



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Shannon Powers, 717-603-2056 or shpowers@pa.gov

Shapiro Administration Awards Over \$500,000 in PA Farm Bill Grants to Expand Career Opportunities for Young Pennsylvanians in Agriculture

Investment funds 58 Projects in 29 Counties to encourage young Pennsylvanians to enter the agricultural industry.

Harrisburg, PA – Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding today announced \$501,123 in PA Farm Bill Agriculture & Youth Grants awarded to 58 organizations in 29 counties, funding projects that will empower youth to succeed in Pennsylvania’s \$132.5 billion agriculture industry. **Labor & Industry Secretary Nancy A. Walker** joined Secretary Redding in the 2025 PA Farm Show’s *So You Want to Be a Farmer* area, where anyone can learn how to raise food or flowers for fun, profit, or a new career.

“Our young people hold the energy and potential that will power Pennsylvania tomorrow,” **Secretary Redding said**. “The **Shapiro Administration** is committed to empowering young Pennsylvanians by investing in opportunities for them to succeed. Our investments in agriculture education today will help Pennsylvania agriculture businesses meet increasingly complex challenges tomorrow.”

Governor Josh Shapiro’s bipartisan 2024-25 budget funds a sixth year of Ag & Youth Grants through the PA Farm Bill. Since 2019, Ag & Youth Grants have invested \$3 million in 315 projects statewide.

Among projects funded by grants awarded in January 2024, funding for **Variety – the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley is supporting** gardens and greenhouse that are living classrooms, where young people with disabilities learn valuable skills to prepare them for permanent employment in the community. In the **School District of Philadelphia**, elementary students at **Fox Chase Farm** are learning firsthand about raising poultry using innovative, cutting-edge technology in their automated, mobile chicken house.

Since taking office, Governor Shapiro has invested \$13.8 million each year in the PA Farm Bill, continuing support for Pennsylvania’s [Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence](#), and supporting youth education and workforce development initiatives, including the largest increase ever in basic K-12 education funding, increasing Pennsylvania’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding by \$30 million in 2024-

25, and continuing to expand broadband internet access to allow students and employers in rural communities to compete.

“By investing in our young people through education and workforce development initiatives, the Shapiro Administration is investing in powering Pennsylvania’s bright future,” **Secretary Walker said**. “We are setting our Commonwealth up for success by making targeted investments in programs that teach students the skills they need for careers with family-sustaining wages and benefits in growing fields, including – and especially – agriculture.”

PA Farm Bill [Ag and Youth Grants](#) provide direct funding of up to \$7,500 and matching grants of up to \$25,000 to support projects, programs, and equipment purchases by youth-run organizations, and those with programs that benefit youth or promote agriculture, community leadership, vocational training, and peer networking. Past funded projects include agriculture career seminars and field trips, agricultural safety training, capital projects, and equipment purchases aimed at leading students to opportunities in agriculture and building the future workforce Pennsylvania’s agriculture industry needs.

Among the

Grant recipients, funded projects, and funding amount by county are as follows:

Allegheny

Hilltop Urban Farm, Youth Seed to Table Market Program, \$6,984

Berks

Kutztown Area School District, Classroom to Cafeteria- Hydroponic Growing Towers, \$6,676

Greenwich PTO, Cultivating a Curiosity in Agriculture, \$7,401

Brandywine Heights Area School District, Brandywine Heights Agriculture Program- Animal and Veterinary Science, \$7,500

Conrad Weiser Area School District, Updating Power Equipment for Agriculture and Outdoor Education, \$4,976

Brandywine Heights Area School District, Brandywine Heights Agriculture Education Expansion-Greenhouse, \$25,000

Blair

Williamsburg Community Farm Show, Improving the sheep and goat pens at

Williamsburg Community Farm Show, \$7,053

Spring Cove School District, Greenhouse Improvements and Floriculture Tools, \$6,513

Blair and Chester

Center for Dairy Excellence Foundation, DLT Farm Tours and Exploration Experiences, \$7,500

Bucks

The Middle Bucks Area Vocational Technical School Authority, Agriculture and Youth Program Grant, \$25,000

Butler

Seneca Valley School District, SV Living Laboratory and School Garden, \$7,500

Moniteau School District, Moniteau 2024-2025 Horticultural Upgrades, \$7,370

Butler Area School District, BASD Secondary Greenhouse Project, \$25,000

Centre

State College Area School District, SCASD Delta Program Greenhouse Revitalization Project \$ 4,700

The Pennsylvania State University, Urban Ag Experiential Learning Field Trip, \$7,500

