

Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association 2017 Policy Resolutions

The Members of the Association recently adopted these additions to the Policy Resolutions at the Annual Meeting on February 1, 2017, putting the Association on record as:

State Issues

Surplus Food

1. Supporting an increase in the State Food Purchase Program budget of \$5 million to allow food banks to purchase and process more Pennsylvania surplus food products through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) Program.

Wildlife Crop Damage

2. Opposing hunting on Sundays with the exception of hunting crow, coyote and fox, as well as woodchuck in cultivated fields with express written permission of the landowner.

Labor

3. Supporting a requirement that all employees for whom unemployment compensation contributions are made be eligible to receive compensation only from the at-fault employer within the base year.

Right to Farm

4. Opposing the ability of municipalities to require permits for the harvesting of any agricultural commodity.

Transportation

5. Supporting the inclusion of questions in the Pennsylvania driver's test about safe driving practices in the presence of farm equipment, dump trucks, tractor trailers and other large machinery encountered on public roads, including a question on wide turns by large vehicles.

Solid Waste Management

6. Supporting the regulation of food waste used in agricultural facilities for digesters or composting as agricultural waste rather than as municipal waste under the Solid Waste Management Act.

Public Utilities

7. Supporting requirements for the control of noxious weeds along roads and other right-of-ways while minimizing drift and off-target movement to adjacent croplands.

State and Federal Issues

Food Safety and Pesticides

8. Supporting the participation of the state Department of Agriculture in the DriftWatch program to mitigate the potential problems as a result of the registration of dicamba and 2,4,D products for use on genetically modified soybeans.

Wetlands

9. Supporting a uniform standard for wetland determination by USDA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA.

Flood Insurance

10. Supporting the exemption of agricultural buildings from FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program insurance surcharge.

Biotechnology

11. Opposing registration requirements for farmers utilizing GMO technology.

Farm Equipment

12. Supporting legislation requiring that all farm equipment manufacturers make diagnostic, service and technical information/software available to machinery owners and independent service technicians.