PASS PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL SURPLUS SYSTEM

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) is an innovative program for accessing healthy and nutritious surplus food produced by Pennsylvania farmers in an effort to share these products with Pennsylvania families in need. Through PASS, the PA Department of Agriculture provides funding to cover the costs associated with harvesting, processing, packaging, and transporting surplus products including fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy, poultry, pork, beef, and grains (much-needed items at food banks and their agencies) in order to donate those items to the charitable food system. Significant portions of the product obtained through PASS is food that is perfectly nutritious and edible but might otherwise become waste.

In its first year of funding, PASS had a positive impact for Pennsylvania agricultural producers, local food sourcing, and Pennsylvanians in need.

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture allocates funding for PASS.
Pennsylvania producers use the money to harvest surplus product.
Pennsylvania families in need get access to fresh food!

HOW IS PASS DISTRIBUTED?
Using the State Food Purchase Program formula, all 67 counties receive a PASS allocation. Since 2015, PASS funds have helped in the distribution of 5 million lbs of fresh Pennsylvania-produced food to 67 counties and more than 850,000 households.

WHAT DOES PASS FUNDING COVER?
- Cost for farmers to harvest surplus product from the field
- Cost to package product
- Cost for value added product (ie: processing milk into cheese)
- Transportation to get the product to the food bank

POTENTIAL FOR MORE IMPACT
The current $1 million appropriation only covers a portion of the nutritious bounty that could be brought into the charitable food system through PASS to help nourish the 1.7 million Pennsylvanians who struggle to put food on the table. For this reason, we are advocating for an increase to $3 million for this vital initiative.

“We now have a mechanism for our farm to recover a portion of the fixed costs associated with packaging and distribution of our donated potatoes. Thus, providing a benefit to our farming operation, while at the same time benefiting the charitable food system and those that it serves. It has truly been a win-win.”

- Dave Masser, President, Sterman Masser, Inc.