



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 12, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT:
Governor's Press Office, ra-gvgovpress@pa.gov

Shapiro-Davis Administration Invests \$9.7 Million in Agricultural Innovation Grants to Spur Growth and Keep Pennsylvania Agriculture Leading the Nation

97 projects will feed statewide and regional progress, leverage \$4.8 million in matching investments from farms and ag businesses, and ensure a vibrant future for Pennsylvania's powerhouse agriculture industry.

The 2026-27 budget Governor Shapiro signed last month funds a third year of Ag Innovation Grants at \$10 million.

Applications for the program's third round of grants will be accepted beginning September 1, 2026.

Pennsylvania Furnace, PA – Today, Governor Josh Shapiro, Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding announced the second round of grants through the nation's first [Agricultural Innovation Grant Program](#).

The **\$9.7 million investment** will support **97 projects** and leverage **\$4.8 million** in private investment — putting innovative technology into practice to help Pennsylvania

agricultural businesses improve efficiency and increase production, protect soil and water resources, and generate clean, renewable energy.

“For the last three years, I’ve visited farms across the Commonwealth to hear from our farmers and see firsthand both the challenges they face and the noble work they do,” said **Governor Shapiro**. “Agriculture is the backbone of our Commonwealth and this important funding will help Pennsylvania farmers, growers, and producers innovate and grow, while building on three years of historic investments that have delivered commonsense solutions to lower costs, open new markets, and strengthen the entire agricultural industry.”

Lt. Governor Davis made today’s announcement at a gathering of more than 800 Pennsylvania agriculture industry and government leaders during **Pennsylvania State University College of Agricultural Sciences’** annual [Ag Progress Days](#).

“Pennsylvania is leading the way in agricultural innovation, and we want to continue that progress, which is why this year’s bipartisan state budget once again includes \$10 million for the Ag Innovation grant program,” said **Lt. Governor Davis**. “The Shapiro-Davis Administration will always stand up for our farmers, who work hard, 365 days a year, to put food on our tables.”

Agriculture is critical to Pennsylvania’s economy, with more than **48,800 farms supporting 600,000 jobs and contributing \$132.5 billion annually**. **Governor Shapiro’s** 10-year [Economic Development Strategy](#) places agriculture at the forefront, recognizing that a thriving agricultural industry is key to powering the Commonwealth’s economic growth. Since taking office, the Governor has prioritized supporting new businesses and reinforcing Pennsylvania’s national reputation as a leader in agriculture.

“Over 250 years, Pennsylvania farmers have shown unwavering commitment to caring for our land and water, while feeding a growing population,” said **Secretary Redding**. “Our industry has been a model of responsible growth, despite ever-increasing challenges from extreme weather, erratic supply costs, changing consumer preferences, and rapidly changing technology. This is another Shapiro-Davis Administration investment to help ensure Pennsylvania’s ag industry has the tools to thrive and innovate for years to come.”

Grants will reimburse expenses for project completion or planning and include individual projects as larger-scale projects with a regional or statewide impact. Projects include technologies that improve efficiency, generate energy while reducing food and nutrient waste, and support crops that store carbon or replace non-renewable resources.

The program received an overwhelming response, with the Department of Agriculture receiving more than \$68 million in funding requests. The grants will help to accelerate the adoption of innovative practices that will benefit not only farmers but the long-term sustainability and productivity of the entire region. As a result of this response, the [2026-27 budget](#) **Governor Shapiro** signed last month **continues funding the Agricultural Innovation Grant Program with \$10 million** — for a third year.

Secretary Redding announced that applications for the third year of the grant program will be accepted beginning September 1.

Read more about Pennsylvania's Agricultural Innovation Grant Program, including eligibility criteria [here](#).

Recipients of the 2025-26 Agricultural Innovation Grant, by county and amount received, are listed below. Projects that will benefit producers statewide, as well as projects spanning multiple counties are listed first. Projects that will have a regional impact are noted among those listed by county.

Statewide Projects

Association for Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Innovation – \$43,000
Planning for a precision meat, poultry, and seafood innovation hub

Augean Robotics – \$238,000
Ag-robotics production facility

Multi-County Projects

Allegheny and Butler Counties

Soergel Orchards – \$24,584
Agricultural drone purchase

Armstrong, Cambria, Clearfield, Indiana, Somerset Counties

Arial Applications – \$310,000 (regional impact)
Drones for agricultural services in a regional corridor

Bedford, Bradford, Franklin, Fulton Perry, and Tioga Counties

Country View Family Farms – \$174,117 (regional impact)
Energy-efficient farrowing systems to enhance safety and swine health

Bedford and Westmoreland Counties

Bella Terra Vineyards – \$29,047
Vineyard mechanization system

Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties

Pennsylvania Saffron – \$116,807 (regional impact)
Development of an AI-enabled weeding system for small farms

Butler and Lawrence Counties

Dream, Invent, Inspire – \$5,247
AI system for vertical garden and crop management

