensive network of private farm cooperators enhances his effective research and demonstration program. Current projects examine the viability of grafting of cucumbers for cold soil hardiness, biological insect control in low temperature settings for mixed greens crops, PAR and yield influence of multi-story cropping as well as variety evaluations. Judson has conducted educational sessions with farmers in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Caribbean, Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Cuba (New York) on these topics. Having spent his youth on a Northern New York dairy farm, Judson earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Cornell University in agriculture.

Roddy, Elaine: Vegetable Crop Specialist, OMAFRA since: 1997, Education: BSc (Agr) University of Guelph 1996 – Natural Resources Management (Crop Science Specialization). Elaine is involved in field research trials and extension. She specializes in sweet corn, cucurbits, beans, peas and asparagus. Her responsibilities include all aspects of crop production and pest management. Current projects include; soil quality and nitrogen efficiency in asparagus, vine crop disease management, native pollinators and IPM for legume vegetables. Elaine

is also the editor of the Ontario Field Vegetable Guide (publication 839) and the Ontario Vegetable Crop Protection Guide (publication 838).

Rose, Mary: Mary Ann Rose received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Horticulture from Penn State University. She has worked as a research consultant for the agrichemical industry, research scientist for TruGreen Chemlawn, landscape and nursery specialist for OSU, and container nursery manager for Studebaker Nurseries, New Carlisle, OH. Currently Mary Ann directs the Pesticide Safety Education Program, which is part of Ohio State University Extension.

Schwallier, Phillip: Philip Schwallier was born and raised on a fruit and beef family farm in Ottawa County, Coopersville, Michigan. This area is considered the west side of Peach Ridge fruit growing area. Phil received his B.S. in Horticulture at MSU in 1975 and his M.S. in Entomology in 1978. In 1978 Phil became the Kent County Horticulture Agent and later that year married Judy May of the east side of Peach Ridge where they took up residence in Sparta, Michigan. They have 4 children, Jody, Katie, Becky and Tim and 4 grandchildren, Lucas, Louisa, Tyler and Sophie. In 1982, Phil became the District Horticulture Agent specializing in apple production. Additionally Phil also served from 1996 to 2008 as the Station Coordinator for the Clarksville Horticultural Experiment Station. In 2010 Phil became a member of the IFTA Board of Directors and was elected in 2011 as Vice President and then in 2013 as President of IFTA.

Seymour, Natalie: Natalie earned a Bachelor's and Master's of Science in Food Science from North Carolina State University. Her master's work concentrated on the third party food safety audits and compliance to safe food handling in retail settings. Natalie is a firm believer that science is applicable to everyone's daily lives and can be understood by anyone if presented the right way.

Scheckelhoff, Beth: Beth Scheckelhoff is an Extension Educator for Greenhouse Systems at The Ohio State University. Beth provides Ohio vegetable and ornamental growers with research-based information and recommendations for crop production, pest management, business management, and produce safety topics via educational programs, individual consultations, and publications. She is an active member of the OSU Extension Produce Safety, Ohio Ag Manager, Ohio Women in Agriculture and Greenhouse Industry of the Midwest teams. Beth earned her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Floriculture from Michigan State University.

Shearer, Stanley: Stan Shearer lives in Canfield, OH with his wife Patti and their Golden Retriever, Holly, and their rescued dog, Annie. They have two grown sons Chad and Andrew, and Thomas their German Exchange student who never went back along with eight wonderful grandchildren. Stan is very active in his church and does summer Youth Mission Trips. He is on the Board of Reach Workcamps out of Greeley, Colorado that sponsors these trips. In his spare time he enjoys travelling in their motor home, reading and making wine. Stan holds the following designations: CLU®, ChFC®, CASL®, CLTC® and AEP®. He is the Past President of the Northwestern Mutual Association of Agents, a Past President for the Financial Representative Association formerly Special Agents Inc., an Estate and Business Planning Specialist for the JCE Financial Group Network Office, a Wealth Management Advisor participating in Fee Based Planning, a member of the University Club Study Group, the Cleveland Estate Planning Council and the Mahoning-Shenango Valley Estate Planning Council. He has been blessed to be with Northwestern Mutual for 34 years and has a great support staff in Kathy, Debbie, Jen and Patti. Stan has qualified for the Recognition Dinner, Forum, Lives Leader Summit, Plus 33 QI and the Master Achievement Award. He has consistently been in the top 100 in Lives, Volume and Premium and qualifies for New Clients annually. As of December 9, 2016, Stan has 1642 weeks of CWP and 394 months as a 5Lives Club member.

