AG QUARTERLY



October 2026

BERKS COUNTY Department of AGRICULTURE

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BERKS COUNTY
Department of
AGRICULTURE

WHAT WE DO

The Berks County Department of Agriculture promotes agriculture in Berks County by preserving farmland, invigorating agricultural economic development, and connecting our community to agricultural resources.

WHO WE ARE

We are a department of the County of Berks, established in 2015 to serve Berks County residents. We are dedicated to ensuring a thriving agricultural industry in Berks County.

Credits
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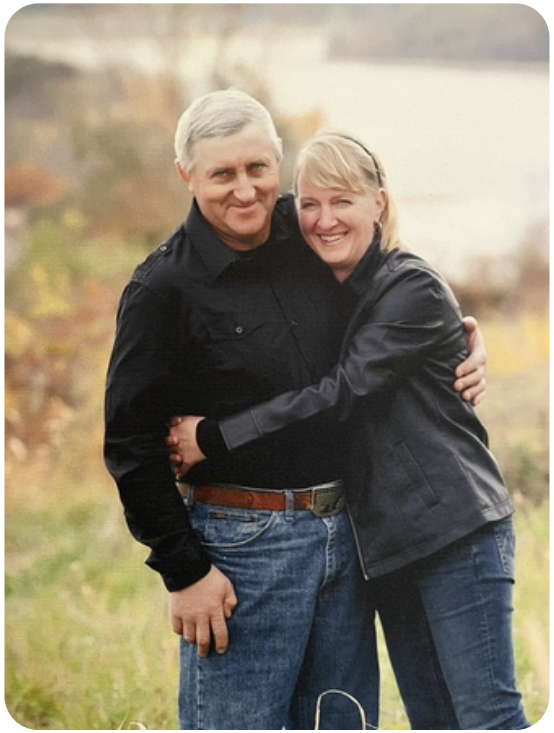
Apple picking at Weaver's Orchard is always a favorite fall activity!



PRESERVATION SPOTLIGHT

One Hill Farm- Moyer Family
Settlement #71

Excerpts from "Farming for the Family and the Agriculture Community" by Clyde A. B. Myers as published in the Reading Eagle.



- The Martin and Melissa Moyer are second generation farmers that own One Hill Farm, which was purchased by Martin's parents in 1974. They moved to the farm in 1981 and raised their 4 children there.
- The 128 acre dairy and crop farm was preserved in 1997. The funds from the preservation of the farm allowed them to purchase the farm from Martin's parents and purchase additoinal farmland.
- At one time, the Martins milked 136 Holstein and Brown Swiss cows, shipping milk to Clover Farms Dairy. Today, the dairy is run by niece Kayla Keeney and her husband Kevin, who lease the farm.
- The Martins grow crops on 84 acres, plus an additional rented 96 acres.

"For the Moyers, preserving the farm was about more than protecting one's property. It reflected their commitment to safeguarding productive farmland and supporting the future of agriculture in Berks County."

Please see our website for full articles on preserved farms.

AG LAND PRESERVATION STATS



858
Farms Preserved

81,291.2
Acres Preserved

2026 Totals:

Farms preserved: **12**
Acres preserved: **925.5**

Program Total:

County invested: **$86.7M**
State invested: **$98.7M**
Landowner Donated Value: **$43.3M**

The Berks County Department of Agriculture oversees the administration of the Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program, which permanently preserves Berks County's farmland.

Q3 HIGHLIGHTS

Ice Cream Social

The Department joined the Berks County Dairy Princess Maya Bicksler and her court at a County Commissioners' meeting and Ice Cream Social to remind us of the importance of the dairy industry. through speeches from the Princess and Alternate Princess, Sarah Wetzel, and a special song from the Lil' Miss Jordie Kelchner. After recognition from the Commissioners, everyone was treated to ice cream in celebration of ice cream month. It was a delicious way to connect with an celebrate the ag industry in Berks County.





Fair Participation

The Department participated in 3 local fairs in the third quarter: the Berks County Fair, the Kutztown Fair, and the Oley Fair. Staff was able to distribute program information, connect with the public, and the ag community. Bountiful Berks Market Guides were a hot commodity, with approximately 700 booklets given out during the 3 fairs.

Q3 Highlights

BBEC Teacher Day

The Department partnered with the Berks Business Education Coalition to help educate teachers on the importance of the agriculture industry. The group visited Giorgi Mushroom and Corner View Dairy home to view AMS Galaxy robotic milking system and other innovative practices. The visits highlighted the incorporation of technology in the ag industry and the importance of the industry's connection to STEAM curriculum for career pathways.





SAN Ag Bus Tour

The Department joined the Schuylkill Action Network for their annual bus tour. This year's tour focused on the upper Schuylkill River Watershed, with a great view from Kittatinny Ridge of preserved land in the Appalachian Trail viewshed and a visit to Last Chance Angus, LLC to see conservation and best management practices in action. This collaborative is a national model for public, private and government entities working together affect positive water quality outcomes for the entire watershed

Grant recipients of the 2026 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund were also announced, two of which are Berks County projects.

