

Abby Beissinger

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EDUCATION **Washington State University**, Pullman, WA
M.S., Plant Pathology. September 2016.
Advisor: Dr. Debra A. Inglis

University of Wisconsin—Madison, Madison, WI
B.A. with distinction, Anthropology. May 2011.

PUBLICATIONS **Beissinger, A.**, Goldberger, J. R., Benedict, C. A., and Inglis, D. A. 2017.
Seed potatoes, virus management, and the non-adoption of an agricultural
innovation. *Rural Sociol* DOI: 10.1111/ruso.12181.

Beissinger, A. 2016. Proactive approaches to managing *Potato virus Y* in Western
Washington. Washington State University.

Submitted:

Beissinger, A. and Inglis, D. A. 201x. Potential sources of *Potato virus Y* in
western Washington. Washington State University Extension.

Near submission:

Beissinger, A. and Inglis, D. A. 201x. Time of mechanical inoculation with *Potato
virus Y^{N-Wi}* on potato and effects on symptom expression and detection by
Immunostrips® and TAS-ELISA. Plant Health Progress.

EXTENSION *Invited:*

PRESENTATIONS
& WORKSHOPS **Beissinger, A.** August 2017. “Plant pathogens around us.” Women in Science
Exposition. Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, CT. Audience size: 300.

Beissinger, A. February 2016. “Inoculation timing effects on *Potato virus Y*
symptom expression.” 34th Annual Western Washington Potato Workshop.
Washington State University-Northwestern Washington Research & Extension
Center (WSU-NWREC), Mount Vernon, WA. Audience size: 120.

Beissinger, A. February 2016. “Plant virology.” Advanced plant pathology for
Master Gardener’s course. WSU-Snohomish County Extension, Everett, WA.
Audience size: 50.

Beissinger, A. July 2015. “Challenges to managing *Potato virus Y* in Skagit and
Whatcom counties.” Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland Annual Farm Tour. WSU-
NWREC. Mount Vernon, WA. Audience size: 35.

Contributed:

Cisneros, L.M., **Beissinger, A.**, Chadwick, C., Arnold, A., and Volin, J.C. “Natural Resources Conservation Academy: Intergenerational Environmental Programming & Conservation Solutions”. Connecticut Land Conservation Council Annual Meeting. Middletown, CT. Audience size: 30

Cisneros, L.M., Volin, J.C., and **Beissinger, A.** March 2017. Natural Resources Conservation Academy: Connecticut Conservation Ambassadors Graduation. Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources. University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT. Audience size: 250.

Inglis, D. A., Gundersen, B., **Beissinger, A.**, and Karasev, A. V. March 2017. Interactions of three PVY strains with five fresh market potato varieties. USDA NIFA SCRI Team meeting on Potato Necrotic Virus project, San Diego, CA. Audience size: 20.

Beissinger, A. May 2016. Special tour of Specialty Crops Block Grant *Potato virus Y* trials for Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Seed Potato Certification staff. WSU-NWREC. Mount Vernon, WA. Audience size: 2.

Beissinger, A. February 2016. “Detecting PVY using ELISA and Agdia Immunostrips®.” Hands-on Approaches for Detecting *Potato virus Y* Workshop. WSU-NWREC. Mount Vernon, WA. Audience size: 35.

Beissinger, A. August 2015. “A brief history of plant pathology and potatoes.” Seattle Goodwill Industries Career Day for Youth program. WSU-NWREC. Mount Vernon, WA. Audience size: 60.

Beissinger, A., Inglis, D.A., and Gundersen, B. August 2015. Special tour of Specialty Crops Research Initiative *Potato virus Y* trials for WSDA Seed Potato Certification staff. WSU-NWREC. Mount Vernon, WA. Audience size: 5.

Beissinger, A. July 2015. “Current research on *Potato virus Y*.” Annual Field Day, WSU-NWREC. Mount Vernon, WA. Audience size: 80.

Beissinger, A. July 2013. “Invasive plant species of Cook County Forest Preserves: Ecological impacts and identification.” Environmental Education Day for Student Conservation Association trail crew. Willow Springs, IL. Audience size: 10.

Beissinger, A. and Keith, N. February 2013. “Things that creep and crawl: Producers, consumers, and decomposers.” Boys & Girls Club Spring Vacation Camp. Lawrence, MA. Audience size: 20.

