



## Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture



## Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry



## Pennsylvania Department of Education

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### **Shapiro Administration Awards \$600,345 in PA Farm Bill Grants to Expand Career Opportunities for Young Pennsylvanians in Agriculture**

*Investment funds 62 projects in 33 counties, and one statewide project to inspire and equip young Pennsylvanians to pursue careers in the state's \$132.5 billion agriculture industry.*

**Harrisburg, PA** – On the third day of the 2026 Farm Show, **Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding** announced \$600,345 in PA Farm Bill Agriculture & Youth Grants, including 15 matching and 47 direct awards to organizations in 33 counties, funding projects that will empower youth across the state to succeed in Pennsylvania's \$132.5 billion agriculture industry. **Labor & Industry Secretary Nancy A. Walker**, and **Education Secretary Dr. Carrie Rowe** joined Secretary Redding to make the announcement during a Career Expo connecting more than 2,200 Pennsylvania students with career opportunities offered by 48 agricultural businesses.

"Pennsylvania youth are the fertile ground that will grow our nation's prosperity in the future," **Secretary Redding said**. "The **Shapiro Administration** is committed to investing in opportunities every young person needs to succeed. Our investments in relevant agriculture education today will help Pennsylvania agriculture businesses meet increasingly complex challenges tomorrow."

Governor Josh Shapiro's bipartisan [2025-26 budget](#) funds a seventh year of Ag & Youth Grants through the PA Farm Bill. Since 2019, Ag & Youth Grants have supported \$3.5 million in 377 projects that are providing opportunities for students statewide.

Under Governor Shapiro's leadership, L&I and the Department of Agriculture have partnered to create more [apprenticeship opportunities and training programs](#) in Pennsylvania's agriculture industry. Since the start of the Shapiro Administration, L&I's Apprenticeship and Training Office has supported the creation of 115 new apprenticeships [including four new apprenticeship programs serving the agriculture industry](#) and enrolled more than 17,100 new apprentices since the Governor took office.

The 2025-26 budget also delivers **\$183 million** in funding for career and technical education and apprenticeships — a more than 50 percent increase compared to when the Governor first took office.

“Agriculture has always been at the heart of Pennsylvania’s economy, and it continues to offer meaningful, family-sustaining careers for the next generation,” said **Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry Secretary Nancy A. Walker**.

“Under Governor Josh Shapiro’s leadership, we’re investing in hands-on training through apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships that prepare Pennsylvanians for careers on the farm and in the many trades and industries that support agriculture. These investments help ensure our agricultural workforce remains strong as we honor our roots and continue growing a nation.”

Since taking office, Governor Josh 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 aimed at helping students and employers in both rural and communities to compete. As part of the 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.

The Governor’s 2025-26 budget also delivers \$900 million in additional funding for pre-K-12 public education, building on last year’s record-setting funding.

“For many students, agriculture education is the first time they realize something powerful: There is a place for me here -- a place where learning is hands-on and connected to the real world, where technology meets tradition, where curiosity turns into purpose,” said **Secretary Rowe**. “As Governor Shapiro often says, investments in today’s students are investments in Pennsylvania’s future. That’s why early career education matters. Career exploration doesn’t begin at graduation -- it begins with curiosity.”

**Grant recipient Trellis for Tomorrow**, a Chester County nonprofit, received \$18,100 to expand its garden and farm-based youth programming initiatives in 2026. For the last 22 years, Trellis has provided hands-on, paid work experiences for young people in

agriculture, prioritizing youth in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods in the Greater Philadelphia Region. The group has worked with more than 1,600 youth over that time, and in the last six years has provided over 30,000 lbs. of organic produce to neighbors in need through its youth programming initiatives.

**Grant recipients, funded project titles, and funding amount by county are as follows:**

**Allegheny**

Riverview School District –Seeds of Tomorrow: VR Agriculture and Aquaponics Career Lab, \$7,000

Bible Center Church –The Oasis Project, Oasis Farm Field 2 Fork Youth Academy, \$7,500

Hilltop Urban Farm – Season extension, \$7,398

Grow Pittsburgh – Garden Dreams, \$25,000

Chatham University – Deer Education and Infrastructure at Eden Hall Campus, \$12,280

**Beaver**

RiverWise – 2026 Summer Sustainability Institute, \$7,500

**Berks**

Alvernia University – Seeds of Discovery: Raised Bed Pilot Project, \$7,500

Brandywine Heights Area School District – Poultry Science Program, \$7,500

**Blair**

Spring Cove School District – Food Science and Safety, \$7,481

**Bucks**

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology – Phase 2 Greenhouse Restoration Project, \$25,000

Upper Bucks County Technical School – Barn Renovations and Expansion Capital Project – \$25,000

Snipes Farm and Education Center – Youth Ag Education Equipment for Snipes Farm Seed-to-Fork Program, \$7,482

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology – Hydroponics Project for Horticulture and Landscape Program – \$6,165

**Butler**

Butler Area School District District – Ag Programming Expansion, \$7,500

**Centre**

The Pennsylvania State University – Philipsburg-Osceola High School Greenhouse and Gardening Program, \$7,000

