

Current Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Policy Recommendations Related To Agricultural Research

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Agricultural Waste Research

We recommend:

1. Sufficient funding for Penn State University to research and find solutions to farm odor and air pollution problems. ('05)
2. Penn State research incorporating liquid manure to prevent nutrient loss due to surface water run-off. ('07)

Agriculture Research Funds

We recommend state grants and low-interest loans be made available to businesses engaged in agricultural and biotechnology research. ('05)

Forestry Research

We recommend research into the marketing, promotion and manufacturing of wood and wood by-products to improve farm income. ('05)

Grape and Wine Production

We recommend:

1. The Liquor Control Board dedicate a percentage of revenue from all wines sold in Pennsylvania for funding extension, research, and development programs in oenology and viticulture, and for marketing and promotion of Pennsylvania wines. ('05)
2. The legislature allocates from the general fund \$2 million per year, for the next five years, to the Pennsylvania Wine and Research, Education and Marketing Foundation. ('07)
3. We recommend Penn State Extension and the Department of Agriculture fund research to rank commercial rootstock for seedless table and wine grapes during field trials for both dense, clayish soils and acidic shales, and support development of new and improved cultivars of these types of rootstocks. ('08)
4. Penn State Cooperative Extension research the causes of Mature Vine Decline (MVD), and publish their findings. ('05)
5. The Department of Agriculture produce a "vineyard damage" brochure for viticulturists to inform neighbors of the potential for serious vine damage and economic loss from 2 4-D. ('05)
6. Penn State Cooperative Extension publish viticulture suitability maps for counties with established or proposed wineries or adjacent counties. ('05)

Honeybee Research

We recommend funding to research the effect of new insecticides and seed treatment on honeybees. ('07)

Insect-Rodent Research

We recommend the state and federal governments provide funding to land grant colleges for research on biological and/or integrated control of insects, rodents and diseases in relation to agriculture. ('05)

Energy Alternatives

We recommend:

1. Penn State become the center for research development of renewable fuels and research marketing of their by-products. ('06)
2. Additional funding for Penn State University to be used for research on making agricultural products into energy. ('05)
3. The state government: a. Provide start-up monies, grants, tax credits, and other incentives to assist in making renewable fuels available and to attract investors and operators of renewable fuels production facilities in Pennsylvania and the United States; ('05)

Carbon Sequestration

We recommend Penn State University research the land management and conservation practices that maximize carbon sequestration, and develop techniques for quantifying carbon sequestration, enabling farmers and other landowners to sell carbon sequestration credits. ('07)

Impact Studies

We recommend introduction of new species or the reintroduction of previously native species of plants and animals into Pennsylvania require public hearings, review by the Department of Agriculture and research by the state universities to determine the impact on agriculture and confirm there would be no adverse impact to agriculture. Failure to comply should include civil and criminal penalties. ('05)

PLANT HEALTH**Laboratory Service**

We recommend the Department of Agriculture or Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service create a disease testing laboratory service to identify viral and bacterial infections in plant tissues. ('05)