



Supporting Pennsylvania's Strong Agricultural Community

Creating and maintaining an environment in which good, family-sustaining jobs can grow is one of Tom Corbett's top priorities. Pennsylvania is blessed to have a rich agricultural heritage that continues today as the number one industry in Pennsylvania. From dairy to mushrooms and grains to hardwoods, Pennsylvania's diverse resources make the commonwealth a worldwide leader in agriculture production.

Pennsylvania is home to more than 63,000 farms – with 98 percent of them being family-owned. They are strong businesses that supply food and resources not only within Pennsylvania, but also to people around the world. One out of every seven workers in Pennsylvania is involved in the production, processing and distribution of food. While some other manufacturing operations have left Pennsylvania for other states and other countries, food production and processing remains a major economic engine in the commonwealth.

The value of all agricultural sales in Pennsylvania is approximately \$5.9 billion – with \$3.9 billion coming from animals and animal products and \$1.9 billion from crops. Of the \$3.9 billion in animal products, milk and dairy products account for the largest portion of those sales, bringing in 48 percent, while poultry and eggs account for 25.8 percent. The Pennsylvania dairy industry alone produces \$1.5 billion in cash receipts each year, generates 40,000 jobs in the commonwealth and ranks fifth nationally in total milk production. Of the \$1.9 billion in crops, mushrooms bring in 47.7 percent. Pennsylvania is the leading producer of hardwood lumber in the United States, with revenues from Pennsylvania's forest products industry exceeding \$5.5 billion annually. Pennsylvania has close to eight million acres of farmland, and, to date, more than 432,000 acres of Pennsylvania farmland have been preserved by state, county, local and private partners.

While our agricultural industry is strong due to the hardworking men and women

who run Pennsylvania farms, Tom Corbett knows that the industry is in critical need of leadership at the state level to ensure the viability and success of our agricultural community for generations to come. Pennsylvania has the ability to expand and grow its agricultural presence both nationally and around the world, and Tom Corbett believes it is time to harness that potential and make agriculture a cornerstone of Pennsylvania's economic recovery.

Tom Corbett's agricultural plan will work to support and grow our farming community and natural resources through four core areas:

- Enhancing the Department of Agriculture
- Securing the future of Agriculture
- Growing the impact of Pennsylvania Dairy
- Promoting Pennsylvania's Equine Industry

ENHANCING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture provides a critical service to Pennsylvania's farming community. As Governor, Tom Corbett will bring a new sense of priority to the activities and responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture. He will prioritize the functions of the department and make budgetary decisions that preserve and enhance the health and safety of the public, livestock, poultry and plants.

The commonwealth clearly has been faced with budgetary challenges within all sectors of government. During the past eight years, the commonwealth budget has grown from \$20.7 billion in 2001-2002 to \$28 billion in the 2010-2011. At the same time, the general government operations budget appropriation for the Department of Agriculture has decreased from \$31.5 million in 2001-2002 to \$26.8 million in the 2010-2011. While the state budget grew by nearly \$8 billion dollars, the general fund appropriation for the Department of Agriculture decreased by \$4.5 million. Agriculture has not been a budget priority of the current administration.

Tom Corbett is committed to restoring fiscal discipline in state government and making state government more accountable to Pennsylvania taxpayers. With regard to agriculture, it is necessary to determine the core functions of the Department of Agriculture that must become a budgetary priority. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to:

- Enhance funding to bureaus related to human, animal and plant health and

safety. As Governor, Tom Corbett will support funding to priority bureaus, including the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services; the Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services; the Bureau of Plant Industry; and the tripartite Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System. With the population expected to exceed nine billion people by 2050, educating the urban sector about the importance of protecting Pennsylvania agriculture to supply their food needs by providing a quality, safe product raised in the commonwealth is of utmost importance.

