



## Our Motto

In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty,  
in all things charity.



Grange Month



## **Pennsylvania State Grange**



**Wednesday, April 29th**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
(zoom room will open at 6:30 to socialize!)

**Come join us for Bingo!!!**

**To get a bingo card please email, text or call Lizzie!**

**Email: [publicrelations@pagrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@pagrange.org)**

**Text/call: 717-254-9550**

## **Grange Month Activities**

**Join us for some fun playing Bingo!**

To receive the sign in information  
and a bingo card

**Email: [publicrelations@pagrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@pagrange.org)**

**Call/Text: 717-254-9550**

- 1 . To obtain sign in information.**
- 2 . Receive a bingo card**

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**Covid-19 Updates**



# pennsylvania

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture wanted to share an update of information related to coronavirus (COVID 19), and the Wolf Administration's efforts to mitigate its effects in the commonwealth. Governor Wolf has enacted stay-at-home orders for all 67 counties. According to the Governor's Order, life sustaining business activities are exempt from the stay at home order. However, it is critical that life sustaining businesses take preventive measures to protect their employees and operations and implement social distancing and best practices while conducting their business activities. Other than life sustaining business activities, allowable individual activities and allowable essential travel, residents should stay home to stay safe. This order is in effect until May 8, 2020.

The Wolf administration has provided all local law enforcement with enforcement guidance that mirrors PA State Police's. To report a noncompliant business, contact your local law enforcement agency's non-emergency number. Please do not call 911 to file reports

### **Small Business Administration Funding**

President Trump signed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act into law. The bill provides \$310 billion in funding for the Paycheck Protection Program and makes agricultural enterprises eligible for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

However, we expect this funding to run out quickly, as it is first come-first served. While we have not yet seen a formal announcement, we expect these applications to open as early as beginning of next week and that the funds will be exhausted in a matter of days. Below, we have provided the links to apply to these grants and we encourage farmers and other small businesses to establish a relationship with an eligible banking or crediting institution to begin the process.

Please note that unlike PPP, applications for the EIDL program are made directly to SBA.

- ***Paycheck Protection Program***

- ***Economic Injury Disaster Program***

- Any small business with fewer than 500 employees is eligible to apply—this program is inclusive of sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and private contractors.
- The EIDL advance program will issue grants of up to \$10,000 that do not need to be repaid.

## **USDA Farmers to Families Food Box**

On April 17, USDA Secretary Perdue announced the purchase of up to \$3 billion in agricultural commodities for interested farmers, food processors, food banks, and other interested partners.

The Agricultural Marketing Service's Commodity Procurement Program will procure an estimated \$100 million per month in fresh fruits and vegetables, \$100 million per month in a variety of dairy products, and \$100 million per month in meat products. The distributors and wholesalers will then provide a pre-approved box of fresh produce, dairy, and meat products to food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need.

Pennsylvania and its residents need you to participate now, more than ever. By participating in this program, you will get your products to market, help those in needs, and protect Pennsylvania's agricultural economy. It is vital that you partner with organizations near you that can be found in the ***State Food Purchase County Lead Agency Directory*** or ***The Emergency Food Assistance Program County Lead Agency Directory***.

***Penn State Extension*** is also giving information on how to apply.

USDA is moving quickly on this program, applications are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Below are the links to the RFP application and other important documents:

- ***RFP - ERAcquisition***
- ***RFP Attachment 1 Emergency Aquisition MSCP***
- ***RFP Attachment 2 Compilation of TEFAP sites for AMS***
- ***USDA Webinar and Video***

