

Shapiro Administration Files Suit Against USDA Over Termination of FLPA Food Program

By Michael Ortoski / Food Operations Dir. at Mission of Love Food Hub

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro announced that his administration has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The suit alleges that the USDA unlawfully terminated Pennsylvania's Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) Program agreement, which is a \$13 million commitment that directly supports 189 Pennsylvania farms and supplies 14 food banks with fresh, locally grown food.

Locally Second Harvest located in BATH Pa. who services 7 counties in Pa. including Northampton, Lehigh and Monroe have been devastated over the termination of this program.



As a Food Operations Dir. at Mission of Love Food Hub in Bangor I was involved in the program for one year. As the only 'Food Hub' in the Slate Belt, Mission of Love Food Hub bought the most food product in the LFPA program in Northampton County \$350,000 through seven different farms in the program.

We service over 4000 families every week and fresh produce is always on the top of the list of requests from our community.

The FLPA program to me is a win/win situation with 50% benefit to the people in need of food and 50% to help small farms stay in business.

When the USDA abruptly terminated our agreement without cause, they ripped away a reliable source of income for 189 Pennsylvania farms — and cut off funding that would have helped provide over 4.4 million meals to families across the Commonwealth. That's not just bad policy — it's a broken promise. A deal is a deal, and I've taken legal action today to ensure the federal government honors its commitment to Pennsylvania," the governor added.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has administered more than \$28 million in federal LFPA funding, helping food banks reduce waste, distribute local produce, and strengthen the state's food system.

The most recent three-year contract, signed in December 2024, was abruptly canceled in March 2025 without explanation, Shapiro office says.

PDA pays vendors up front and is reimbursed by the federal government once expenses are incurred.

The lawsuit can be viewed in its entirety HERE <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/governor/documents/shapiro%20v.%20usda%20-%20complaint%20-%20exhibits.pdf>.

“The Changing of the Seasons of America’s Past”

By Karen Brewer

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Heritage Center will hold their monthly historic program on Thursday, July 10th @ 7:00 PM. Speaker for the evening will be Mr. Perry Morris who will do a presentation on “The Changing of the Seasons of America’s Past”.

He will take you on a nostalgic look at the daily lives of everyday people; their daily habits and how they lived day to day, week to week, month to month and season to season. Mr. Morris will have tools and artifacts on display, going back over 200 years.

This program coincides with the Heritage Center's 150th exhibit for Bangor's Sesqui-centennial. Mr. Morris is a prolific storyteller and has an extensive knowledge of local lore and history. The event is free and open to the public. The Heritage Center is located at 330 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA. For additional information please call Karen Brewer @ 484-894-5661.



Women’s Club of Pen Argyl

By Diane Cascioli

PEN ARGYL - Pen Argyl Women's Club member Jane Ruggiero and her husband Bill are planting flowers in Pen Argyl Borough flower boxes on Main Street. They will be planting more flowers throughout the Borough as they complete another Pen Argyl Women's Club project.

Interested in joining the club? The meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 1 pm at the Phoebe Home 665 Alpha Road, Wind Gap, Pennsylvania. Drop by we would love to see you. Email: womensclubofpenargyl@gmail.com