



BEEFING UP Backpacks

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Nourishing Pennsylvania's Future, One Child at a Time

The PA Beef Foundation's **Beefing Up Backpacks** initiative continues to demonstrate the collective power of Pennsylvania's beef community in addressing childhood food insecurity. Made possible through the generosity of Pennsylvania's beef farmers, strategic community partnerships, charitable contributions, and support from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture through Agricultural Excellence funding, this initiative provides a meaningful solution to a critical need: **ensuring children have access to nutritious, high-quality protein in a shelf-stable beef stick**. Beefing Up Backpacks works to deliver a convenient and valuable source of protein when access to nutritious food may be limited.

135,040

BEEF STICKS PRODUCED

72,856

YOUTH REACHED

12,000

LBS. OF BEEF
CONVERTED INTO
BEEF STICKS

360

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

88%

COUNTY COVERAGE
59 OUT OF 67 COUNTIES

The 2026 program results demonstrate significant growth in statewide reach, geographic distribution, and overall impact. With 135,040 beef sticks distributed through partnerships reaching 360 schools across 59 Pennsylvania counties, the initiative continues to expand its ability to serve children and strengthen communities.

YEAR OVER YEAR IMPACT

PROGRAMMATIC RETURN ON INVESTMENT



125% growth in beef stick volume
(2025 to 2026)



667% growth in reported youth reach, outpacing growth in beef stick volume

- **42 additional counties** reached, extending coverage to nearly 9 in 10 Pennsylvania counties.
- **360 schools** reached in 2026, strengthening potential long-term distribution partnerships.
- Nearly **200,000 beef sticks** were distributed across to youth over the course of 2 years, investing in communities near you!



2026 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

BEEF HAS HEART.
SCAN TO GIVE A LITTLE.
IMPACT A LOT.

Help put a nutritious beef stick in the hands of a child in need.



DONATE HERE



LEARN MORE

Scan the QR codes to learn more about the Beefing Up Backpacks Initiative and donate to the cause!

Or visit www.pabeef.org/foundation