Chester and Indiana Counties

HyO Technologies – \$231,743
Hydrogen-rich irrigation for mushrooms and specialty crops

Philadelphia and Northumberland Counties

PA Flax Project Cooperative – \$291,971 (regional impact)
Building harvest-to-market infrastructure for flax, with a flax-to-linen facility

Adams County

Pennsylvania State University – \$14,600
Evaluating an adaptive, precision spray control system for tree fruit orchards

Mt. Ridge Farms – \$65,800
Vacuum-assisted, automated harvest system

Rice Fruit Company – \$33,160
AI smart radio system with real-time translation for multilanguage workforce

Fruit Hollow Farms – \$12,493
First-in-U.S. implementation of Grunner Grizzly precision orchard-thinning technology

Fairview Dairy Farms – \$36,048
Milking parlor evaporative cooling system

Piney Apple Acres – \$102,381
Precision harvest technology

Adams County Nursery – \$33,800
Adoption of drone and robotic technologies across nursery and orchard operations

Allegheny County

William Scott – \$38,920

Smart irrigation and solar efficiency project

Grow Pittsburgh – \$45,808

Agricultural systems and efficiency upgrades on Wilkinsburg urban farm

Pravin Michael Boscha – \$11,372 (Planning)

Photochromic shade cloth technology designed to respond to changing sunlight conditions for grazing systems

Beaver County

Epoch Fields – \$10,120

Continuous on-farm measurement system for regenerative grazing management

Tiny Seed Farm – \$31,690

Automated specialty crop system

Berks County

F.M. Brown's Sons – \$129,800

Bin automation and ingredient-handling upgrade

Rodale Institute – \$31,380

Scaling precision weed management for organic farmers with photo-guided cultivation systems

Third Place Processing – \$34,405

Sorting and quality control system for perennial nut processing

Alvernia University – \$16,200

Aeroponics greenhouse project

PA Hemp Industry Council – \$50,000

Planning for a hemp grain cooperative

Clover Farms Dairy – \$310,000 (regional impact)

Automated milk-handling and tracking system

Earthcare Bethel – \$127,874 (regional impact)

Food-waste processing and reduction system

Blair County

Kulp Family Dairy – \$97,800

Dairy cooling system for livestock wellness

Penn England – \$129,800

Enhancements and repair of dairy farm anaerobic digester

Bradford County

Robert W. Brown – \$15,705

Modernization of feed-management and milk-handling systems on Peck Hill Farms to reduce costs, enhance resilience

Cummings Lumber Company – \$129,800

Automated lumber-handling system

Fenninger Fields – \$128,848

Swine finishing-barn manure aeration system

Bucks County

Delaware Valley University – \$125,390

Enhanced biosecurity and animal health monitoring

Cameron County

Emporium Hardwoods Operating Company – \$129,800

Robotic sorting and scanning system

Centre County

Penn State University – \$129,800

Optimizing performance of Penn State's anaerobic digester

Jeffrey Brooks – \$129,800

Robotic dairy system at Brooks Family Farms

Nyra Graham – \$55,411

FarmLocal precision agriculture system serving 15 Centre County farms

Chester County

Pietro Industries – \$129,597

Automated harvesting and control system for mushrooms

AgriGates – \$59,400

Planning for on-site energy generation for dairy AI system

Phillips Mushroom Farms – \$129,800

Automated weighing line

Gary Westlake, Sr. – \$129,800

Advanced Danish Christmas tree harvesting system

Megan Storm – \$34,440

Water, energy, and automation modernization for specialty crop hoop house

MYCOguard – \$33,800

Automated phorid fly-counting and monitoring systems

Chester County Economic Development Foundation – \$50,000

Comprehensive strategic planning to determine feasibility of farm training facility on Chester County Prison campus

Thomas D. Parsons – \$31,500

Agro-energy solutions for powering AI

American Mushroom Institute – \$220,000 (regional impact)

Phorid fly control technology

Laurel Valley Farms – \$344,800 (regional impact)

Aeration system to mitigate hydrogen sulfide emissions on mushroom farms

Mushroom Supply & Services – \$310,000 (regional impact)

Automated mushroom harvesting system

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania – \$310,000 (regional impact)

Aquaculture automation and management system

Clearfield County

Forcey Lumber and Veneer Company – \$51,912

Automated veneer production and efficiency system

Clinton County

Pine Creek Seed Farm – \$310,000 (regional impact)

Seed infrastructure enhancement seed-processing system

Crawford County

Glenn Kenny – \$46,898
Automated grain handling system for seed processing

Ernst Biomass – \$129,800
Biomass burner optimization system

Cumberland County

Gro-Green Corporation – \$91,400
High-efficiency condensing boilers

Destiny Farmstead – \$48,896
Precision dairy automation and behavioral monitoring

Land O' Lakes – \$310,000 (regional impact)
Enhanced processing facility for butter and regional milk-balancing

