

# YOUNG GROWER ALLIANCE



*The  
Future  
Faces  
in  
Farming*



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**LEAD**

**CONNECT**

*A new generation of specialty crop growers is building coalitions to develop innovative approaches for meeting future growing and marketing challenges. Participate as much or as little as you want, but get to know the people around you!*

## **A place to learn...**

YGA offers year-round educational opportunities to its members. Educational field trips to universities, grower orchards, and research facilities give direct accessibility to experts and professionals eager to share their knowledge and experiences. Exposure to new practices and technologies encourages innovation among this next generation of growers.

## **A place to lead...**

YGA is the inside network for young growers. Young growers are given opportunities to meet with community and agriculture leaders, serve on committees, and take on leadership roles within organizations. YGA has given a voice to the youth in horticulture, and many people are eagerly awaiting to hear what we have to say.

## **A place to connect...**

YGA is a social network bringing together the different young people who are pursuing the unique lifestyles involved with farming and horticulture. Whether sharing business ideas or swapping farmer stories there is always someone to connect with at a YGA event.

The Young Grower Alliance (YGA) is a coalition, started in 2005, for those at the start of their horticulture careers looking to connect with others working in a similar profession and living a similar lifestyle. Activities include field trips, orchard tours, workshops, luncheons with guest speakers, and much more—limited only by our own creativity! The coalition currently includes 180 growers from the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. New members are always welcome!

**To learn more about YGA or subscribe to the list-serve contact Katie Ellis, Penn State Extension Specialty Crop Innovations Educator at (717) 334-6271 or email: [kag298@psu.edu](mailto:kag298@psu.edu)**

## **Scholarship Opportunity for Young Growers Training for a Career in the Fruit Industry**

To invest in the future of the fruit industry, the Mid-Atlantic Young Grower Alliance committee of the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania established a scholarship in memory of Scott Brown, who served as a model for young growers returning to the family farm. For more information, please contact Maureen Irvin, Executive Secretary, at (717) 677-4184 or [shap@embarqmail.com](mailto:shap@embarqmail.com).

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# YGA IS ON THE MOVE...



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***Our Mission: to encourage, develop, support and equip the next generation of specialty crop growers***

## Meet Our Team Leaders

Chairperson—Ben Wenk

Liaison to SHAP—Sidney Kuhn

Transition Planning—Jen Snavely, Kevin Knouse

Sharing Diversification & Marketing Ideas—Justin Weaver, Ellie Vranich, Andre Tougas, Tyler Butler

Exploring Innovations—Rusty Lamb, Wes Boyer, Dave Hull, Ben Keim, Tyler Butler, Andrew Schwalm

Horticulture Student Support (SHAP Scholarship)—Sidney Kuhn, Wayne Hollabaugh, Jen Snavely, Bruce Hollabaugh, Eric Haller, Mike Flinchbaugh

Leadership Development—Ben Keim, Maggie Reid, Tyler Butler, Julie Bolyard

Service—Maggie Reid, Mike Flinchbaugh, Lindsey Kammerer

Communications—Sidney Kuhn, Janel Baugher

Web Site—Ben Wenk, Kevin Knouse

Grants—Matt Strite, Corey McCleaf

Mentor Program—Nathan Milburn, Matt Harsh

## Plan to Get Involved in these Initiatives

*Bringing in the Next Generation*—YGA sponsors a luncheon on Tuesday of the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention; 2012 - "Positioning Your Business for the Future," by Dr. David Kohl

*Orchard, Farm Market, Research Station Tours*—Cherry Hill and Kauffman Orchards (Mar); McCleaf Orchard (April); Butler and Catocin Mt Orchards (June); Shenandoah Valley (Nov)

*Other Tour Ideas*—International Fruit Tree Assoc tour of Europe (July) & convention in Chile (Jan); CA, NY, MA (2012)

*PSU and YGA Spotlight on Innovation*—Innovation research progress to be presented at Penn State FREC Field Day (Jul 13)

*Student Recruitment*—YGA, along with the SHAP endowment committee, sponsors a horticulture scholarship; coordinates youth orchard work exchange opportunities

*Leadership*—YGA strives to increase participation in industry associations and state and local government, including involvement with US Apple in Capital Day visits

*Service*—Members help at the PA Farm Show; give career day presentations; support local gleaning networks; assist an underserved ag community in Nicaragua, support community diversity initiatives

*Webinars*—Training to be offered on use of social media, financial management, new varieties

**To volunteer to be one of our YGA team leaders or to help plan an event, please contact Katie Ellis, Penn State Extension Specialty Crop Innovations Educator at (717) 334-6271 or email: [kag298@psu.edu](mailto:kag298@psu.edu)**

## Leadership Opportunities for Young Growers

To invest in the future of the fruit industry, the Young Grower Alliance Leadership Development Team links young horticulture leaders to leadership roles in industry organizations, academic planning sessions, and local government.

### Who to Contact in Penn State Extension

Tree Fruit—Tara Baugher, [tab36@psu.edu](mailto:tab36@psu.edu); Small Fruit & Vegetables—Steve Bogash, [smb13@psu.edu](mailto:smb13@psu.edu),  
Greenhouse Production—Alan Michael, [ahm4@psu.edu](mailto:ahm4@psu.edu); Specialty Crop Marketing—Jim Remcheck, [jar5006@psu.edu](mailto:jar5006@psu.edu);  
Specialty Crop Innovations—Katie Ellis, [kag298@psu.edu](mailto:kag298@psu.edu)



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