

# AG EXCELLENCE BEEF LINE-ITEM

*Investing taxpayer dollars back into local communities; continually working towards a more prosperous future for the PA Beef Industry.*

## The Beef Line-Item supports four core areas:

### 1 THE BEEF WORKING GROUP

The Beef Working Group brings together Pennsylvania producers and stakeholders to monitor the needs of the beef industry and create educational opportunities that enhance performance and production. This coordinated effort is led by the Penn State Extension Livestock Team, PA Beef Council, Center for Beef Excellence, Center for Dairy Excellence, and the PA Cattlemen's Association.



### 2 BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Pennsylvania Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program is dedicated to educating producers about best management practices, ensuring proper animal care on farms. This initiative involves nearly 8,000 producers who are trained to guarantee a safe, wholesome, and high-quality beef product for consumers to enjoy.



### 3 YOUTH OUTREACH

Key Initiatives surround the PA Beef to PA Schools program which is solely supported by this funding line, which works to provide quality local beef and beef products monthly to schools across the Commonwealth to BEEF-Up the lunch tray. While providing producer market access, the program connects youth with the local farming community through education and awareness, helping to bridge the information gap and support the growth of the beef industry in Pennsylvania.



### 4 CENTER FOR BEEF EXCELLENCE

CBE fosters collaboration, drives profitability, and enhances productivity for Pennsylvania beef producers. By focusing on grant programs, production, management, education, youth and organizational support, CBE plays a pivotal role in strengthening the beef industry across the state.



# ROI

*Return on Investment*

Total funding for FY24-25 for the Beef Line Item was **\$1.4M**. This was an increase from the year prior. The additional **\$800K** allocated to the Ag Excellence Beef Line-Item has had a profound impact. All expenses are reimbursed upon receipt of work that follows the approved work plan. Here's a breakdown of how these funds are being utilized:

## 1 PA BEEF TO PA SCHOOLS



**\$300,000**

This program budget is fully allocated to helping schools procure local beef. PA Beef to PA Schools works as a **50/50** cost share with schools, allowing school districts the ability to invest in local agriculture. In one year, we expanded from **32** to **120** school districts, covering nearly **25%** of all public schools and reaching **70%** of counties in Pennsylvania. As a result, over **225,000** youth are benefiting, with an additional **133,000 lbs.** of fresh Pennsylvania beef served in school cafeterias.

## 2 BEEF WORKING GROUP



**\$250,000**

Funding supports beef research, educational initiatives, and collaborative efforts. The group has organized **24** beef-centric educational meetings across the state reaching **1,168** producers in **52** counties. A major achievement includes the **"Beefing Up Backpacks"** program, which sources a PA, shelf-stable meat stick to support weekend backpack programs for students.

## 3 CENTER FOR BEEF EXCELLENCE (CBE)



**\$250,000**

The funding afforded CBE the ability to expand two existing grant opportunities for farm and herd improvements, including improved genetics. A standout initiative is the **Veterinary Excellence Initiatives Grant Program**, which helps Pennsylvania veterinarians purchase equipment and enhance their infrastructure to better serve the beef industry. CBE also offers the new Veterinary Extern Program, in hopes to encourage vet students to study large animal medicine and to stay in Pennsylvania.



*We are excited about the ongoing growth and success of these initiatives, which demonstrate how strategic investments continue to shape a thriving beef industry in Pennsylvania.*

The proposed budget, as it stands now, brings us back to the funding level from the year prior, which would eliminate the additional \$800K in support and therefore has our efforts set at \$600K in sum which is a **42% cut**. This would be incredibly detrimental to the programs outlined above, specifically the PA Beef to PA School Program and Beefing Up Backpacks which support local schools and local farms working together to fight food insecurity. We are proud to say that 100% of those budget areas are used for direct costs, all benefiting youth and providing a new market opportunity for PA farmers. The PA Beef to PA Schools program is directly responsible for these procurement and market opportunities that previously did not exist.



PENNSYLVANIA  
**BEEF**  
COUNCIL

Funded by Beef Farmers and Ranchers