The Pennsylvania State University, Youth Technology to Support Agricultural Practices, \$7,475

The Pennsylvania State University, Small Fruit Berry Development on the Student Farm, \$10,576

Chester

Chester County Technical College High Schools, Educational Field Trips, \$7,500

Chester County Intermediate Unit Pennock's Bridge Campus, Chicken Coop and Run, \$6,875

Chester County Intermediate Unit Horticulture Program, Floral Creations, \$7,500

Chester County Intermediate Unit Brandywine Campus, Program Expansion, \$6,950

Chester County Economic Development Foundation, Career Connections Academy, \$7,500

Clarion

The Pennsylvania State University, Clarion County Agricultural Education, \$3,489

Wolf's Corners Fair Youth and Agriculture, Youth Agriculture Project Display and Work Building, \$25,000

Clinton

Keystone Central School District Career and Technology Center, Greenhouse, \$7,000

Cumberland

Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, Educating Children About the Importance of Agriculture Through a Mobile Ag Lab, \$7,500

Erie

Union City Area School District, Union City Area High School Agriculture Program Experiences, \$7,482

Fayette

Fayette County 4H Dairy Club, Dairy Ag Education Grant, \$6,892

Franklin

Shippensburg Area Senior High School, Agriculture Mechanics Wood Working Equipment, \$7,500

Huntingdon

Southern Huntingdon County School District, Southern Huntingdon Agriculture Program Laboratory Equipment, \$7,500

Juniata Valley School District, Agriculture Curriculum - Food Science Improvement Project, \$4,813

Indiana

United School District, Outdoor Classroom and Sensory Garden Boxes, \$7,124

Jefferson

Quiet Creek Herb Farm and School of Country Living, Youth and Agriculture: Green Careers in Jefferson County, \$7,500

Brockway Area School District, High School Agriculture Program Band Mill Purchase, \$7,290

Juniata

Juniata County Agricultural Society, Chase the Banner, \$6,500

Juniata Agriculture FFA Program, Savoring the Seasons- Food Preservation, \$7,479

Lancaster

Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Farm in the Classroom Competition, \$7,500

Manheim Central High School, Workforce Readiness in Small Engine Repair & Maintenance, \$7,500

Lebanon

Cedar Crest High School, Welding Gear and Lab Tools, \$7,500

Luzerne

Hanover Area School District, Hanover Youth Agricultural Grant, \$7,500

Wilkes-Barre Area CTC, Student-Led Fresh Food Access at Wilkes Barre Area Career & Technical Center, \$12,332

Lycoming

The Pennsylvania State University, Lycoming County 4-H Programs, \$7,454

Montgomery Area High School FFA, Enhancing Ag Mechanics - Safe Tractor Restoration: Acquisition of VIVOR Inflatable Spray Booth, \$2,138

Montgomery

Variety the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley, Variety's Environmental Education Grant Proposal, \$7,500

Montgomery and Chester

Trellis for Tomorrow, SEED Skills Program, \$7,500

Montour

The Pennsylvania State University, Montour County 4-H Agricultural and Environmental Science/STEM Program Expansion, \$5,496

Danville High School, GIS Drone technology in Agriculture, \$7,500

Philadelphia

Northeast High School, Northeast High School-Natural Resource Management Hydroponic Farming, \$5,000

YESPhilly, YESPhilly Green Space Initiative, \$7,500

The School District of Philadelphia, Fox Chase Farm: Innovation in Agriculture and Career Opportunities, \$25,000

Schuylkill

Tri-Valley School District, 2024 TIG Welder, \$6,643

Somerset

Berlin Brothersvalley School District, 2024 Landscaping Equipment & Tools, \$7,499

Tioga

Wellsboro Area School District, Wellsboro Agriscience: Go Green for Veterinary and Environmental Science, \$7,500

Venango and Clarion

The Pennsylvania State University, Understanding and building ag careers through technology, \$7,500

Washington

California Area School District, Bee the Change: Advancing Biology Education Through Queen Bee Rearing, \$7,500

California Academy of Learning Charter School, Growing Futures: Equipping Our Greenhouse for Hands-On Learning and Sustainability, \$7,324

Trinity Area School District, 24-25 Youth Direct Ag Grant, \$7,500

Learn more about opportunities in agriculture at agriculture.pa.gov/kidsarethefuture.

Find a [map of previous grant recipients](#) and details of other PA Farm Bill grants and initiatives to grow and sustain Pennsylvania agriculture at agriculture.pa.gov/pafarmbill.

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