Beissinger, A., Keith, N., and Rickards, A. January 2012. “I ate what?!” Workshop on Healthy Eating and Digestion at South Lawrence East Middle School Dirty Hands Club. Lawrence, MA. Audience size: 15.

Beissinger, A. July 2010. “Why should we love trees?” Workshop on Agroforestry and Reforestation at Lingira Island Primary School. Lingira Island, Uganda. Audience size: 40.

DEPARTMENTAL
PRESENTATIONS

Beissinger, A. September 2016. “Proactive approaches to managing *Potato virus Y* in western Washington.” Department of Plant Pathology, WSU, Pullman, WA. Audience size: 50.

Beissinger, A. January 2015. “The mystery of lettuce big-vein.” Department of Plant Pathology, WSU, Pullman, WA. Audience size: 50.

CONFERENCE
ABSTRACTS

Inglis, D.A., Gundersen, B.G., and **Beissinger, A.** 2017. Foliar and tuber reaction of five fresh market potato cultivars with three *Potato virus Y* strains. Ann. Mtg. Amer. Phytopath. Soc., San Antonio, TX.

Cisneros, L.M., Beissinger, A., and Volin, J. C. 2017. Promoting a more resilient Connecticut through youth conservation projects. UConn CIRCA Forum. University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

Inglis, D.A., Gundersen, B., **Beissinger, A.**, and Karasev, A.V. 2017. Interactions of three PVY strains with five fresh market potato varieties. USDA NIFA SCRI CAPS Team meeting on Potato Necrotic Virus project, San Diego, CA.

Beissinger, A., Benedict, C.A., Goldberger, J., and Inglis, D.A. 2016. A sociological assessment of *Potato virus Y* in western Washington: Barriers and bridges to adopting new management practices. Ann. Mtg. Amer. Phytopath. Soc., Tampa, FL.

Inglis, D.A., Gundersen, B.G., and **Beissinger, A.** 2016. Evidence that tuber cracking can be caused by *Potato virus Y*. Annual Meeting. Amer. Phytopath. Soc. Pacific Div., La Conner, WA.

ACADEMIC
SERVICE

Graduate Student Liaison May 2015-May 2016
WSU-NWREC, Mount Vernon, WA
Served as the representative and advocate for 17 graduate students across four different departments. Attended faculty meetings, helped new and current students navigate the research center, organized monthly graduate student meetings, and coordinated educational tours of local agricultural businesses with an environmental scope.

Chair, Graduate Student Seminar Committee Sept 2015-Jan 2016
WSU-NWREC, Mount Vernon, WA
Annual public event organized by graduate students. Coordinated and presented a panel discussion with four speakers across interdisciplinary agriculture fields. Managed a \$1500 budget, facilitated planning meetings, assigned and supervised all aspects of preparation tasks, and was the point of contact for all event attendees and participants.

Resident Coordinator May 2015-Aug 2015
WSU-NWREC, Mount Vernon, WA

Served as the point of contact between the NWREC and residents staying at the on-campus guesthouse.

Assistant Organizer, Invited Speaker Committee Jan 2015-Apr 2015
WSU, Pullman, WA

Annual public event organized by plant pathology graduate students at WSU. Aided in travel, entertainment, and transportation plans for speaker, Dr. Robert Davis.

RESEARCH &
PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE

Assistant Extension Educator Feb 2017-Present
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Coordinate all aspects of the Conservation Ambassador Program, a program high school students to engage in natural resources and environmental science. Plan and execute logistics for summer field experience. Partner with more than 30 community organizations to carry out student conservation projects. Hire, train, and manage graduate student and undergraduate student staff. Recruit participants statewide through class room presentations, assemblies, and STEM fairs. Manage budget, pursue funding opportunities, and write grants.

Graduate Research Assistant Aug 2014-Oct
WSU-NWREC, Mount Vernon, WA

Conducted research to understand the impacts of farmer decisions on plant disease epidemics, and provided technical recommendations to assist in farm planning. Collaborated with Extension specialists, farmers, and Department of Agriculture agents. Created special sessions, workshops, and publications for farmers, researchers, and students. Presented research at national and regional conferences and informal grower meetings. Contributed statistically analyzed data to grant reports for funding agencies. Engaged regional youth organizations in STEM programming.