### **Regionalized Priority Testing for Agriculture**

- As a direct result of agriculture and the entire food supply chain being life sustaining, combined with hot spots of COVID-19 in processing facilities, any symptomatic adult working in agriculture – including but not limited to those working in processing and manufacturing facilities, food warehouses, groceries stores, and on-farm labor (seasonal farm labor and H2A workers included) – is approved to receive priority testing if they live and/or work in Montgomery County or northeast Pennsylvania.
- Members of Pennsylvania's agriculture workforce who find themselves symptomatic for COVID-19 are encouraged to follow the steps found in the attachment to this email for priority testing if they live and/or work in Montgomery, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne, or Lackawanna counties. There is no cost for testing at these sites, since the test is completed at the PA state public health laboratory.
- Those working in agriculture outside of these prioritized regions who are showing symptoms for COVID-19 are encouraged to visit any other approved testing site in Pennsylvania. A full map of locations can be found on the Department of Health's ***website***.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and diarrhea. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

## **Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to Expand Curbside**

### **Delivery Program on Monday**

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board today announced it will expand its recently introduced curbside pickup service to 389 more Fine Wine & Good Spirits locations across the commonwealth on Monday, April 27, to serve more customers seeking wine and spirits while maintaining social distancing practices in the interest of public health and safety.

The ***expanded list of stores offering curbside service is available online***. Most stores will support curbside service Monday through Saturday – taking a limited number of orders on a first-call, first-served basis beginning at 9:00 AM each day and scheduling pickup appointments between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM those days – but some stores will operate on more limited days and hours.

### **Department of Agriculture Waives Commercial Feed Requirements to Provide Farm Income, Options for Excess Food**

Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding today announced that the department will temporarily waive commercial feed requirements to enable mushroom and other produce-growers to distribute excess products as animal feed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This measure will give whole-food producers a market for surplus food and options for income to partially compensate for losses.

Under normal conditions, feed manufacturers are required to hold a commercial feed license, pay inspection fees, and label products in accordance with the PA Commercial Feed Act. ***This waiver*** will allow whole and sliced mushrooms and other products meeting the waiver conditions, to be sold as animal feed.

Waivers will be in effect until June 30, 2020. Growers who wish to request a waiver may contact Program Specialist David Dressler at ***davdressle@pa.gov***. The following information must be included: name, address, phone number, type of whole food commodity and amount of surplus product.

Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis according to whether the product is suitable and safe for use in animal feed. Those approved for waivers will receive not

### **Online Portal for Donations of Critical Medical Supplies Launches**

The Wolf Administration today announced the launch of an ***online portal*** for individuals, corporations or community organizations to inform the commonwealth of critical medical supplies available for donation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# COVID-19 REOPENING PHASES

	WORK & CONGREGATE SETTINGS	SOCIAL SETTINGS
RED PHASE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIFE-SUSTAINING BUSINESSES ONLY</li> <li>• RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR PRISON + CONGREGATE CARE</li> <li>• SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION</li> <li>• MOST CHILD CARE CLOSED</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STAY AT HOME ORDERED</li> <li>• LARGE GATHERINGS PROHIBITED</li> <li>• RESTAURANTS/BARS LIMITED TO CARRY-OUT + DELIVERY</li> <li>• ONLY TRAVEL FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING PURPOSES</li> </ul>
YELLOW PHASE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TELEWORK MUST CONTINUE WHERE FEASIBLE</li> <li>• BUSINESSES WITH IN-PERSON OPERATIONS MUST FOLLOW SAFETY ORDERS</li> <li>• CHILD CARE OPEN WITH WORKER + BUILDING SAFETY ORDERS</li> <li>• RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR PRISON + CONGREGATE CARE</li> <li>• SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STAY AT HOME RESTRICTIONS LIFTED IN FAVOR OF AGGRESSIVE MITIGATION</li> <li>• LARGE GATHERINGS PROHIBITED</li> <li>• IN-PERSON RETAIL ALLOWED CURBSIDE/DELIVERY PREFERRED</li> <li>• INDOOR RECREATION, HEALTH AND WELLNESS FACILITIES (SUCH AS GYMS, SPAS), AND ALL ENTERTAINMENT (SUCH AS CASINOS, THEATERS) REMAIN CLOSED</li> <li>• RESTAURANTS/BARS LIMITED TO CARRY-OUT + DELIVERY</li> </ul>
GREEN PHASE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALL BUSINESSES MUST FOLLOW CDC AND PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGGRESSIVE MITIGATION ORDERS LIFTED</li> <li>• INDIVIDUALS MUST FOLLOW CDC AND PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES</li> </ul>

## Reopening Targeted for May 8 in Parts of Pennsylvania

Governor Tom Wolf presented his detailed plan for reopening the commonwealth with a targeted May 8 start. The administration will categorize reopening into three phases: red, yellow, green. Phases will be assigned based on conditions in a county, counties or region.

