

## WPVGA Industry Award Recipients

### **1982**

Grower of the Year – Mike Patrykus  
Research – M.P. Pinkerton

### **1983**

Grower of the Year – Myron Mommsen  
Young Grower of the Year – Bob Guenthner  
Research – Francis Gilson  
Associate – Marv Hopp  
Auxiliary – Patricia Diercks

### **1984**

Growers of the Year – Ed, Joe and Al Okray  
Young Grower – Dick Pavelski  
Research – Dave Curwen  
Associate – Tony Gallenberg  
Auxiliary – Arlene Malek

### **1985**

Grower – Mel Rominsky  
Young Grower – Tom Diercks  
Research – Myron Groskopp  
Associate – Allan Mueller  
Auxiliary – Kathie Baginski

### **1986**

Grower – Bob Diercks  
Young Grower – Brian West  
Research – Walt Stevenson  
Associate – Hub Moore  
Auxiliary – Anita Polzin

### **1987**

Grower – Don Schroeder  
Young Grower – Hod Chilewski  
Research – Steve Slack  
Associate – Gerald Volm  
Auxiliary – Deb Wolter

### **1988**

Grower – Louis Wysocki  
Young Grower – Bob Lapacinski  
Research – Art Kelman  
Associate – Hal Roberts  
Auxiliary – Dianne Somers and Avis Wysocki

### **1989**

Grower – Wayne Brittenham  
Young Growers – Steve Diercks, John Wolter  
Research – John Schoenemann  
Associate – Jay Arend  
Auxiliary – Sadie Bushman  
Auxiliary Leadership Award – Gerri Okray  
Volunteer – John Knoch  
Conservationist of the Year – Pete Wallendal

### **1990**

Young Grower – Ron Mach  
Volunteers – Steve Diercks, Tom Wild  
Research – Walt Stevenson  
Associate – Myron Groskopp  
Auxiliary – Barbara Bushman

### **1991**

Young Grower – Jim Okray  
Volunteer – Nick Somers  
Research – Jeff Wyman  
Associate – Paul Roberts  
Auxiliary – Kathleen Baginski

### **1992**

Young Grower – Conroy Soik  
Volunteer – Bob Stodola  
Researchers – Stan Peloquin, Larry Binning  
Associate – Joe Nagel  
Auxiliary – Ellen Wysocki

### **1993**

Young Grower – Dennis West  
Volunteer – Steve Bartsch  
Researchers – Dave Curwen, Tom German  
Associate – Mike Robinson  
Auxiliary – Caroline Wild

### **1994**

Young Grower – John T. Schroeder  
Volunteer – Francis Wysocki  
Research – Walt Stevenson  
Associate – John Landa  
Auxiliary – Chris Anthony  
Industry Appreciation Awards – Andy Merry,  
Linda Rather, Randy Van Haren,

Terry Wex, Steve Bartsch, John Wallendal, Dick Lower

### **1995**

Young Grower – Mike Wolter  
Volunteers – Jim Okray, Terry Wex  
Research – Bob Coltman  
Associate – Marilyn Warner  
Auxiliary – Gerri Okray  
Industry Appreciation Awards – Nick Somers, Louis Wysocki

### **1996**

Young Grower – Jim Wysocki  
Volunteer – Dick Pavelski  
Research – Jeff Wyman  
Associate – Dean and Marilyn Allen  
Auxiliary – Jane Zdroik  
Industry Appreciation – Dave Ankley, Tia and Mitchell Bushman  
Environmental Stewardship Awards – Wallendal Supply, Coloma Farms

### **1997**

Young Growers – John and Andy Wallendal  
Volunteer – Al Sowinski  
Research – Walt Stevenson  
Associate – Tom Grall  
Auxiliary – Linda Bacon  
Industry Appreciation – Justin Isherwood, Tamas Houlihan

### **1998**

Young Growers – Andy Diercks, Sam Ourada  
Volunteer – Peg DeLapp  
Research – Ann MacGuidwin  
Associate – Rueben Hintz  
Auxiliary – Sharon Wysocki  
Industry Appreciation – Dean Zuleger, Dale Nelson

### **1999**

Young Grower – Scott Erdman  
Volunteer – Larry Alsum  
Research – Keith Kelling  
Associate – Peg DeLapp  
Farm Woman – Irene Gagas  
Industry Appreciation – Chris Anthony, Jerry Martin, Wysocki Produce Farm, Inc.