Bald Eagle Area School District – Floriculture on Display - Floral Cooler, \$4,494

**Chester**

Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines – Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines Youth Summer Camps, \$7,500

Chester County Intermediate Unit – School Co-op Garden, \$7,500

Chester County Intermediate Unit – The Learning Lab Grant, \$7,500

Trellis for Tomorrow, Trellis for Tomorrow – Agricultural Education Grow Space Expansion, \$18,100

### **Columbia**

Southern Columbia Area High School Agriculture Program – SCA Agriculture Career Exploration and Leadership Development Project, \$7,500

Southern Columbia Area High School Agriculture Program – Greenhouse Project, \$10,000

### **Crawford**

Conneaut Area School District Agriculture Department – CASH Greenhouse, \$4,010

### **Cumberland**

Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation – Mobile Ag Lab Increases Access to Vital Agriculture Education, \$7,500

### **Dauphin**

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

Wildheart Ministries – The Hill Farm Field Trips 2026, \$25,000

### **Erie**

Groundwork Erie – 4th Street Farm Expansion and Education, \$7,487

Eco-Erie – Water and Sanitation Upgrade for Youth Agricultural Training, \$25,000

### **Franklin**

Franklin County Fair Commission, Franklin County Junior Fair Board Improvement and Expansion, \$7,500

### **Huntingdon**

Standing Stone FFA – Huntingdon Area High School Plant and Soil Science Curriculum Equipment, \$7,500

Southern Huntingdon County High School, Animal Science Equipment for Southern Huntingdon County Agriculture Department, \$7,460

### **Lancaster**

Killiann George – Hands-On Animal Reproduction Technology and Safety Lab, \$7,018

### **Lawrence**

Wilmington Area School District – Wilmington Farms: Growing Creativity, \$7,500

### **Lebanon**

ELCO School District – Legacy in the Making: The ELCO Barn Raising, \$21,250

**Montgomery**

Variety - the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley – Variety's Agricultural Vocational Program for Youth with Disabilities, \$7,500

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit – 25-26 MCIU Transition Envision Horticulture, \$7,500

**Montour**

The Pennsylvania State University – Montour County 4-H Agricultural and Environmental Science Program Extension, \$3,354

**Northampton**

Easton Area Neighborhood Center – Pathways in Agriculture and Leadership, \$7,500

**Northumberland**

Line Mountain School District Animal and Veterinary Program Additions, \$7,368

**Perry**

LEAF Project – Farm Fellowship: Shared Authority and Sustainability on the LEAF Farm, \$7,500

Greenwood School District – Energizing Engines Small Gas Engine Curriculum Enhancement, \$7,500

**Philadelphia**

Novick Urban Farm – Giving of Self Partnership School Garden, \$1,226

AgrotheraPA – G.R.O.W. Hub Intergenerational Garden Initiative, \$5,000

The School District of Philadelphia – Fox Chase Farm Student-Run Farm Store, \$7,500

Home and School Association of the Penn Alexander School – Penn Alexander Middle Grades Science Ag Education Program, \$7,500

WB Saul Alumni Association – Saul School Support, \$3,732

Home and School Association of the Penn Alexander School – Outdoor Classroom for Urban Garden, \$25,000

Greener Partners – Farm Explorer, \$7,500

**Potter**

The Pennsylvania State University – Learning Kits for Agricultural and Rural Education, \$2,447

**Snyder**

The Pennsylvania State University – Agriculture Adventures Youth Day Camp, \$6,103

**Somerset**

Berlin Brothersvalley High School – Animal Production Equipment, \$7,490

**Tioga**

Wellsboro Area School District – Lab Science Supplies for Student Success, \$7,500

**Union**

The Pennsylvania State University – Putting the Science Back in Livestock and Environmental Projects, \$7,500

Mifflinburg Area School District – Agriculture Program Mobile Workstation – Mifflinburg, \$25,000

**Warren**

Warren County School District – Eisenhower Middle-High Agricultural Program Supports, \$7,500

**Washington**

California Area School District – The Greenhouse as a Living Classroom for STEAM, \$5,658

Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders Association – PA Junior Guernsey Breeders Attendance at 2027 National Convention, \$7,500

Jeannette Hartley – Trinity Hydroponics Retrofit, \$7,500

California Area School District – Agri-Ready Youth Training in Veterinary and Animal Science, \$24,000

**Wayne**

The Pennsylvania State University – Wayne County 4-H Spring 2026 Education, \$7,492

**Wyoming**

The Pennsylvania State University – Cloverbud and Junior Explorers Agriculture Safety and Community Discovery, \$6,850

**Statewide Project**

The Pennsylvania State University – AP 4-H Agriculture and Nutrition Education - Books for Cooks, \$7,500

Learn more about opportunities in agriculture at [agriculture.pa.gov/kidsarethefuture](https://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](https://agriculture.pa.gov/pafarmbill).

Photos and video of the event are at [PACast.com](https://PACast.com).

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