- Continue support for consumer protection. Tom Corbett has a proven track record as Attorney General in protecting Pennsylvania consumers. As Governor, he will continue these efforts with support for the Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards and Bureau of Food Distribution in order to protect and assist Pennsylvanians during difficult economic times. A top priority will be a proactive role in ensuring that agricultural lands remain in agricultural production. This would require continued funding to programs such as first generation farmer, farmland preservation and the phasing out of the inheritance tax.
- Protect Pennsylvania's environment. Tom Corbett is committed to protecting Pennsylvania's environment through key strategies with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Support for the State Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts will be critical, and the ability to leverage state and federal dollars to accomplish on-farm best management practices that will improve the water quality in Pennsylvania will be a priority. As regulations increase, more is being asked of county conservation districts in the form of program administration, data verification and technical expertise. Meeting our 2025 Chesapeake Bay goals will be a key area of focus as a funding priority.
- Ensure support for the Pennsylvania Horse and Harness racing programs. Tom Corbett will work to ensure that the legislative goals of the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Act and the Gaming Act are accomplished through direct oversight of the Pennsylvania Horse and Harness racing programs. The Department of Agriculture will work closely with the racing industry organizations to promote commonwealth racing as an integral part of Pennsylvania agriculture, tourism and cultural heritage. Tom Corbett also will support and advocate harness racing at Pennsylvania county fairs as an important showcase for agriculture.
- Preserve Pennsylvania's farmlands for future generations. Farmland preservation

is the strong legacy of Pennsylvania agriculture, and Tom Corbett will focus on ensuring that productive land is preserved from development and kept in viable production of crops and livestock.

- Increase marketing support. Tom Corbett will work to increase the profitability of Pennsylvania's agricultural producers and processors by increasing both domestic and international sales through the Bureau of Market Development. The bureau will provide and coordinate regional, national and international marketing and promotion assistance.
- Ensure funding for the Resource Enhancement and Protection program. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work toward restoring funding to continue the successful program known as REAP – Resource Enhancement and Protection program. This program provides tax credits for conservation and best management practices.
- Support the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. The Pennsylvania Farm Show and the agricultural shows hosted by the Farm Show Complex are important to the agricultural community in the commonwealth. Each year, nearly 500,000 people attend the annual Farm Show, and other major shows, including the Keystone International Livestock Exposition, All-American Dairy Show and the annual state 4-H Show. These are important events, and Tom Corbett is committed to the continued promotion of the complex nationwide.
- Support the county fairs. County fairs are important to the fiber of rural Pennsylvania, and Tom Corbett will work to support these important functions.
- Enhance agricultural research opportunities. Agricultural research is important to the future of agriculture in Pennsylvania, and all consumers benefit from it. The important findings made possible through this research are not only necessary, but also ultimately a cost saving for the commonwealth. Tom Corbett will work to identify funding to ensure the future success of agricultural research.
- Evaluate department programs and funding priorities. Tom Corbett will direct the Secretary of Agriculture to perform reviews of all programs and funding in the department and make recommendations as necessary to maintain the safety of the public.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is Pennsylvania's number one industry, and Tom Corbett is committed to ensuring its viability and success for generations to come. Our agriculture community is driven by consumers, and society is looking to the agriculture sector for reassurance that their food is safe to eat, is raised humanely, and that sound environmental stewardship is followed on the farms, at the processor and during transportation. For this reason, Pennsylvania agriculture must share its production system with consumers to educate them on best management practices and benefits.

As Governor, Tom Corbett will encourage and promote Pennsylvania agriculture to be proactive and anticipate social trends. Safe and affordable food choices are a critical component of his vision for the future of Pennsylvania's agriculture. He will advance the agriculture community's work on issues such as supplying an adequate labor force to harvest agriculture commodities and encouraging and supporting veterinary medicine for livestock.

