

Pennsylvania Agriculture Resources & Program Links

SBDC Center of Dairy Excellence (Pennsylvania SBDC / Ag Center)

The **Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** supports dairy and agriculture producers through its **Agriculture Center of Excellence**, which includes dairy-related consults, business planning guidance, market research, financial modeling, and networking connections.

 **Pennsylvania SBDC Agriculture Center of Excellence** —
<https://www.pasbdc.org/agriculture/>

Business Development & Consulting

PA Small Business Development Center (SBDC) – Agriculture Services – Free business consulting for agribusinesses, financial projections, marketing research, and grant assistance.

 <https://www.pasbdc.org/ag-resources/>

Pennsylvania Farm Link – Supports land access, succession planning, mentorship, and connects beginning and exiting farmers.

 <https://pafarmlink.org/>

PA Farm Link Academy – Free online courses on farm business planning, USDA programs, and finance.

 <https://pafarmlink.org/academy/>

Growth & Transition Programs for Farmers

Next Generation Farmer Loan Program – DCED

A **low interest federal tax-exempt loan program** to help new and beginning farmers purchase land, equipment, and depreciable property by reducing the interest rate on loans.

 <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/next-generation-farmer-loan-program/>

Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program – DCED

Offers **Pennsylvania income tax credits** to owners of agricultural assets who **sell or lease land, buildings, livestock, or equipment to a beginning farmer**. Owners may qualify for credits of:

- 5% of asset sale price (up to \$32,000)
- 10% of gross rental income (up to \$7,000/year for the first three years)

 <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/beginning-farmer-tax-credit-program/>

State & Federal Agriculture Support

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) – Central hub for state agricultural programs, regulations, market development, and resources.

➔ <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda>

PA Farm Bill – A comprehensive set of agriculture investments including business planning, workforce development, processing, and conservation grants.

➔ <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/pa-farm-bill>

USDA Service Center Locator – Find your local Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and USDA Rural Development office to access federal farm programs.

➔ <https://offices.usda.gov/>

USDA Local Service Center & Farmers.gov – Apply for USDA programs including loans and conservation.

➔ <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers>

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Pennsylvania – Conservation program technical and financial assistance (EQIP, AMA, CSP).

➔ <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/pennsylvania>

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) – Pennsylvania – Federal farm loans, disaster assistance, conservation, and income support programs.

➔ <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/pennsylvania>

Center for Dairy Excellence (CDE)

The **Center for Dairy Excellence of Pennsylvania** supports the dairy industry with **grants, business tools, consulting, networking, and educational resources** to help dairy farms remain profitable and competitive. It serves producers, processors, consultants, and other industry partners.

👉 **Center for Dairy Excellence** — <https://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/>

Key programs include:

- Dairy farm **consulting & decision tools**
- Grants and matching funds for innovation and efficiency
- Educational events (like the PA Dairy Summit)
(see program details on the CDE site)

Farmer Support Organizations

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) – The state’s largest farm organization advocating for farmers’ interests, providing policy support, networking, education, and agriculture resources for producers.

➔ <https://pfb.com/>

PFB also offers resources on farm business planning, financial tools, risk management, liability, marketing, labor, and more.

➔ <https://pfb.com/allresources/resources-for-farming-and-agritainment-business/>

Penn State AgWorks (Workforce & Business Support)

AgWorks is a program delivered by **Penn State Extension** and the **Penn State Center for Agricultural and Shale Law** focused on strengthening workforce capacity and business operations for farms and agribusinesses in Pennsylvania. The program provides no-cost training, consulting, webinars, and support in areas like employee hiring and retention, compensation and benefits, health and safety, and legal compliance.

👉 **AgWorks Program (Penn State Extension)** — <https://aglaw.psu.edu/agworks/>

Other Useful Resources

Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) – Reimbursements for surplus donation to food banks and hunger relief.

➔ <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/food/food-assistance/pennsylvania-agricultural-surplus-program>

Penn State Cooperative Extension & ACAP – Workshops, technical guidance, soil health, crop production, and conservation assistance.

➔ <https://extension.psu.edu/agricultural-conservation-funding-guide-for-pennsylvania/>