***Editorial Views***

*By Dr. Rob Crassweller*

The Convention has become one of the premier grower meetings in the Northeast. The Great American Hall and the Aztec Room at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center will host the Trade Show. Specialized horticultural equipment, farm market merchandise, and packaging,

will all be on display along with information on the latest seed varieties, fruit varieties, pesticides and other supplies and services for the commercial grower.

Many pesticide applicator update training credits will be available to Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia growers attending the sessions. The program covers nearly every aspect of fruit, vegetable, potato and berry production. Commercial growers should not pass

up this terrific educational opportunity.

Seven or eight concurrent educational sessions will be offered on all three days of the Convention. Besides a combined session for the keynote address, the opening day will feature breakout sessions on Tree Fruit, Tomatoes, Organic Vegetables, GMOs, Food Trends, Successful CSAs, Pollinators and Pollination, Leafy Greens, Onions and Garlic, Snap Beans, Drip Irrigation, Apps for Agriculture and Labor/Farm Management.

On the second day, sessions on Direct Marketing 101, Agritainment, SWD in Small Fruit, Tree Fruit, Peaches, Sweet Corn, Greenhouse Ornamentals, Wine Grapes, Soil Health/Cover Crops and General Vegetables will be offered. Also offered will be the session “Técnicas de

Producción de Frutas y Hortalizas” especially for Spanish speaking workers in the fruit and vegetable industries. It will feature various relevant production presentations in

Spanish.

The Convention will close on the third day with sessions on: Peaches, Tree Fruit, Vine Crops, Pumpkins, High Tunnels, Potatoes, Post Harvest, New Equipment and Weed Control.

The ninth annual Mid-Atlantic Cider Contest will be conducted during the Convention to determine the best tasting cider produced in the region. On January 27, fruit and vegetable growers will gather for the annual Fruit and Vegetable Growers Banquet which will include awards and recognitions. On January 28 there will be an Ice Cream Social in the evening.

Registration is required for all persons attending the Convention trade show or educational sessions.

Registration with any of the five sponsoring organizations allows one to attend any of the sessions although there are additional charges for some workshops and meals.

For further information, go to www.mafvc.org or call 717-

677-4184 or 717-694-3596.