### **2000**

Young Grower – Brian Bushman  
Volunteer – Chris Anthony  
Research – Jiming Jiang  
Associate – Bill Tatro  
Farm Woman – Carol Yeska  
Industry Appreciation – Louis Wysocki, Mike Lester

### **2000** (February) (Presented in 2001)

President's Award – Tamas Houlihan, Conroy Soik  
Industry Appreciation – Peg DeLapp

### **2001** (Presented in 2002)

Young Grower of the Year – Jim Bacon  
Volunteer of the Year – Andy Diercks  
Research – Deana Sexson  
Associate – Tony Grapsas  
WPVGA Potato Industry Woman of the Year – Lynn Isherwood  
Industry Appreciation – Larry Binning, Dale Bowe, Lori Gunderson  
President's Award: Louis Wysocki

### **2002** (Presented in 2003)

Young Grower of the Year – Jeff Sommers  
Volunteer of the Year – Carole Gagas  
Research – Chuck Kostichka  
Associate – Dale Nelson  
WPVGA Potato Industry Woman of the Year – Bonnie Shafel  
Industry Appreciation – Bob Hanneman, John Helgeson, John Shields  
President's Award – Mike Carter and Steve Diercks

### **2003** (Presented in 2004)

Young Grower: Brad Faldet  
Volunteer: Jim Wysocki  
Researcher: A.J. Bussan  
Associate Division: Darrell "Butch" Fencil  
Potato Industry Woman of the Year: Shirley Sowinski  
President's Award: Gary Bula, Victor Anthony, Newton & Theresa Alsum  
Industry Appreciation: Keith Kelling

**2004** (Presented in 2005)  
Young Grower: Chad Bartlett  
Volunteer: Mike Finnessy  
Researcher: Jeff Wyman  
Associate Division: Marv Hopp  
Potato Industry Woman of the Year: Carole Gagas  
President's Award: Mike Carter  
Industry Appreciation:

**2005** (Presented in 2006)  
Young Grower: Rod Zupon  
Volunteer: Ron Krueger  
Researcher: Amy Charkowski  
Associate Division: Dale Bowe  
Potato Industry Woman of the Year: Kathy Bartsch  
President's Award: Dennis Zeloski  
Industry Appreciation: John Shields

**2006** (Presented in 2007)  
Young Grower: T.J. Kennedy  
Volunteer: John T. Schroeder  
Researcher: Ann MacGuidwin  
Associate Division: Skip Tenpas  
Potato Industry Woman of the Year: Charlotte "Nicky" Wirz  
President's Award: Jim Wysocki  
Industry Appreciation: Chuck Kostichka and Steve Rosenthal

**2007** (Presented in 2008)  
Young Grower: Kevin Sigourney  
Volunteer: Dennis Bula  
Researcher: Walt Stevenson  
Associate Division: Volm Companies - In honor of: Chuck Resch, Gerald Volm and Mike Hunter  
Potato Industry Woman of the Year: Joan "Tippie" Williams  
President's Award: Dave Knights and Dick Pavelski  
Industry Appreciation: Dale Nelson  
Hall of Fame: Walt Stevenson

**2008** (Presented in 2009)  
Young Grower: Isaac Isherwood  
Volunteer: Steve Diercks  
Researcher: AJ Bussan  
Associate Division: Wayne Ganser

Potato Industry Woman of the Year: Diane Wysocki  
President's Award: Andy Merry  
Industry Appreciation: Kevin Bula, Mike Carter, Rick Hafner, Nick Somers  
Agri-Communicator: Larry Alsum

**2009** (Presented in 2010)  
Young Grower: Jon Hamerski  
Volunteer: Brenda Bula  
Researcher: Russell Groves  
Industry Appreciation: Chuck Kostichka & Heartland Farms  
Agri-Communicator: Mike Finnessy  
President's Award: general – all growers  
Associate Division Person: Tom Domaszek  
Potato Industry Woman of the Year: Sara Stelter

**2010** (Presented in 2011)  
Young Grower(s): Jeremie Pavelski, Dan Wild  
Volunteer: Cliff Gagas  
Researcher: Amanda Gevens  
Industry Appreciation: Alex Crockford, Ann MacGuidwin, Nick Somers, Dr. Molly Jahn  
Agri-Communicator: Nick Somers  
President's Award: Andy Diercks, Jerry Bushman, David Carter  
Associate Division Person: Steve Tatro  
Potato Industry Woman of the Year: Caroline Wild

