

President's Message, April 2018

As I sit down to compose this first president's message for SHAP, I am confronted with the fact that it has been a very long time since my freshman composition class- a class which I didn't exactly ace. I am further burdened by how little attention I paid in my High School typing class. I am very familiar with the backspace key. I will, however give it my best shot.

Many of you know me, but for those who don't, I will provide a brief introduction of myself.

I am the youngest member of the fourth generation at Adams County Nursery. Since graduating from Penn State in 1982, my responsibility at ACN has been to manage our 250 acres of fruit production. For that reason you won't find me in the booth selling trees at the MAFVC. Our orchard operation in that time has transitioned from about 70% processing fruit to about 80% fresh fruit currently. Our production is mostly in apples, but we also grow about 30 acres of fresh market peaches. At ACN, we also maintain around 25 acres that is a mixture of test orchards for new varieties and virus free scion wood orchards for apples, peaches, cherries, pears, apricots and plums.

I have been involved in Farm Bureau for many years, serving on the county board, with a stint as county president and traveling to Washington DC every year on the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Legislative tour. My first trip to DC was with Myles Starnier to visit Representative Bill Goodling. I have also served on the Pennsylvania Pesticide Advisory Board (PDA) and am currently on the county FSA board. In my leisure time I enjoy hunting, fishing and following all things Penn State.

As I begin my tenure, things in the fruit industry are normal- challenging. The acronyms have changed over the years; MSWPA, HazCom, TABM, ERM, WPS, CM, OFM, GAP, PPV. All of these were specters we dealt with in the past, and all have the potential to return, but we can add to them now the "new and improved" WPS, FMSA, WOTUS, BMSB, SLF, and more to come, I'm sure. Along with these challenges we have the usual labor issues as well as possible changes in crop insurance to stay on top of and attempt to influence.

I am so thankful that this association was left in such great shape as I take the helm. Many thanks are due to Tad Kuntz for the great job he did. Furthermore, the board members, committee chairs and committee members deserve a big thanks for all they do. Working with this group is an honor. The dedication to this industry I observe when I sit in these meetings is impressive.

I would be remiss if I were not to mention Maureen Irvin. The job she is doing for our organization is outstanding. Her work ethic and attention to detail have strengthened our organization and made the MAFVC one of the best shows of its kind.

Because of this group of industry leaders, I'm sure that my job will be made easier and, while there will always be challenges, SHAP will continue to address them and serve our industry well.

Right now a cold wind is blowing outside, thankfully, and there seems to be little movement in the buds. Soon, however, Spring will be upon us in all its glory. I wish you all a minimum of sleepless nights this Spring, a beautiful bloom and a bountiful, profitable crop.

Health, happiness and prosperity to you all.

Chris Baugher