

## Second Harvest

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access to high-quality, nutritious, locally-sourced food and the dignity of choice is a human right. We are encouraged by the successes of local procurement programs like the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) and Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program that aim to accomplish these critical goals.”

“Pennsylvania enjoys an incredible bounty of natural resources,” said PA Department of Agriculture Bureau of Food Assistance Director Caryn Long Earl. “The department connects more than 2 million Pennsylvanians with healthy, local food through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) and Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program. Thanks to these federal and state investments, nearly \$15 million in Pennsylvania-produced fruit, vegetables, animal protein, and dairy products were distributed between July 2023 and June 2024 through the charitable feeding system to people in need in all 67 counties. These programs are truly a win-win for Pennsylvania’s farmers and our neighbors who benefit from their bounty.”

Pennsylvania has a diverse agricultural landscape spanning more than 49,000 farms covering 7.1 million acres. With this

abundance of resources, the PA Department of Agriculture, farmers, and the charitable food network continue to partner to provide wholesome Pennsylvania food products to people facing hunger while simultaneously supporting the Commonwealth’s agricultural economy.

“We’re grateful for the collaboration between farmers and food banks to ensure nutritious, Pennsylvania-grown and produced food reaches our neighbors who need it most. Programs like the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) and Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) are vital to meeting the mission of Feeding Pennsylvania food banks,” remarked Feeding Pennsylvania CEO Julie Bancroft.

Local farmers participating in these agricultural programs provided valuable insight during the panel discussion. Travis Hahn, Co-Operator of Twin Maple Farms,

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