

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 Wallenda

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 Wallenda, 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 – Wallenda Supply, Coloma Farms

1997

Young Growers – John and Andy Wallenda
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 Wallenda
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

2023 (Presented in 2024)

Young Grower: Charlie Husnick
Volunteer: Randy Fleishauer
Researcher: Brooke Babler
Associate Business Person: Bill Page
Agri-Communicator: Richard Pavelski
President's Award: Dan Walsch
Industry Appreciation: Paul Bethke, Kevin Schleicher

2024 (Presented in 2025)

Young Grower: Charlie Mattek
Volunteer: Wendy Alsum-Dykstra
Researcher: Jed Colquhoun
Associate Business Person: Matt Selenske
Agri-Communicator: Jeb Barzen
President's Award: Kelly Mattek
Industry Appreciation: Paul Sytsma

2025 (Presented in 2026)

Young Grower: Joe Seis
Volunteer: Brittany Bula
Researcher: Yi Wang
Associate Business Person: Penney Hammer
Agri-Communicator: Joe Kertzman
President's Award: Kirk Wille
Industry Appreciation: Russell Groves,
Brian Bushman, Trisha Grezenski, Jerry Pierce