



Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

As part of our national land-grant system, the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences addresses the challenges of feeding a growing population while tackling looming issues such as developing sources of renewable energy; enhancing human and animal health; and protecting our air, water, forests, and other natural resources.

Mission

The mission of the College of Agricultural Sciences is to discover, integrate, translate, and disseminate knowledge to enhance the food and agricultural system, natural resources and environmental stewardship, and economic and social well-being, thereby improving the lives of people in Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world.

Methods

As part of one of the world's foremost research universities—and with educators delivering programs in each of the state's 67 counties—Penn State agricultural research and extension programs put reliable, science-based information to work to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. Penn State Extension works with public- and private-

sector stakeholders at the county, state, and federal level to identify and address priorities in key areas.

Focus

The agricultural system in Pennsylvania is challenged to enhance the production of food, fiber, and fuel while contributing to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources and improving the quality of life for citizens everywhere. These are complex goals that are best addressed through a systems approach. Thus the college accomplishes its goals by focusing programming around the sustainable intersection of three inter-related systems: the food and fiber system, the socio-economic system, and the ecosystem.

Facilities

In support of the college's mission and service to the agricultural community, the college maintains 67 extension offices across the state and operates numerous research and extension centers and laboratories:

Research and extension centers across the state:

- Lake Erie Regional Grape Research & Extension Center
- Fruit Research & Extension Center in Biglerville
- Southeast Agricultural Research & Extension Center in Landisville
- Russell Larson Agricultural Research & Education Center at Rock Springs
- Rockview Research Facility

Research facilities and centers at University Park:

- E. coli Reference Center
- Beef-Sheep Center
- Dairy Barns
- Deer Research Center
- Forestland Management Office
- Horse Barns
- Mushroom Research Center (MRC)
- Poultry Education & Research Center
- Swine Center
- Valentine Turfgrass Research Center

Service laboratories:

- Meats Lab
- Agricultural Analytical Services Lab – soil/water/plants
- Food Science Pilot Plants - wet and dry processing, food safety
- Land Analysis Laboratory
- Mushroom Spawn Laboratory
- Sensory Evaluation Center

The College also partners with state and federal agencies to support centers and facilities:

- NE Regional Center for Rural Development
- Northeastern IPM Center
- Pa. Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
- Pa. Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System
- Pa. Department of Agriculture Livestock Evaluation Center
- USDA Pasture Systems & Watershed Management Research Unit
- Pa Dept. of Ag Resource Centers focusing on Animal Care, Food Safety & Plant Protection



Penn State Extension Overview

Translating leading-edge research into innovative, economical, and practical solutions to the challenges facing the Commonwealth is Penn State Extension’s mission. With a presence in every county, Penn State Extension delivers the knowledge of a leading research university to Pennsylvania communities.

Penn State Extension is part of the national Cooperative Extension network administered by land-grant universities across the country and, in Pennsylvania, is unique to the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences.

Penn State Extension is funded through a partnership of federal, state, and county governments and works with individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities to address Pennsylvania’s priorities.

Education and Information

- Serves as a trusted source of information from an internationally recognized research institution
- Provides research-based online information and publications, including courses, newsletters, field guides, and fact sheets on a wide range of topics
- Provides access to knowledgeable and committed teams of Penn State experts distributed across the state that engage stakeholders and solve problems on the ground
- Provides access to practical, noncredit courses and workshops that teach research-based best practices and disseminates real-time information to help keep businesses competitive and communities and families healthy
- Hosts numerous agricultural field days across the state to update stakeholders on the latest issues and practices

Business and Job Development

- Provides business management planning workshops and tools covering such areas as financial management and entrepreneurial opportunities
- Assists businesses in complying with complex regulatory requirements and works with regulators to promote science-based regulations
- Assists constituents in job training and skill development
- Facilitates technology transfer and commercialization of research
- Provides pilot plants and targeted research to help companies develop new products and solve problems

Community and Family Development

- Provides ongoing youth and family development programs, such as 4-H, PROSPER, and Better Kid Care
- Magnifies impacts in local communities by training and activating volunteer networks such as Master Gardeners, Master Well Owners, 4-H, etc. Develops curricula for train-the-trainer programs to leverage human resources
- Trains and serves as a resource for community leaders on a variety of topics, such as land-use planning, Marcellus Shale impacts, and leadership development.
- Provides well-connected facilitators and serves as a bridge builder between diverse agencies and organizations to promote collaboration and to solve problems

Services and Research

- Provides crisis response for animal, plant, food, and environmental concerns such as chronic wasting disease, flooding/drought emergencies, foodborne illness outbreaks, etc.
- Provides state-of-the-art soil, water, and biosolid testing and interpretation at our Ag Analytical Services Lab
- Provides comprehensive animal health diagnostic services and research at our Animal Diagnostic Lab
- Provides agricultural producers, gardeners, and homeowners with diagnoses of plant diseases through our Plant Disease Clinic
- Conducts research and develops new technologies to increase efficiency and productivity
- Leverages federal resources through research grants and appropriations to address Pennsylvania priorities

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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.