



Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Contact: Shannon Powers, aginfo@pa.gov, 717.603.2056

ADVISORY – TODAY – HARRISBURG – Shapiro Administration to Celebrate Two Decades of Fueling Growth in Pennsylvania's \$132.5 Billion Agriculture Industry through Centers for Excellence

Harrisburg, PA – Today at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, **Deputy Agriculture Secretary Lisa Graybeal** and leadership from the **Pennsylvania Centers for Excellence** will celebrate how the centers are feeding the nation's growth by bringing together industry associations, higher education institutions, and the Commonwealth to help advance research, innovation, and business growth in Pennsylvania's different plant and animal agriculture sectors.

Governor Josh Shapiro's Administration launched **The Center for Plant Excellence** in 2025 and established the **Organic Center of Excellence** while signing legislation establishing a PA Preferred Organic™ brand to open new markets for Pennsylvania producers. The two newest centers join **The Center for Dairy Excellence**, **The Center for Poultry & Livestock Excellence**, **The Center for Livestock Excellence**, and **The Center for Beef Excellence**.

The 2026 Farm Show – Pennsylvania's State Fair™ – runs Saturday, January 10 through Saturday, January 17, 2026. The 2026 theme, [*Growing A Nation*](#), celebrates Pennsylvania's critical role in shaping the United States through agriculture. Beyond the thousands of competitions, the show will highlight how Pennsylvania's farming heritage fed and shaped the early nation and how Pennsylvania's agriculture and food industries continue to drive economic growth, innovation, and community strength.

WHO:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Lisa Graybeal
Silver Valley Farm Co-Owner Jim Shirk
LEAF Project Executive Director Heidi Witmer
Farmer Kendra Nissley Jubilee Heritage Cheese
Farmer Scotty Miller Masonic Villages Farm

WHEN: Tuesday, January 13 at 10 AM

WHERE:

PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, 2300 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA,
GIANT Expo Hall

Event is behind the PennAg Industries Booth in the Food Court. Enter through the saloon doors on the east end.

[Farm Show Complex Map](#)

RSVP:

Press interested in attending must RSVP to aginfo@pa.gov