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# Missouri Vegetable Growers Association NEWSLETTER

## MVGA's 2020 Officers

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DO YOU WANT A FREE 5 GALLON BUCKET?

By Norman Kilmer

Sure you do! This bucket is nice and colorful too. On the plus side, it has all sorts of food safety guidelines printed on the outside of it. It is just what every produce grower needs. If you do get a bucket, you most likely will not be using it to bring in the produce from the field or produce patch. You will be using it as a reference list.

So, what do you have to do to get your own FREE 5 gallon bucket? It is not hard to get one. It just takes a phone call or by looking up a website address. It is almost too easy!

Missouri Department of Agriculture has a program to help produce growers get ready for the on farm food safety. They will come out to your farm and do a mock food safety inspection for you. There is no cost or penalties for this. This is just a service to help out. On the plus side, they will give you a free 5 gallon bucket. Now how's that?

So how do I go about getting this free inspection? It can be done 3 different ways. You can go to the website and visit the Produce Safety web page at: <https://agriculture.mo.gov> You can also call them at 573-751-1134. If neither of these work for you, you can contact them at Produce Safety Program, Missouri Department of Agricultural, PO Box 630, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102.

Who ever you get in contact with, they will need the following information:

- Your complete name
- Farm name
- Address
- Phone number, if you have a phone
- E-mail address, if you have one

Other items they need are as follows:

- Months during which crops are grown
- Months during which crops are harvested
- Farm compliance date, 2018, 2019 or 2020

Contact them and see if you are in compliance with the food safety rules, There is no cost for this. On the bonus side, you get a free gift. A 5 gallon bucket!



### MVGA 2019 meeting minutes January 11, 2019

Chairman, Errol Ahlers at 5:00pm, called meeting to order.  
 Norman Kilmer read secretary report.  
 Bonita Riley read treasure report.  
 Both reports were approved as read. Pat Byers moved to accept reports as read. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Webster Davis.  
 Eileen Nichols told us about a grant for specialty growers groups in seeing if there is enough of interest for the groups to join together. One officer of each group would make up the board of this group. This board would then help in getting tours and meetings together though out the state. Most likely would also be able to hire office personnel to help with office work, tours and meetings as needed. Eileen also had a check sheet along at meeting for members to fill out.  
 Norman Kilmer asked if there is anyone with an article for the newsletter. Crowd was told if you can explain it to someone else, you can write it down in the same way.  
 Cathy Geary talked about forming local specialty groups. This way each region would have a group locally to help with tours and meetings and tours in there regions. Webster Davis told us that there are specialty grants for this type of thing. Pat Byers gave us updates on meetings. Winter Production Conference, Feb. 11 & 12 at Lincoln University, Jefferson City. Missouri Blueberry School, Feb. 22 & 23 in Springfield. Bring Back American Small Farm, March 19 & 20, West Plains. Tomato Conference, May 30 & 31, Jefferson City.  
 Papa Workshop, Sept. 20, Mountain Grove.  
 Blackberry Workshop, will be held in 2 places. Dates to be announced.  
 Elderberry Workshop, June 13 through 15, George Washington Carver Farm, Jefferson City.  
 Errol Ahlers told us about a letter he send out to all previous members of MVGA. His question was, why they no longer were a member and what it would take to get them back. Discussions from crowd; Getting Web site redone so it is more friendly and easier to navigate around it. Ideas on how to get the local newspapers and radio stations advertising the MVGA tour in that area. Sara from Missouri Department of Ag on food safety information they had available at there booth here at the GPGC.

Elections as follows  
 It was agreed to keep the board the same as of now.  
 Chairman, Errol Ahlers  
 Vice Chairman, John Kissle  
 Secretary, Norman Kilmer  
 Treasure, Bonita Riley  
 Alternate, Cathy Geary  
 Meeting adjourned.

Disease Prevention is the best approach to managing plant diseases in the home garden, but sometimes diseases occur despite the best efforts at prevention. For some plants, disease-resistant varieties are available to prevent or reduce the impact of some common diseases. See MU Extension publication:  
[G6202, Disease Prevention in Home Vegetable Gardens](#)

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MVGA is the sponsor of the Missouri FFA Vegetable Production Proficiency Award



## Don't Forget Your MVGA membership!

### 2020 Membership levels

- Student - \$5
- Basic - \$20
- Electronic - \$30
- Full - \$55
- Premier - \$60
- Corporate - \$110
- Lifetime - \$360

For membership application go to:

<http://www.moveggrowers.org/>

or Contact Debbie Klindworth,  
 Membership Manager  
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