Dauphin County

Jubilee Dairy – \$129,800
Anaerobic digester

Center for Dairy Excellence – \$266,477 (regional impact)
Dairy cattle monitoring system

Delaware County

Indian Orchard Farm – \$15,336
Biomass boiler system

Center of Excellence for Indoor Agriculture – \$40,000
Planning for an innovative, sustainable, vertical farm

Erie County

INTAG Systems – \$129,800
A vermiculture reactor that will process organic waste using worm-composting in an indoor, continuous system

Mazza Vineyards – \$129,797
An enhanced filtering system for processing grapes

Fairview Evergreen Nurseries – \$18,073
Drone-based sprayer system

Willow Grove Heritage Lab – \$10,500
Planning for technology integration in advanced farm services

Huntingdon County

Valley Meadow Farm – \$41,154
Automated egg-handling and grading system

Indiana County

John-Paul's Farm – \$7,000
Water-saving rinse conveyor for efficient produce washing

Indiana County Conservation District – \$10,280
Precision nutrient management and crop-monitoring drone system

Lancaster County

Cherry Hill Orchards – \$150,000 (regional impact)
Enhanced fruit-processing service

Freshly Grown – \$129,800
Advanced, fossil fuel-free greenhouse with geothermal cooling and heating, solar, closed-loop hydroponics, and innovative insulation

Oasis Creamery – \$270,250 (regional impact)
Modernization of cottage cheese production facility

Lawrence County

Dawson's Orchards – \$42,120
Automated grading system for orchard crops

Den-Be Farms – \$129,800
Robotic milking system

Lebanon County

Breckbill Acres – \$50,000
Planning for a biogas capture and management system

Lehigh County

Cory J. Maletsky – \$31,880

Vacuum kiln to increase capacity, efficiency for lumber production

Luzerne County

David Petlock – \$86,792

Saw modernization and processing-efficiency system

Northern Tier Hardwood Association – \$28,415

Hardwood harvesting simulator for education and industry training

Lycoming County

Derek Wheeland – \$129,800

AI-driven lumber scanning and automated lumber stacker

The Potting Bench – \$79,997

Technology-enabled greenhouse operation

Mercer County

Omega Logging – \$65,800

Wood-to-biochar air-burner system

Mifflin County

Metzler Forest Products – \$129,800

System to convert forest waste to thermal energy and carbon products

Monroe County

Brian Candler – \$113,800

Better Plants Farm hydroponics system

Pocono Organics Foundation – \$30,282

Automated microgreen production system

AI Sustainable Foods – \$53,000

Indoor production and pollinator-innovation system

Montgomery

Gather and Grow – \$19,720

Solar-powered, automated climate-control system for high tunnels greenhouses

Lehigh Valley Dairy Farms – \$47,448

Optical sensor-based automation system

Northampton County

Kenneth Barleib – \$33,800

Farm water-usage efficiency system

Northumberland

Clarks Feed Mills – \$130,000 (regional impact)

Poultry feed mill modernization

Furman Foods – \$129,800

Waste optimization system for water recovery

Red Hill Farms – \$103,727

Enhanced potato-harvesting system

Perry County

Laurel Grove Dairy Farm – \$129,800

Robotic milking system

Merrimart Farms – \$9,122

Technology-enabled dairy cow maternity barn

Schuylkill County

Honey Brook Farm – \$19,844

Farrowing facility upgrade for swine safety and health

Tioga County

Woodland Biomass Innovations – \$305,035 (regional impact)

Woody biomass-to-gasoline conversion facility

Union County

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic – \$14,100

Planning a digital nutrient export and land-application tracking system

Wayne County

Wallenpaupack Creek Farm – \$19,293

GPS-guided manure application system

Supporting Farmers and Making Critical Investments in the Future of Pennsylvania Agriculture

From day one, the Shapiro Administration has recognized Pennsylvania's powerhouse agriculture industry as key to the Commonwealth's economic vitality and sustainability, prioritizing investments in agriculture. The [2026-27 budget](#) builds on this work to support farmers and businesses by:

- Investing **\$10 million to create [Fruit Grower Freeze Impact Grants](#)**, supporting farmers who were impacted by this year's devastating spring freeze — in addition to [USDA streamlined assistance](#) secured after the Shapiro Administration [called for federal support](#) in May.
- Dedicating **\$5 million** from the existing [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) fund](#) to expand education for farmers working to combat the spread of HPAI.
- Securing **\$13.8 million in PA Farm Bill investments** for the fourth year in a row, providing critical funds to rebuild the workforce and expand processing infrastructure and marketing opportunities throughout the industry.

Applications for the third year of Pennsylvania's Agricultural Innovation Grant Program will be accepted beginning September 1. Read more about the program, including eligibility criteria [here](#).

Read more about Governor Shapiro's [2026-27 budget](#), view the Governor's remarks as prepared [here](#), or watch the Governor's delivered remarks [here](#).

###