The administration will first study conditions in the north-central and northwest regions with a target of moving from red to yellow on May 8. Additional monitoring will take place and direction will be provided in the next week.

To decide when to move to a new phase, the administration will use Department of Health metrics and a data tool developed by Carnegie Mellon University. The full plan is available [here](#).

### Wolf Administration Announces Business Loan Deferrals

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Dennis Davin announced that the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA), Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority (PMBDA), and Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) are deferring loans and that the maturity dates and amortization schedules of all applicable loans are extended by three additional calendar months.

**PIDA** borrowers with payments due in April, May, and June of 2020 are deferred. All other terms and conditions of all applicable loans remain unchanged.

**PMBDA** borrowers with payments due in April, May, and June of 2020, including principal, interest, and any associated fees are deferred. Accrual of interest that would be included with deferred payments is suspended. All other terms and conditions of all applicable loans remain unchanged.

**CFA** borrowers except for PENNWORKS loans, with payments due in April, May, and June of 2020, including principal, interest, and any associated fees are deferred. Accrual of interest that would be included with deferred payments is suspended. All other terms of all applicable loans remain unchanged.

**Click on this link for:**

## ***COVID-19 GUIDANCE: Regionalized Priority Testing for Agriculture***

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Need to make a trip to the store for essential items? Use these tips for safe grocery shopping during COVID-19:

- plan for 1-2 weeks-worth of groceries
- use delivery or pickup if possible
- wear a cloth mask in store
- wipe off cart or basket handles
- ↔ practice social distancing
- use hand sanitizer often at store
- respect designated shopping hours
- wash hands when returning home

**IT'S OKAY  
TO ASK FOR HELP**



# Mental Health Help During COVID-19

## Crisis Text Line



**Text 'PA'  
to 741741**

## National Suicide Prevention Lifeline



**1-800-273-8255**

## Preventing suicide in PA



**preventsuicide  
pa.org/**

## Disaster Distress Helpline



**800-985-5990**

## Get Help Now for substance use disorder



**1-800-662-4357**

## Veterans in crisis



**veterans  
crisisline.net**

## PA's support helpline



**855-284-2494**

## Coping with COVID-19 stress



**bit.ly/covid-coping**

## COVID-19 resources



**mhanational.  
org/covid19**

☐ Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline '1-800-273-TALK (8255)' (Spanish: 1-888-628-9454) or text PA to 741741

☎ PA's support helpline: 1-855-284-2494

☐ Substance use disorder help: <http://on.pa.gov/covid-sud>

☐☐ Veterans: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

⚠ Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990



## ***PA Department of Labor & Industry***

***April 13 at 1:17 PM ·***

Have you lost your job due to **#COVID19** related business closures? Help essential, life-sustaining businesses deliver services needed in PA.

Apply for essential positions through the PA CareerLink®

portal: ***<https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/>***

***[.../JobSeek.../COVID19Employment](#)***



We've expanded our COVID-19 reporting + added new data on our website:

- negative results at county-level
  - regional data
  - positive results + death information by gender
  - positive results + death information by race/ethnicity
- i** View the new data: ***<https://bit.ly/PACOV19Data>***



**Pennsylvania**

# Department of Human Services

## *Find a Food Pantry*

### *SNAP Program*

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## Scholarship Information



**DAIRY STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR \$3,000 SCHOLARSHIPS**  
*The PA Dairymen's Association and Dairy Excellence Foundation Offer Ten \$3,000 Scholarships*



***Pennsylvania State Grange Scholarship Brochure***

***Pennsylvania State Grange Scholarship/Loan Application***

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The Pennsylvania State Grange is posting future events but these events could be postponed or cancelled depending on Governor Wolf, Department of Health and CDC protocols as we navigate through Covid-19 restrictions.