**2011** (Presented in 2012)  
Young Grower: Paul Sowinski  
Volunteer: Larry Alsum  
Researcher: Alex Crockford  
Associate Division Business Person: Bill Zelinski  
Potato Industry Woman of the Year: Brenda Bula  
President's Award: Louis Wysocki  
Industry Appreciation: Kevin Bula, Dr. Robert Coltman, Kirk Wille, Julie Braun  
Agri-Communicator: Jeremie Pavelski

**2012** (Presented in 2013)  
Young Grower: Shawn Bula  
Volunteer: Jeremie Pavelski  
Researcher: Jed Colquhoun

Associate Division Business Person: Dan Wysocky  
Potato Industry Woman of the Year: none  
President's Award: Karen Walters & Julie Braun  
Industry Appreciation: Dennis Zeloski, AJ Bussan, Brad Faldet  
Agri-Communicator: Jacquie Wille

**2013** (Presented in 2014)

Young Grower: Josh Mattek  
Volunteer: Ron Krueger  
Researcher: AJ Bussan  
Associate Division Business Person: Bill Zakrzewski  
Industry Appreciation: HARS staff, Ron Mach, Gary & Lynda Bula, Jeff Wyman  
Associate Division Industry Appreciation: Mike Maguire, Cathy Schommer, Marv Hopp  
Agri-Communicator: Ron Kuehn & Jordan Lamb  
President's Award: Alicia Pavelski

**2014** (Presented in 2015)

Young Grower: Eric Schroeder  
Volunteer: Kathy Bartsch  
Researcher: Paul Mitchell  
Associate Division Business Person: Eugene Mancl  
Industry Appreciation: Chris Brooks, Glenn Carlson, Nick Somers  
Agri-Communicator: Dianne Somers  
President's Award: Tamas Houlihan; Wendy Alsum-Dykstra & Heidi Alsum-Randall

**2015** (Presented in 2016)

Young Grower: Mark Finnessy  
Volunteer: Heidi Randall  
Researcher: Jiwan Palta  
Associate Business Person: Chris Brooks  
Agri-Communicator: JD Schroeder  
Industry Appreciation: Karen Rasmussen  
President's Award: Jordan Lamb

**2016** (Presented in 2017)

Young Grower: Rod Gumz  
Volunteer: Andy Diercks  
Researcher: Jeff Endelman  
Associate Business Person: Wayne Solinsky  
Agri-Communicator: Louis Wysocki  
Industry Appreciation: Ed Burns

President's Award: Shannon Finnessy

**2017** (Presented in 2018)

Young Grower: Chad Malek  
Volunteer: Paul Cieslewicz  
Researcher: Shelley Jansky  
Associate Business Person: Sally Suprise  
Agri-Communicator: Andy Wallendal  
Industry Appreciation: Julie Braun, Mike Copas  
President's Award: Gina Schroeder

**2018** (Presented in 2019)

Young Grower: J.D. Schroeder  
Volunteer: Eric Schroeder  
Researcher: Matt Ruark  
Associate Business Person: Cathy Schommer  
Agri-Communicator: John Keeling  
Industry Appreciation: Chuck Bolte  
President's Award: Anita Mattek

**2019** (Presented in 2020)

Young Grower: Jeff Fassbender  
Volunteers: Cliff & Carole Gagas  
Researcher: Paul Bethke  
Associate Business Person: Dale Bowe  
Agri-Communicator: Jerry Knutson  
President's Award: Jody Meddaugh  
Industry Appreciation: Nick Laudenbach

**2020** (Presented in 2021)

Young Grower: Alex Okray  
Volunteer: Mike Carter  
Researcher: Yi Wang  
Associate Business Person: Kenton Mehlberg  
Agri-Communicator: Clark Camilli  
President's Award: Richard Gumz  
Industry Appreciation: Karen Rasmussen

**2021** (Presented in 2022)

Young Grower: Wendy Alsum-Dykstra  
Volunteer: J.D. Schroeder  
Researcher: Amber Walker  
Associate Business Person: Rich Wilcox  
Agri-Communicator: Dan Mahoney  
President's Award: Jolene Guenthner  
Industry Appreciation: Dana Rady, Ann MacGuidwin, Doug Rouse

**2022** (Presented in 2023)

Young Grower: Nicola Carey

Volunteer: Doug Posthuma

Researcher: Dr. James Busse

Associate Business Person: Julie Cartwright

Agri-Communicator: Jordan Lamb

President's Award: Anna Okray

Industry Appreciation: Julie Braun