



Bucks County AgConnect Kick-off

Monday, March 16, 2015
Delaware Valley College
All Purpose Room – Auditorium in the Student Center
700 East Butler Avenue
Doylestown, PA 18901

AGENDA

9:30 am to 10:00 am
Welcome and Introductions

10:00 am to 10:45 am
Panel Discussion on Agricultural Financing

10:45 am to 11:30 am
Panel Discussion on Tools for Hiring in Agriculture

11:30 am to 12:30 pm
Lunch

Bucks County Chambers & Business Showcase

Want to learn more about AgConnect, the Bucks County WIB, or CareerLink, and how these organizations are teaming up to help YOU grow your farm or ag business? **JOIN US** at Delaware Valley College for a morning of networking and learning. We'll be hosting two panel discussions on **HIRING** ag employees, and **FINANCING** your ag business! We're looking forward to hosting you!

This event is **FREE** but pre-registration is required.

<https://bucksagconnect.eventbrite.com>



About Ag Connect:

AgConnect was started by the Chester County Economic Development Council (CCEDC) to serve farmers and the agriculture workforce. Beginning in 2002, while serving as a statewide contractor for the PDA's PAgrows program, CCEDC staff encountered numerous farmers who had needs for services other than loan acquisition. Often, the required services were nonexistent, offered by providers with little experience with the agricultural sector, or offered by experienced providers with insufficient capacity to meet regional needs.

CCEDC expanded on its PAgrows experience and in 2009 established the Southeastern Pennsylvania Agriculture Partnership, a public-private partnership funded in part by the Chester County Workforce Investment Board and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry. This new partnership addressed the critical business needs of the regional agricultural industry cluster that was comprised of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties by focusing on workforce and business development including advancing regional farmers' retail business and marketing skills; promoting and elevating the perception of agricultural production and processing as viable livelihoods; and, increasing the availability of local processing for meat and dairy producers.

In 2013, the program adopted a new name, AgConnect, to more accurately reflected the partnership's mission to connect farmers and agricultural business owners with the business resources, training, and financing they need to grow their business and promoting agricultural economic development within Southeastern PA.