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## **Regional Leadership Conferences**

As you may have heard, the Regional Leadership Conference at Big Knob Grange scheduled for March 28th has been rescheduled due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The new date for the conference will be Saturday, May 30th, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm (same time and location as previously scheduled). A very big THANK YOU to Big Knob Grange for their flexibility and ability to reschedule for later this spring.

I am reaching out to you to confirm that I have received your registrations for the conference. You have a few options available to you.

1) If you would like to attend on Saturday, May 30th, there is no need to register again; just let me know that you are planning to attend on the 30th.

2) If you are no longer able to attend the conference on May 30th, I will issue a full refund, or you can send someone else in your place.

Please contact me at ***jnauss89@gmail.com*** or at **(717) 512-1261** to let me know your plans for May 30th.

I realize that this is an ever-changing situation. If plans were to change for the rescheduled conference, I will be back in touch.

Thank you,

Jenn Nauss  
PA State Grange Lecturer

The Pennsylvania State Grange is offering a series of Regional Conferences across Pennsylvania in the spring of 2020. These conferences will aim to provide meaningful leadership training to ALL Grange leaders and members and improve information-sharing between the State Grange and Subordinate and Pomona Granges. There will be 3 conferences, scheduled for the following dates:

- ~~Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Kutztown Grange, Berks County (EAST).~~ **Postponed** (will update when it has been rescheduled)  
**(Refunds will be processed)**

### **Big Knob Rescheduled to May 30th**

- Saturday, May 30, 2020 at Big Knob Grange, Beaver County (WEST)

The conferences will begin at 10:00 am and conclude by 4:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. Registration fee is \$10.00.

### ***Registration and Schedule***

## **NEW MESSAGE FROM JENN NAUSS**

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you safe and well during these unprecedented times.

I wanted to reach out to you to let you know that the Regional Conference originally scheduled for **May 2nd at Kutztown Grange has been postponed indefinitely**. I will be issuing refunds this week. Should we be able to reschedule the conference for sometime later this year, I will get the word out and accept new registrations at that time. If we are not able to reschedule for this year, we will look forward to gathering together next Spring for next year's conference.

Have a great week,  
Jenn Nauss  
PA State Grange Lecturer

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## Junior Grange Camp

*click here for application*

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## Legislative Corner

*AG One Newsletter April 2020*



Rescheduling the upcoming primary election to June 2 so Pennsylvania can focus on fighting the spread of COVID-19.

**NEW DEADLINES:**

- May 18 to register to vote: [Register.VotesPA.com](https://www.VotesPA.com).
- May 26 to sign up to vote by mail ballot: [VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](https://www.VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot).

There is a new Federal program whereby USDA is pumping money into the Farm sector to among other things, purchase commodities for food banks. It is the USDA Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program.

The FFCRA and CARES Act provided an at least \$850 million for food bank administrative costs and USDA food purchases, of which a minimum of \$600 million will be designated for food purchases. The use of these funds will be determined by food bank need and product availability.

As you know, the coronavirus crisis has put a lot of people out of work and demands on food banks have climbed astronomically. PA State Grange has been in contact with Joe Arthur from the Central PA Food Bank which coordinates the PA Agriculture Surplus System which does the same thing as the new program.

**Here is what Joe Arthur said:**

Central PA Food Bank will be willing to work with any farm and food producer businesses that submit bids into the new USDA Coronavirus Farm Aid Program. Obviously, we are on the distribution side and have the huge network to get the food boxes....dry, fresh, and frozen...to the growing number of families in need. Please mention our name to any of your Members that might be interested in bidding . Beth is the key contact here as always on anything farm or producer related.

Thanks!