Tewksbury, Drew: Senior Vice President, Amusements Group, McGowan Insurance. Drew's professional life has been dedicated to understanding, educating and protecting his clients. Real life experience running festivals and fairs, working on and inspecting amusement rides and helping develop safety standards for an industry provide him with a fundamental understanding of their unique business. A nationally certified amusement ride safety officer and ride inspector, Drew recognized early in his career that he wanted to help the amusement industry on a deeper level than just through providing exceptional insurance products. Drew created, led and grew several of the amusement industries most successful insurance and risk management programs. He is nationally recognized expert in amusement safety who's been interviewed on national television and has provided interviews and content for many national news and industry publications. He is an active participant in multiple annual Amusement Safety schools and seminars where he brings his 'down home' brand of speaking to the industry. Drew has a Bachelor of Science in Sport Marketing and Management from Indiana University. Drew holds these Industry Certifications: National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials

(NAARSO) Level 1; Multi-State Amusement Ride Inspection Licenses.

Snyder, Abigail: Abigail Snyder is a PhD candidate at Cornell University in food microbiology. She received her B.S. from The Ohio State University in food science, focusing on microbial food safety and non-thermal decontamination methods for fresh produce. Her current research focuses on production and formulation strategies to improve the microbial quality of fruit and vegetable products. Snyder uses a combination of conventional microbiology, risk assessment, and molecular techniques to evaluate the tradeoffs among implementation of food safety programs, quality standards, and waste reduction in fruit and vegetable production. She has experience with produce safety training through GAPS, HACCP, and third party audits. Snyder has worked with several hundred growers and processors in the development of their food safety plans.

Sundin, George: Dr. George W. Sundin is a Professor of Plant Pathology and runs the Tree Fruit Pathology Lab at Michigan State University. He has been at MSU since 2002 and has Extension responsibilities in tree fruit disease control. His research includes field and lab studies covering management of fire blight, fungicide resistance in apple and cherry pathogens, and the evaluation of new bactericides and fungicides for disease management in apple, cherry (sweet and tart cherry), and peach. Main diseases covered include apple scab, bacterial canker, brown rot, cherry leaf spot, and fire blight. The goals of Sundin's Extension program are to provide timely information and recommendations on management of tree fruit diseases to growers in Michigan and in other fruit-growing regions.

Welch, Christie: Ms. Welch serves as the Direct Agricultural Marketing Specialist for OSU Extension where she leads a team to provide information and education on all aspects of marketing to Ohio's farmers and producers. Programs include MarketReady™, DeviceReady, Meet the Buyers, and best marketing practices. Ms. Welch has a strong interest in the economic development of rural Ohio and is especially interested in family farms and agribusinesses within this region. She and her husband are the third generation on their diversified family farm. They currently produce plasticulture strawberries which they direct market through pick-your-own and retail sales on the farm. They have been actively involved in the Chillicothe Farmers' Market where she served on the board for 8 years.

Welty, Celeste: Celeste Welty is an Extension Entomologist and Associate Professor of Entomology at Ohio State's main campus in Columbus. She is a native of Pennsylvania, and has a Ph.D. degree in entomology from Cornell University. She has been at Ohio State for 29 years, with responsibility for extension and research on pests of vegetable and fruit crops as grown on commercial farms and in home gardens. She also teaches courses in pest management and in pesticide science. Her recent projects have focused on pests of squash, melons, peppers, sweet corn, cabbage, apples, and hops.

James Wirth: B.S. Business Administration, Franklin University. Certified Professional Environmental Auditor. Professional Member, American Society of Safety Engineers. Jim began his safety career with the Columbus Fire Department where, in addition to firefighting, he was also a High Rise Coordinator and was active in the Public Speakers Bureau. He was Safety/Security Manager for Lennox Industries, Eastern Division. Jim oversaw the implementation of the Hazard Communication, Personal Protective Equipment and Community Right to Know Standards. He also implemented ergonomic teams and worked closely with Division of Safety and Hygiene and the OSU Biodynamics Laboratory to implement ergonomic improvements on the assembly lines and other supporting departments. Jim specializes' in assisting employers with safety process implementation in order to have a positive impact on their workers' compensation costs as well as working with NIOSH and OSHA on Research, Alliances and Partnerships and is currently working with CareWorksComp's out-of-state customers on safety and workers' compensation issues.