Crew Leader May 2013-Aug 2013
Student Conservation Association, Chicago, IL

Led and managed a conservation trail crew of 10 high school students. Crew efforts removed nearly 30,000 ft² of invasive woody plants, and improved two+ miles of trails at the Little Red School House Nature Center.

Service Learning Coordinator Sept 2011-Mar 2013
Groundwork Lawrence, Lawrence, MA

Managed the Green Team, an environmental job corps for urban high school students. Developed and taught nearly 200 environmental education lessons at six K-8 schools. Served as the Assistant Director of Urban Adventures, an urban ecology summer day camp for K-8 students. Created a twenty-week healthy eating cooking class and secured funding from three different non-profits to execute programming. Funded by AmeriCorps MassLIFT.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Sept 2009-Dec 2009
Center for Sustainable Development, Atenas, Costa Rica

Assisted in harvesting, composting, and reforestation projects on the field site campus. Taught English and environmental education at a local elementary school. Under PI Dr. Achim Haeger, researched the carbon storage potential of leaf litter on shade grown coffee farms.

OUTREACH

Hearth Treks Leader

Mar 2014

Finca Pasiflora, Costa Rica

Co-coordinated and led a trip for 10 Pennsylvania State University undergraduate students to volunteer on a biodynamic organic educational farm. Main project involved building a river damming system to aid in agricultural water use.

Resident Mentor

Sept 2011-May 2013

Movement City, Lawrence, MA

Committed over 600 volunteer hours to serve as a college counselor and mentor for at-risk high school students. Taught garden and nutrition workshops for students and community members.

Research Coordinator

Aug 2010-May 2011

Secretary

EDGE Project, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Served on the board of the EDGE Project. Implemented trainings for Agriculture and Environment team leaders to successfully guide projects on clean water, composting, agroforestry, and disease management. Set and approved project goals and deadlines for team leaders. Coordinated volunteering opportunities for the EDGE Project members. Recorded meeting minutes, and co-wrote the monthly newsletter *EDGEside*.

Agriculture Team Member

Jan 2010-Aug 2010

Traveler

EDGE Project, Lingira Island, Uganda

Planned and researched best agricultural practices to create an agriculture handbook for the use of 2,000 Ugandans living on Lingira Island. Implemented programming over a six-week period on the island through community-needs research and assessments. Designed and executed natural resources and empowerment workshops for Lingira Island residents and students.

Quest to Chiapas Leader

May 2010

INESIN, Chiapas, Mexico

Organized and led a trip for five University of Wisconsin undergraduate students to investigate topics of human rights, indigenous relations, and Mayan traditions. Assisted in building projects for the NGO, INESIN. Fundraised, planned pre- and post-travel meetings, and coordinated travel logistics.

MEDIA

Blog post:

Beissinger, A. 2015. The power of being casual. Student guest-blogger, Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources Blog. <http://csanr.wsu.edu/the-power-of-being-casual/>.

Editorial spotlight:

Peterson, L. 2013. NPS and GWUSA highlight inspiring Groundwork youth. Groundwork USA online publication. <http://groundworkusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Wilkins-Lugo-2013.pdf>.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS	Richard Gabrielson American Phytopathological Society Student Award	2016
	College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences Scholarship	2016
	Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut Conference Scholarship	2016
	Tilth Producers of Washington Conference Scholarship	2015
	Great Lakes National Scholarship	2015
	Deans List, University of Wisconsin–Madison	2008-2011
	Charles Mead Scholarship	2007
AFFILIATIONS	First Detector, National Plant Diagnostic Network	2016-Present
	Member, American Phytopathological Society	2015-2017
	Member, Plant Pathology Graduate Student Organization	2014-2016
	Member, Graduate Student Professional Association	2014-2016
	Member, Potato Association of America	2015-2016
LANGUAGES	English (native tongue), Spanish (conversational proficiency), German (basic).	
TECHNICAL SKILLS	ELISA, PCR, RT-PCR, DNA extraction, staining, agroinfiltration, field sampling, sterile technique, experimental design, quantitative data analysis, qualitative data analysis, interviews, survey development.	
SOFTWARE	Statistical Analysis Software (SAS), Microsoft Office Suite, Google Drive, Drupal	