

Second is a \$200 million program administered by USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS). The Agricultural Trade Promotion provides assistance to eligible farm groups who are participating in trade shows/consumer marketing/point of sale demonstrations, etc. Applications for this program will be accepted until November 2, 2018 or until funding is exhausted with funds allocated in early 2019. NOTE: This program includes a wider range of products including fish and forest products.

UPCOMING

- The House Finance Committee is holding a hearing on House Bill 2329 (Hahn-R-Northampton) providing for a 100% property tax exclusion for farmsteads.
- *The House Professional Licensure Committee will hold a hearing on Senate Bill 780 (Elder-R-Beaver) setting standards for Telemedicine –of particular value in rural areas.*
- A Beginning Farmer Workshop organized by Farm Link will be offered September 14 in Lancaster. Details: Michelle Kirk 717-705-2121
- *National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 16-22.*
- The same week is the National Septic Smart Week whose purpose is to remind property owners of the importance on onlot septic system maintenance.
- *On October 1, the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee is convening a hearing on House Bill 2293 sponsored by committee Chair Martin Causer (R-Cameron/McKean/Potter). This bill builds a firewall around monies received by the state for Broadband development.*

PDA OPEN FOR AG RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Posted In [PA Bulletin \(www.pabulletin.com\)](http://www.pabulletin.com) August 25 was guidance from the PA Department of Agriculture on the types of research projects being considered in the current state fiscal year.

Research targets include: multi-year funding for previously approved projects; Spotted Lanternfly; Powdery mildew in hops; alternative uses for fluid milk; support for Dairy research and development; “blockchain technology in agricultural food systems”; identifying gaps in agricultural infrastructure systems; economic impact of Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load; Chesapeake Bay voluntary conservation efforts: hemp’s market potential; workforce development; hydroponics and aquaponics; urban agriculture; and Pollinator Protection Plan.

Apply to PA Department of Agriculture, Research Solicitation Review Committee, Room 211, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Application deadline is September 28, 2018

REGULATORY UPDATES

- The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) is holding a September 13 public meeting to consider two PA Department of Agriculture regulations, 2-185, Vegetable Marketing and Research Program and 2-187 Weighmasters.
- The PA Fish and Boat Commission has released six proposed regulations for public view. Details: <https://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol48/48-35/index.html>
- August 28 concluded the comment period for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Justice proposal which mandates Environmental Justice Areas public hearings for so-called “Trigger” permits such as CAFO and biosolid.

[Draft Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy \(012-0501-002\)](#)

Policy



8/28/2018

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