



Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association

An association of commercial vegetable, potato and berry growers.

815 Middle Road, Richfield, Pennsylvania 17086-9205
717-694-3596 pvga@pvga.org www.pvga.org

President

Rita Resick '23
Somerset

First Vice President

Peter Flynn '24
West Chester

Second Vice President

Tina Forry '25
Palmyra

Secretary-Treasurer

William Reynolds '25
Waynesboro

Past President

Brian Campbell '24
Berwick

Directors

Christopher Harner '23
State College

Barron Hetherington '25
Ringtown

Alan Kemmerer '25
Berwick

Arthur King '24
Valencia

Amy Metrick '24
Butler

Michael Orzolek '24
State College

Christopher Powell '23
Strasburg

John Shenk '23
Lititz

Robert Shenot '25
Wexford

Jeffrey Stoltzfus '23
Atglen

Jonathan Strite '25
Harrisburg

Mark Troyer '24
Waterford

Joel Weaver '23
Windber

Executive Director
William Troxell
Richfield

State Legislative Priorities for 2022

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is an association of commercial vegetable, potato and berry growers with about 800 members representing an industry that annually produces crops valued at over \$147 million on 3,950 farms with 50,000 acres of farmland across the Commonwealth.

Unemployment Compensation for H-2A Labor – Unlike Pennsylvania, many states follow the Federal guidelines that clearly state H-2A employers are exempt from unemployment contributions for H-2A workers. The H-2A program is already very expensive and employers are required to provide a 75% guarantee of the workers' contracted wages. Moreover, the employees usually are not in the country long enough to collect any benefits. We strongly support exempting H-2A employers from making unemployment contributions on H-2A wages.

High Tunnel Stormwater Management Requirements – Recent exemptions for high tunnels from stormwater management plan requirements do not cover many farm situations because the farms currently have very limited amounts of impervious area.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Regulations – Stormwater fees being imposed by local governments need to account for the water absorbing capacity of farmland and should be reduced accordingly for farmland.

Business Depreciation Deduction Limit (Section 179) – The state limit should be consistent with the federal limit so different depreciation tables are not needed.

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.

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 \$1.97 million to research in the past 31 years, but we need the extension and research infrastructure that is supported by state appropriations.

Broadband Internet Access – High-speed broadband internet access has become a necessary utility for small businesses like our members' farms to be competitive in today's marketplace. The state should make every effort to accurately identify those areas of the state that do not have general access to such high-speed service so that resources can be focused on alleviating this deficiency.

Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association



2022 State Policy Resolutions

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

1. Opposing the expansion of the closed dates of the Agricultural Deer Control Program (Red Tag).
2. Supporting a requirement for certified nutrient management planners to receive direct notification of changes to Nutrient Management Program regulatory standards before they legally go into effect.
3. Supporting requirements for federal agencies to coordinate with state agencies in the administration of data collection and reporting activities to ensure agricultural conservation practices are duly captured and credited in the Chesapeake Bay Model.
4. Opposing requirements for the certification of persons authorized to apply commercial manufactured fertilizers and agricultural minerals for agricultural purposes.
5. Supporting allowing parcels of less than 10 acres that are adjacent to preserved farmland be eligible for farmland preservation.
6. Supporting the reduction of the minimum subdivision size for preserved farmland to 25 acres.
7. Supporting a requirement that all expenses and legal fees incurred by an agricultural entity who brings a successful suit against a government entity for failure to comply with Right to Farm Law be reimbursed to the agricultural entity.
8. Supporting a requirement that purchasers of real estate located next to active farms and Agricultural Security Areas be notified by the seller of protections for such farms.
9. Supporting provisions that farmers be permitted to tow registration-exempt implements, trailers, and semitrailers with a personal (non-farm) truck.
10. Supporting the exemption of farmers from IFTA and UCR regulations if they travel interstate less than 5,000 miles per year from the Pennsylvania borders.
11. Supporting regulations that require PennDOT to return retention ponds built to slow water runoff along state roads to their originally engineered depths by removing sediment buildup.
12. Supporting the exemption from stormwater management fees for preserved farms and farms with implemented conservation plans.