

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 4, 2025

Contact: Shannon Powers, Agriculture - 717.603.2056, <a href="mailto:shpowers@pa.gov">shpowers@pa.gov</a>

## Shapiro Administration, Congressional, and Ag Industry Leaders Cut Blue Ribbon Opening 109th PA Farm Show — 'Powering Pennsylvania'

Harrisburg, PA – Today, Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding, Community and Economic Development Secretary Rick Siger, Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson, and a host of state and local officials, as well as current and future Pennsylvania agriculture industry leaders, cut the blue ribbon, officially opening the 2025 PA Farm Show. The 2025 theme, *Powering Pennsylvania*, celebrates the people of Pennsylvania agriculture, who power our daily lives, our communities, and our economy.

"Governor Josh Shapiro recognized the power of agriculture from day one of his administration, committing to support economic opportunity for our farmers through meaningful action and resources," Secretary Redding said. "Throughout the eight-day celebration of Farm Show, we hope you'll join us to meet the people who power Pennsylvania, and see the progress fueled by their innovations and ingenuity, and fed by unprecedented Shapiro Administration investments that are empowering our future as an economic powerhouse. Ring in the New Year by celebrating the agricultural legacy that provides the fuel for our daily lives, and the promise of a powerful, productive future together."

**Deputy Agriculture Secretary Lisa Graybeal** emceed the ceremony, which included a mounted **PA State Police** color guard and the singing of the National Anthem by Lebanon County youth **Alona Buzey**, one of the winners of <u>2025 PA Farm Show Star Spangled Sing-Off.</u>

**Governor Josh Shapiro's** bipartisan 2024-25 budget invests in Pennsylvania's national legacy as a leader in agriculture, including a new \$10 million Agriculture Innovation and Conservation program that will help farmers put cutting-edge technology and innovative practices to work, sustaining their businesses, producing renewable energy, and conserving vital soil and water resources. The Governor's <a href="Economic Development Strategy">Economic Development Strategy</a> recognizes agriculture, along with energy, manufacturing, life sciences, robotics, and technology as key to Pennsylvania's future economic success.

"There's no question agriculture is a powerful sector of Pennsylvania's economy," said DCED Secretary Rick Siger. "One in every ten jobs in our Commonwealth are agriculture-related, and agriculture contributes more than \$132 billion dollars annually to our economy. Governor Shapiro's 10-year economic development strategic plan

doubles down on these advantages to create quality jobs for Pennsylvanians and strengthen our communities."

The 2025 Farm Show will feature fan-favorites like the 1,000-pound butter sculpture, delicious Farm Show Food Court, thousands of competitive agricultural events, homegrown cooking demonstrations at the PA Preferred® Culinary Connection, and more than one million square-feet of hands-on agriculture education opportunities and chances to engage with the people who power Pennsylvania through agriculture.

Pennsylvania's State Fair, the event showcases top competitors from 108 county and local fairs, and the diversity and quality of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry, the innovative people who make it thrive, and the faces of our proud past and promising future.

The 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show runs from Saturday, January 4 through Saturday, January 11 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg. Admission is free. Parking is \$15 per vehicle.

To stay up to date on 2025 PA Farm Show news, visit <u>farmshow.pa.gov</u> or follow the Pennsylvania Farm Show on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

Hours, a <u>daily schedule of events</u>, maps, and much more information to help visitors enjoy the show can be found at <u>farmshow.pa.gov</u> under 2025 Farm Show.

**Note:** Photos and video of the Opening Ceremony are available at <u>pacast.com</u>.