Tom Corbett understands the interconnection between all sectors of agriculture and recognizes that for Pennsylvania agriculture to be successful there must be a harmonious balance between consumer education – food safety – animal welfare – veterinary needs – environmental stewardship – labor force – transportation corridors and vehicles – and marketing and food nutrition. Tom Corbett will work to implement best practices that ensure our food is always safe, but at the same time ensure that the standards and regulations we put on our agricultural community make sense and do not hinder their ability to produce product. In order to properly do this, we need to ensure that Pennsylvania agricultural regulations and standards remain under the oversight of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. All industries within Pennsylvania's agricultural community must be advanced – dairy, hog, poultry, grain, fruit, mushrooms and hardwoods.

As Governor, Tom Corbett will make Pennsylvania agriculture a priority within his administration. He knows that Pennsylvania agriculture producers are feeding families not only in Pennsylvania, but across the nation and world. Here at home, we need to focus on sustainability and buy local on a statewide basis.

- Ensure animal care standards. Tom Corbett knows that farmers care about their animals and that those best cared for produce the best products. Animal care should be a top priority – including feeding programs, proper housing, veterinary care and transportation. Regulations governing animal care should be based on

scientifically-proven and economically-feasible practices.

- Protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Pennsylvania farmers have worked diligently to improve the health of the bay and are committed to continuing those efforts to protect our environment and waterways. In fact, 55 percent of the reduction of detrimental elements in the Bay is due to practices employed by farmers. Any restoration efforts must accommodate future population and economic growth without limiting Pennsylvania agriculture's regional competitiveness or its ability to advance, prosper and expand. As Governor, Tom Corbett will promote the work of Pennsylvania regulators and organizations that are creating a protocol best suited to Pennsylvania's landscape, residents, industry and agriculture to meet Chesapeake Bay Watershed targets.
- Promote modern agriculture. As Pennsylvania wrestles with issues of urban sprawl and consumers become further removed from knowing of how food reaches their tables – programs within Pennsylvania will need to be funded at adequate levels to counter this dilemma. With 9 billion people to feed by the year 2050, modern agriculture will need to use advanced technologies to produce more with less available land for crop and animal production. Society must trust farmers, as they have in the past, to use the best techniques and practices to care for the animals, respect the environment, and produce wholesome food products.
- Ensure the growth and success of the hog industry. Contributing an estimated \$1 billion annually to Pennsylvania's economy, the hog industry in Pennsylvania ranks 12th in the country in terms of the market value of sales. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with Pennsylvania's pork producers to ensure that they can continue to optimize productivity and product quality. He also will direct the state, specifically DEP, to work in partnership with the industry as part of his commitment to revitalizing state government and making it a true partner with Pennsylvania's businesses.
- Support Pennsylvania's mushroom industry. Pennsylvania leads the nation in mushroom growing, with annual production topping 493 million pounds and annual sales of more than \$375 million. Over 51 percent of the nation's mushroom caps are grown in Chester County, and the industry employs nearly 9,000 people in southeastern Pennsylvania. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to support Pennsylvania's vibrant mushroom industry and promote its growth and success.

- Meet the labor needs of agriculture. There is a struggle within the agricultural community to find a viable labor force and on-farm help. Some farms rely on guest workers and others rely upon seasonal workers to meet those labor needs. Without access to this work force, some farms and agricultural operations will struggle to operate or exist.
- Engaging future generations in agriculture. The average age of a Pennsylvania farmer is 58 years old. Tom Corbett will work with Pennsylvania's agricultural community to place an emphasis on attracting youth to return to the family farm or family agribusiness. This is applicable to the agriculture service sector as well. He believes that we need to be diligent in our efforts to ensure future generations return to agriculture and view it as a viable career choice. Tom Corbett is a strong supporter of the 4H and Future Farmers of America programs.
- Continue support for crop insurance for Pennsylvania farmers. Assisting Pennsylvania's farming community is a top priority for Tom Corbett. Farming is a high-risk business, and crop insurance provides farmers with an important tool to protect their businesses by transferring some of the financial risk into a manageable premium and insurance program. As Governor, Tom Corbett will continue the commonwealth's commitment to crop insurance and support Pennsylvania's farming community.
- Promote Pennsylvania's hardwoods industry. Pennsylvania is the largest producer of hardwoods in the country, accounting for 10 percent of the total hardwood output in the United States. Revenues from Pennsylvania's forest products industry exceed \$5.5 billion annually, and it employs approximately 90,000 Pennsylvanians. As Governor, Tom Corbett will support Pennsylvania's hardwoods industry and ensure that it is able to grow.
- Encourage growth of Pennsylvania's fruit and vegetable industry. Supporting and helping to grow Pennsylvania's fruit and vegetable industry is an important priority. As Governor, Tom Corbett will revitalize the Simply Delicious program, including the fresh fruit and vegetable coupons, and the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) and senior citizen coupons. These coupons not only help Pennsylvanians to maintain a healthy diet, but they also support sales for Pennsylvania farmers.
- Maintain funding for extension and research. As Governor, Tom Corbett will support and maintain funding for extension and research-- which is critical to the production of safe, abundant and affordable food in Pennsylvania.

