



Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Operating Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:00 pm

General Information (Communications Office): (717) 787-4737
Workforce Development (Dr. Scott Sheely, Special Assistant for Workforce Development):
(717) 346-0426

Overview

The [Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#) encourages, protects and promotes agriculture and related industries throughout the commonwealth while providing consumer protection through inspection services that impact the health and financial security of Pennsylvania's citizens.

Pennsylvania's 59,000 farm families continue to be the stewards of more than 7.7 million acres of farmland. With \$7.5 billion in cash receipts annually from production agriculture, Pennsylvania farmers and agribusinesses are the leading economic driver in our state. In addition to production agriculture, the industry also raises revenue and supplies jobs through support services such as food processing, marketing, transportation, and farm equipment. In total, production agriculture and agribusiness contributes nearly \$75 billion to Pennsylvania's economy.

Services to the Public

PDA provides general information to the public regarding the agriculture and food industry. It is primarily a regulatory agency with a focus on safety and has dozens of inspectors related to food safety, weights and measures, amusement ride safety, dog law compliance, and agriculture security. It also has significant diagnostic laboratories for issues related to animal and plant health.

In workforce development, the Department promotes agriculture and food careers, encourages agriculture education for young people and adults, and connects people with an interest in agriculture and food careers to schools and employers. There are no fees for services

Services to the Industry

Many of the services described above for the public are also services to industry. Also, the Department monitors issues related to workforce supply and demand in the agriculture and food industry while, at the same time, working with the industry to find sustainable solutions. There are no fees for services.

Referrals

PDA works closely with other PA Departments including Education, Conservation and Natural Resources, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Labor and Industry among others. It is also intimately tied to a wide variety of farm organizations including Farm Bureau, PennAg Industries, specialty crop organizations of all kinds and many others as well as Penn State University which is the land grant college for PA.