



PENNSYLVANIA FARM BILL

As the agriculture industry grows and changes, we must support the industry in new ways to ensure its future success. The **Pennsylvania Farm Bill** invests more than \$24 million in Pennsylvania's agriculture industry to grow opportunities and resources, remove barriers to entry, and cultivate future generations of leaders within agriculture. The plan includes:

1. Agricultural Business Development and Succession Planning

- **Pennsylvania Agricultural Business Development Center**, funded at **\$2 million**, to serve as a resource to help every farmer create a business plan, transition plan, or succession plan to ensure the best chance of success.
- **Realty Transfer Tax Exemption** for any transfer of preserved farmland to a qualified beginning farmer.

2. Creating more processing capabilities to accommodate a growing animal agriculture sector

- **Pennsylvania Dairy Investment Program**, funded at **\$5 million**, to fund research and development, organic transition assistance, value-added processing, and marketing grants in support of Pennsylvania's dairy industry.
- **Center for Animal Agriculture Excellence**, funded at **\$1 million**, to support the animal agriculture industry by expanding processing capacity, technical assistance, providing resources for food safety compliance, and assisting with the establishment of hemp as an approved animal feed.
- **Incentivizing Access to Meat Processing Inspections**, funded at **\$500,000**, to encourage access to new and expanded markets for small or new producers by reimbursing federal meat inspection costs and subsidizing the first-time purchase of equipment needed for federal compliance.

3. Removing regulatory burdens and strengthening the state's business climate

- **Conservation Excellence Grant Program**, funded at **\$2.5 million**, to provide financial and technical assistance to farmers to install and implement best management practices.

- **Agriculture Linked Investment Program**, funded at **\$500,000**, to re-establish this low interest loan program for the implementation of best management practices.
- **Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credits**, expanded by **\$3 million**, to increase the lifetime cap and increase availability.
- To ensure that farmers are better able to transport agricultural products or supplies, the Farm Bill proposes to **expand the allowable width for the use of implements of husbandry on roads**, such as farm tractors and combines, from 16 feet to 18 feet.
- To enhance diversification or transition to other ag operations for preserved farms where the original operation is no longer feasible, the Farm Bill proposes to amend the **Ag Area Security Act** to allow for subdivision of preserved farms.

4. **Strengthening Pennsylvania's workforce to ensure the next generation is prepared to lead**

- **Agriculture and Youth Organization Grant Program**, funded at **\$500,000**, to reestablish this program to fund agricultural and youth organizations to help increase knowledge and awareness of agricultural issues within the commonwealth.
- **The PA Farm to School Grant Program**, funded at **\$500,000**, to improve childhood nutrition while increasing exposure to agriculture.

5. **Protecting agriculture infrastructure**

- **PA Rapid Response Disaster Readiness Account**, funded at **\$5 million**, to allow for a quick response to agricultural disasters, including utilizing animal or plant health officials to contain an outbreak or threat, such as Spotted Lanternfly or Avian Influenza; or providing an immediate response to a foodborne illness.

6. **Increasing Market Opportunities and Making Pennsylvania the Nation's Leading Organic State**

- **PA Preferred Organic Initiative**, funded at **\$1.6 million**, to make PA the nation's leading organic state by further enhancing the growth of the organic industry.
- **PA Preferred Program**, funded at an additional **\$1 million**, to support the program and to bolster enrollment in Homegrown by Heroes.
- **State-level Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**, funded at **\$500,000**, to invest in and encourage farming of high-priority horticultural crops like hemp, hops, and hardwoods.
- **Urban Agriculture**, funded at **\$500,000**, to improve agriculture infrastructure in urban areas, the aggregation of product, sharing of resources, and support for community development efforts.