- Support Pennsylvania's only Veterinary School. University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, is one of the top three veterinary schools in the country. It provides services to the commonwealth's producers and citizens and provides state-of-the-art education to the future generation of veterinarians. As Governor, Tom Corbett will recognize and support the importance of public health/large animal/food animal veterinarians to support Pennsylvania animal agriculture and food safety.
- Upgrade grain standards and testing methods. Tom Corbett understands that some state and federal regulations create a substantial financial burden on PA farmers and at times the current methods are ineffective. As Governor, Tom Corbett will advocate for the upgrade and re-evaluation of grain standards and testing methods.
- Grow value added opportunities for agriculture. With such a diverse agricultural industry, Pennsylvania has the opportunity to promote and grow new industries based upon our agricultural resources. From potato dehydration to soybean processing and the growing biodiesel industry, these industries create additional opportunities for growth of Pennsylvania's agricultural community and resources and also expand the variety of jobs available. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to promote Pennsylvania's value added agricultural opportunities.

GROWING THE IMPACT OF PENNSYLVANIA DAIRY

Dairy remains the key economic driver in Pennsylvania's agricultural industry. It generates an estimated \$4.2 billion annually, most of which is spent in our local communities and employs 40,000 Pennsylvanians. At last count, there were 7,400 dairy farms, but in the past decade 25 percent of the dairy farms have gone out of the dairy business largely due to the difficult and time consuming permit process, Pennsylvania's "death tax" and volatile price fluctuations. Although the number of herds has declined, production has not declined significantly. As Governor, Tom Corbett is committed to growing the reach and impact of Pennsylvania's dairy community. He will work with dairy farmers and state regulators to ensure that there is a balanced and fair approach in planning for the future of the dairy industry.

- Transform the image of the dairy industry. As Governor, Tom Corbett will evaluate the dairy programs within the Department of Agriculture and direct the

Secretary of Agriculture to work with key stakeholders to transform the dairy industry from the perception of a “life-style hobby” to a contemporary, sustainable family industry.

- Undertake a thorough review the Milk Marketing Board. An issue of high priority facing Pennsylvania dairy farmers is the inability of the Milk Marketing Board to address the needs of the majority of dairy farmers. It has been many years since the General Assembly did a comprehensive review of the Milk Marketing Law – a period of time that has witnessed unprecedented consolidation of the commonwealth’s milk haulers, processors and retailers and an extraordinary decline of dairy farmers. The board needs to be more nimble to better serve both the needs of the contemporary Pennsylvania dairy industry and provide for continued stability of quality, local milk production for the consuming public. As Governor, Tom Corbett will call for a thorough legislative review of the structure and authorities of the board.
- Create an online “One Stop Shop” for the dairy industry. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with the General Assembly to establish an online “One-Stop Shop” to assist the dairy farming community in complying with current statutes and regulations. In addition, all programs affecting dairy farmers would be listed with pertinent information on the program’s purpose, function, qualifications and application process. If dairy is to continue to be viable in PA, legislation and regulations must be supportive and basic. Statutory and regulatory requirements can be difficult and confusing. Helping producers through phases that are simple to implement is necessary. The One-Stop Shop would be established as an online system, utilizing existing staff within the Department of Agriculture to keep it current. Each regional office of the department also should be equipped with the information for those members of the farming community wanting to have access to an individual for further discussion.
- Advocate for Pennsylvania dairy farmers at the national level. In preparation for the 2012 Farm Bill, as Governor Tom Corbett and the Secretary of Agriculture will be vocal proponents of Pennsylvania’s dairy industry at the national level. They will work with all sectors of the dairy industry to communicate Pennsylvania’s positions, such as transparency of milk pricing, transportation issues and funding for risk/crop insurance, in Washington.
- Conduct consumer education – “Ag in the Classroom”. It is important for citizens to better understand how food comes from the farm to the marketplace, why farming is an important economic development issue and how livestock is cared

