

Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association



2021 Policy Resolutions

The Members of the Association recently adopted these additions to our Policy Resolutions putting the Association on record as:

State Resolutions

1. Supporting provisions that agricultural vehicles which are less than 14'0" in height traveling on the road or in the road right of way not be liable for any damage resulting from knocking down low hanging tree limbs and branches encroaching the road right of way.
2. Supporting state appropriations for an Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program that will be sufficient to reduce the level of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff estimated from agriculture by at least 50 percent by 2025.
3. Supporting an exemption for farmers from regulations for draining wet areas on croplands if the area drained is two acres or less.
4. Supporting a collaboration between the Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture and Labor and Industry and the agriculture industry to identify ways to improve workforce development at the state and local level and to assist growers in providing or accessing housing for H-2A workers.
5. Supporting changes in the PA Game Commission definition of a "farmer" to include any individual or entity that actively cultivates, operates, or manages land for a profit when determining wildlife harvests for crop damage.
6. Supporting provisions that all agriculture and agriculturally-related businesses, including but not limited to farm markets, farmers markets and greenhouses and their retail operations be deemed "essential" during a disaster emergency.
7. Supporting modifications to the permitting and engineering requirements for the construction of farm ponds to make such ponds more economically feasible for growers.
8. Supporting a prohibition for counties and municipalities in Pennsylvania to enact and enforce zoning ordinances that require tracts or parcels of agricultural land, consisting of 10 or more acres, to be re-zoned if the agricultural land is being used for commercial purposes.

Federal and State Resolutions

1. Supporting research to combat new emerging pests (e.g., Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, the Spotted Wing Drosophila Fruit Fly, Bermuda Grass Stem Maggots, the Spotted Lanternfly, etc.).
2. Supporting efforts to have all 48 contiguous states develop a reciprocal agreement regarding their farm plate registrations and to have at least Pennsylvania pursue such agreements with neighboring states.
3. Supporting incentives and support be given to utilities to offer three-phase power to farm operations at a more reasonable cost.

Federal Resolutions

1. Supporting efforts to harmonize food safety audits with what is required under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to reduce duplication.

The Association's complete Policy Resolutions are available at www.pvga.org