



# **Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association**

*An association of commercial vegetable, potato and berry growers.*

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## **State Legislative Priorities for 2017**

*The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is an association of commercial vegetable, potato and berry growers with 970 plus members representing an industry that annually produces crops valued at over \$170 million on 3,500 farms with 55,000 acres of farmland across the Commonwealth.*

### **Penn State Agricultural Extension and Research Appropriations -**

*Funding for Penn State Extension and Research is critical to maintain agriculture's cutting edge and should be continued at least at current levels. The vegetable and berry industries have given over \$1.6 million to research in the past 29 years, but we need the extension and research infrastructure that is supported by state appropriations.*

### **High Tunnel Storm Water Management Requirements -**

*Some municipalities are requiring engineered storm water management plans for high tunnel structures which can greatly increase the cost of erecting these structures. We feel these structures should be exempted from these requirements.*

### **Farmers' Market Nutrition Program -**

*Both the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) and low-income senior citizens coupons have greatly increased farm market sales while providing nutrition to needy Pennsylvanians.*

**Driftwatch** – *The impending introduction of dicamba and 2,4,D tolerant crops will result in the wider use of dicamba and 2,4,D in the state. Drift and/or volatilization of both of these herbicides can cause extensive damage to certain vegetable crops. Driftwatch is a voluntary registration program that allows growers of sensitive crops to register their field locations so applicators using dicamba and 2,4,D can locate potentially sensitive crops. However, funding is needed to establish the registry system.*