



To: Friends of Penn State College of Ag Sciences
From: Matt Ehrhart, President, Penn State Ag Council

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences agricultural research and Extension programs are funded through the state general funds budget -- through the Land Scrip Fund -- located in the Department of Agriculture's budget. This represents the state's commitment to the 150-year-old land-grant partnership between Penn State and federal, state and county governments. These programs are not funded through tuition dollars.

Although there is strong support for the college's agricultural research and Extension programs at all levels of state government, the Land Scrip Fund was part of the Governor's line-item veto and is currently zeroed out.

If zero funding stands, it will have devastating impacts on the entire college, including Penn State Extension and our agricultural research stations. Below are talking points defining some of the potential impacts.

- Penn State Extension and the college's agricultural research programs are funded through the state general funds budget - through the Land Scrip Fund - located in the Dept. of Agriculture budget.
- Although there is strong support for these programs at all levels of state government, the Land Scrip Fund was part of the Governor's line-item veto and is currently zeroed out.
- As the state's commitment to the land-grant partnership, this state funding directly leverages more than \$34.5 million of federal (USDA) and county funding and supports the generation of more than \$56 million in grant funding (mainly from USDA).
- **Thus, if zero funding stands, Penn State Extension and our agricultural research stations are in jeopardy of closure**, as Extension programs and services are not supported by tuition dollars.
- **Flagship programs such as 4-H and Master Gardeners would also have to be discontinued.**
- The non-preferred appropriation bills -- that funds Penn State (and the College) the University of Pittsburgh, Temple, Lincoln, and the Penn Vet School -- are still pending passage as well, limiting the University's ability to continue to float the college until a budget resolution is accomplished.
- The Land Scrip fund enjoyed a 9.3% increase in the budget passed by both the House and Senate, demonstrating strong support for these programs.
- This increase included \$2 million to focus on biosecurity issues, with a focus on the threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Another case of HPAI was recently found in Indiana in turkey flocks, threatening hundreds of thousands of birds. Penn State Extension and research provides needed expertise and infrastructure to address such threats.
- The avian influenza threat is just one example of why these programs are critical to the future and profitability of Pennsylvania agriculture by proving needed expertise, research, and best practices.

We are asking you to please contact legislative leadership immediately as listed below, as well as your local legislators, to request restoration of the college's funding.

ASK:

The Senate introduced a supplemental funding bill to restore funding to the Land Scrip Fund, as well as several other ag lines. We are asking the Governor and legislators to support supplemental funding as included in SB1120 (sponsored by Senator Vogel), which restores the Land Scrip fund to \$50,549,000

Last Name	First Name	Legislature	Title	Email	CC Email	Harrisburg Phone
Wolf	Tom	Governor	Governor	https://governor.pa.gov/contact/		717-787-2500 Fax: 717-772-8284
Turzai	Mike	House	Speaker	mturzai@pahousegop.com	cwynn@pahousegop.com	(717) 772-9943
Reed	Dave	House	Majority Leader	dreed@pahousegop.com	jblair@pahousegop.com	(717) 705-7173
Dermody	Frank	House	Minority Leader	fdermody@pahouse.net	vhubbard@pahouse.net	(717) 787-3566
Adolph	William	House	Appropriations Chair	wadolph@pahousegop.com	Creddecl@pahousegop.com	(717) 787-1248
Markosek	Joseph	House	Democrat Appropriations Chair	jmarkose@pahouse.net	jbelz@hacd.net	(717) 783-1540
Cutler	Bryan	House	Majority Whip	bcutler@pahousegop.com	jweaver@pahousegop.com	(717) 783-6424
Hanna	Michael	House	Minority Whip	mhanna@pahouse.net	ddedertc@pahouse.net	(717) 772-2283
Causer	Marty	House	Ag and Rural Affairs Chair	mcauser@pahousegop.com	mmusgrav@pahousegop.com	717-787-5075
Carrol	Mike	House	Ag and Rural Affairs Democrat Chair	mcarrol@pahouse.net	smutzaba@pahouse.net	717-787-3589
Scarnati	Joseph	Senate	President Pro Tempore	jscarnati@pasen.gov	cshort@pasen.gov	717/787-7084
Corman	Jake	Senate	Majority Floor Leader	icorman@pasen.gov	kkoppenhaver@pasen.gov	717-787-1377
Costa	Jay	Senate	Minority Floor Leader	costa@pasenate.com	agriffin@pasenate.com	717/787-7683
Browne	Patrick	Senate	Appropriations Committee Chair	pbrowne@pasen.gov	mnicholson@pasen.gov	(717) 787-1349
Hughes	Vincent	Senate	Appropriations Committee Minority Chair	hughes@pasenate.com	mmurphy@pasenate.com	717/787-7112
Gordner	John	Senate	Majority Whip	jgordner@pasen.gov	vtreaster@pasen.gov	717-787-8928
Williams	Anthony	Senate	Minority Whip	williams@pasenate.com	btate@pasenate.com	717-787-5970
Elder	Vogel	Senate	Ag & Rural Affairs Chair	evogel@pasen.gov	hburke@pasen.gov	717-787-3076
Schwank	Judy	Senate	Ag & Rural Affairs Democrat Chair	JSCHWANK@pasenate.com	amindy@pasenate.com	717-787-8925

Questions? Contact Penn State Ag Council at AgCouncil@psu.edu or 814-863-2822