**Joe Arthur Executive Director**

3908 Corey Road, Harrisburg PA 17109

**Direct:** 717.724.3180 **Phone:** 717.564.1700 **Fax:** 717.564.1154

Email: : ***jarthur@centralpafoodbank.org***

**fighting hunger, improving lives, strengthening communities**

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**In the news...**

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## *For a limited time, Penn State Extension offers free online courses*

### **Call to Action:**

Pennsylvania farmers, food, and natural resource-based businesses should apply as soon as possible for CARES/Payroll Protection Program. A new round of funding is pending in Congress, and in the last cycle, funding was exhausted within days. Penn State Extension has a portfolio of resources on the CARES Act to assist you in this process. Additional information on Extension's COVID programming can be found at <https://extension.psu.edu/coronavirus>:

- *Small Business Benefits and the CARES Act: What Farm and Food Producers Need to Know*
- *COVID-19 Stimulus Benefits and Your Farm and Food Business Webinar*
- *COVID-19 Stimulus Benefits for Sole-Proprietors & Independent Contractors*
- *COVID-19 Stimulus Benefits for Dairy Industry Farmers and Small Businesses*
- *COVID-19 Stimulus Benefits and Your Small Business Update*

Other upcoming Penn State Extension programs that might be of particular interest to you and your members:

*H-2A Agricultural Workers in Times of Uncertainty Webinar*

*Weighing Your Options through Milk Supply Management*

*Time Sensitive Opportunity—How to Bid for the USDA Food Box Distribution Program*

*Meal Planning and Stretching Your Food Dollars During Challenging Times Webinar*

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**This is an inspirational letter  
that was sent to  
New York's Governor Cuomo  
from a Kansas Farmer.**

March 26, 2020

Dear Mr. Cuomo,

I seriously doubt that you will ever read this letter as I know you are busy beyond belief with the disaster that has befallen our country. We currently (As of March 26, 2020) are a nation in crisis. Of that there is no doubt. Your approach has been spot on correct. I commend you for that & for especially for telling the truth, something that has been sorely lacking as of late.

I am a retired farmer hunkered down in N.E. Kansas with my wife who has but one lung and occasional problems with her remaining lung. She also has diabetes. We are in our 70's now & frankly I am afraid for her.

Enclosed find a solitary N-95 mask left over from my farming days. It has never been used. If you could, would you please give this mask to a nurse or doctor in your city. I have kept four masks for my immediate family. Please keep on doing what you do so well, which is to lead.

Sincerely, Dennis + Sharon



National GRANGE Revival

Days End Campground  
Sturgis, South Dakota  
July 20-25, 2021

***Registration Form***

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**Event Cancellations & Postponements!**



**Cancellation Notice!**

Ontelaunee Community Grange

May Breakfast  
May 3, 2020

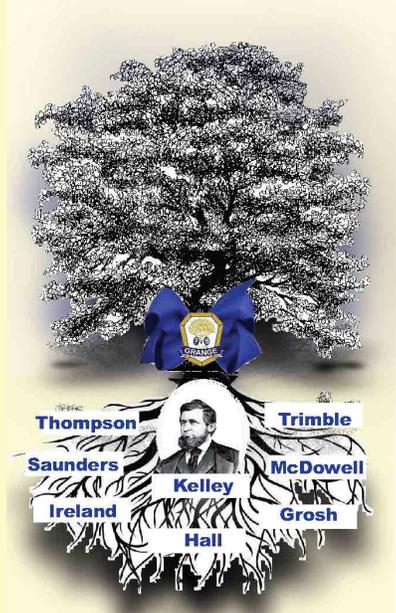
Stay tuned for future notices.

***Ag Event Cancellations and Updates***

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**Are you growing your  
Grange Family Tree???**

**Membership  
Resources**



**Make sure to visit the membership page for recruiting resources!**

***Click here...***

## **Membership Workshops**

### **Online/Phone conferences**

Will schedule workshops up to 12 participants at a time. Flexible with dates and times.

Call Lizzie at 717-254-9550  
to sign up

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www.pagrange.org