Q3 Highlights

Maidencreek Township Food Truck Fridays

The Department joined Maidencreek Township for two of their Food Truck Friday Events in August. We educated the community about the importance of agriculture and local food through our Bountiful Berks campaign and provided information about our Department's events and programs. Ag-focused children's activities and veggie tattoos helped younger residents learn about where their food comes from. Local food trucks offered delicious dinner and dessert options. It was a great way to connect with the local community!



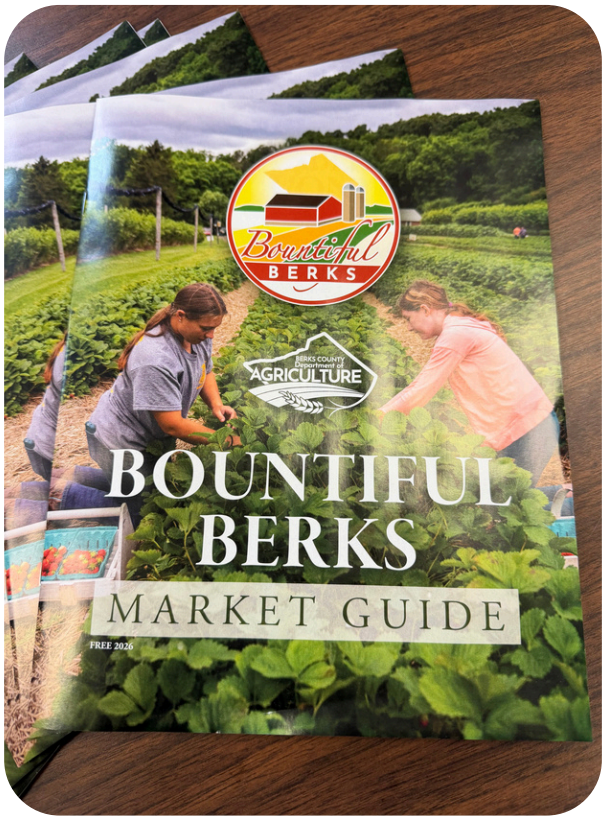


Pop Up Farmers Market

The Department hosted our Fall Pop Up Farmer's Market at the Berks County Heritage Center as part of the Parks Department's Heritage Day Celebration. Seventeen vendors and 3 food truck from around the county showcased their locally produced products and connected the public to local food options and community resources. This event also served as the kick-off for the Bountiful Berks – Support Family Farms Buy Local marketing campaign and the wrap-up for B.A.R.N.'s Barnopoly summer farm visit game. The event highlighted the incredible bounty of Berks County agriculture and the over 250 locations to purchase local products.

Bountiful Berks

The Bountiful Berks - Buy Local Support Family Farms marketing campaign was officially launched this summer. This initiative both promotes the ag industry as a vital piece of the Berks County economy and supports expanding marketing opportunities and value-added products - two goals identified in the Growing Berks Ag Study.



What We Accomplished This Quarter:

- The Local Food Map and Ag Events Calendar found a new home on bountifulberks.org, along with blog content and farmer resources.
- Printed Market Guides showcase the over **250** locations to buy local products. About **4,000** have been distributed at events, local fairs and farm stands.
- **30** local vendors have been provided with marketing packages that include the print guides and Bountiful Berks merchandise to give away
- Facebook and Instagram were created to encourage the public to join the local food movement and highlight local producers and products.

Follow Bountiful Berks to get the latest updates!

Berks Ag Facts

Did you know a pumpkin is actually a fruit?

A pumpkin is considered a fruit because the flower has to be pollinated in order for a pumpkin to grow. They also contain seeds inside making it a fruit. This year Oley Fair's largest pumpkin weighed 693 pounds! Pumpkin fields should be rotated every year due to the nutrients required.



Pumpkins are part of the $150+ million horticulture and produce sales and a key driver of our $39 million agritourism industry.

UPCOMING...

Berks Business Education Coalition - Students Interacting with Business November

Audience: High School Students
Description: Students from 3 Berks County high schools visit the Ag Center to learn about agriculutre and ag career options from the various ag agencies in the building.
Partners: Berks Business Education Coalition and agency ag partners

Ag & Natural Resources Career & Job Fair November 12th

Audience: Local high school and college students and job seekers
Description: Exhibitors from various agriculture and natural resources careers connect with students and job seekers to showcase the varied careers in the industry and provide career opportunities, internships, and fill open positions.
Partners: Local agribusinesses, colleges and universities, and agency partners





Would you like to partner with us for future events? Give us a call or email us: 610-378-1844 or DeptofAg@BerksPA.gov

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CONTACT US OR STOP BY!

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