for in Pennsylvania. As Governor, Tom Corbett will direct the Department of Agriculture to promote “Ag in the Classroom” to educate Pennsylvanians about this important industry.

PROMOTING PENNSYLVANIA’S EQUINE INDUSTRY

While the Department of Agriculture (PDA) has promoted most facets of agriculture, the one species that has little recognition is equine. Aside from the Pennsylvania Horse Racing and Harness Racing Commissions, there is little to no support or recognition of this important industry, which includes breeding, raising, training, showing and riding.

A 2002 survey conducted by Penn State University found that there were 215,693 horses in Pennsylvania. The general population comprised 189,328 horses, and the racing industry comprised 26,365. Since this survey was done prior to the Act 71 legislation legalizing gaming at the horse racing tracks in the commonwealth, the number of race horses has grown. The overall value of Pennsylvania’s horses in 2002 was estimated at \$1.3 billion dollars, and industry outputs were set at \$1.12 billion dollars. Total taxes paid by the industry were valued at \$53.2 million dollars, and wages and benefits paid were estimated at \$92.9 million dollars – with a value add of \$615 million. All of this translates into 20,300 jobs that compensate Pennsylvania workers with \$412.2 million.

Aside from the racing industry, there are 216,000 equid that represent approximately 50 different breeds in Pennsylvania. The largest breed is the American Quarter Horse at 40,110 head, followed by Arabians and Half Arabians, Morgans, Thoroughbreds (non-racing), Mules/Donkeys and Appaloosas. Another large breed of horses found in Pennsylvania is the Draft Horse comprised of Belgians, Percherons and Clydesdales. An estimated 38,000 households own equid in Pennsylvania, and a total of 190,000 people participate in an equine activity. An additional 20 percent of these households participate in equine activities but do not own a horse.

As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to promote the equine industry and grow its impact on Pennsylvania’s agricultural community.

- Recognize equine as livestock. As Governor, Tom Corbett will direct the Department of Agriculture to recognize horses as livestock and to incorporate them into existing programs and benefits of other livestock – such as farm transition, nutrient management, environmental practices and other programs.

- Establish an equine advisory team. To truly understand and establish equine as a livestock in Pennsylvania, there needs to be a protocol of inviting the breeds to come in and share their concerns and needs of their industry. As Governor, Tom Corbett will establish an advisory team of equine experts who would serve without compensation to advise the Governor and Secretary of Agriculture on issues of importance to the equine industry. A sunset date would be established.
- Protect open space. Horse farms actively preserve open land space. Equine farms comprise an estimated 1.14 million acres of open space and their land values for the entire commonwealth were reported to be \$4.8 billion. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work with the equine industry to promote open land space.
- Promote economic impact of horse shows. The equine industry adds important economic value to Pennsylvania's agricultural economy through the more than 116 horse shows per year – from the small local 4-H shows to state events, such as the Penn National Horse Show, which attracts horses from all over the world for a weeklong event. As Governor, Tom Corbett will promote the importance of the equine industry and horse shows in Pennsylvania.