

# GRANTS

What's open...

What to watch for....

Tips from those who have successfully applied.

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# FVC FELLOWSHIP FUND

[farmvetco.org/fvfellowship/](https://farmvetco.org/fvfellowship/)

- **Open until Feb. 14, 2024**
- Online; short answer & essay; documentation of service & biz plan required
- Spring awards
- 6 months to expend
- \$1-5000
- Membership in FVC required
- Beginning farmers
- FVC purchases item and gives to recipients



# COUNTY TOURISM GRANTS

- Put heads in beds
- **Partner with other destination businesses**
- Funded with hotel tax
- To support tourism, outdoor recreation, and cultural attractions.
- County-specific
- May fund events, facility enhancements, construction, renovations; marketing, advertising and PR to build attendance
- Info: county visitors' bureau
- *(Lehigh open until April 28; York open until February 15. for events on or after June 1. Laurel Highlands (Somerset/Westmoreland/Fayette opens Feb. 1)*



# VALUE ADDED PRODUCER (VAPG) GRANTS

[rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants/pa](https://rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants/pa)

Open for electronic apps until April 11; paper apps April 16.

- **Very competitive**
- VA activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based, value-added products.
- Match: 50% of total project cost (1-for-1 match)
- Working capital up to \$250,000; expenses for producing & marketing a VA product may include:
  - Processing costs.
  - Marketing and advertising expenses.
  - Some inventory and salary expenses.
- Planning up to \$75,000; expenses may include feasibility studies, developing business plans for processing and marketing the product
- **Contact program manager first!**



# USDA REAP

**USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants**

[rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency/pa](https://rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency/pa)

Application windows for 2024: March 31, June 30, September 30

Ag producers & rural small businesses: renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements. Farmers only: new energy efficient equipment & new system loans for production and processing.





# PA REAP

## PA Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP) Program

[agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/StateConservationCommission/REAP/Pages/default.aspx](http://agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/REAP/Pages/default.aspx)

- Closed for this round. Anticipated to open July, 2024.
- First-come, first-served—until funds run out
- PA income \$ for \$ tax credits to offset the cost of implementing conservation practices.
- Can be stacked with EQIP, ACAP to offset your out of pocket.
- What's next?
  - Contact Joel Semke to get on his mailing list for notification (717) [705-4032jsemke@pa.gov](mailto:705-4032jsemke@pa.gov)
  - Talk to your Conservation District to get your projects started now.



# EQIP

## USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- COST SHARE
- Ranked at local level
- Free technical assistance and payment incentives (cost shares).
- Purpose: remedy resource concern
- Beginning farmer veterans (USDA definition) may qualify for higher payment rates.

[Fact sheet](#) Contact your county [NRCS](#) office



# ACAP

## Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (PA)

- Applications ranked at local level (Agriculturally Impaired Stream Miles, Number of Cropland Acres, Number of Farms, Number of Livestock and Poultry, Other criteria established by SCC/CD)
- **Cost share** 10-15%--most counties
- State funded, administered by Conservation District
- Year 2 of 3 year funding.
- Funds must be committed by December 31, 2024 and spent by December, 31, 2026
- Projects from NRCS EQIP; installed projects inspected using NRCS criteria.





# ACAP/EQIP COST SHARE REIMBURSEMENT GRANT

Funded by Eight Oaks Farm Distillery Veterans Cut



[pavetfarms.org/2024-eight-oaks-grant](https://pavetfarms.org/2024-eight-oaks-grant)

- Four \$1000 grants
- Veteran-owned farm in PA
- First come, first served
- NRCS EQIP or ACAP project **completed** between May 1, 2023, and January 31, 2024.
- Required: ACAP contract or EQIP verification form from NRCS w/ app showing total project cost and cost share amount.
- Application opens Feb. 12, 9 am.



# FACT FUND A FARMER

[foodanimalconcernstrust.org/2024grants](https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/2024grants)

- Open November 1, 2024
- Competitive
- Projects must impact beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys.
- Eligible expenses: materials, supplies, equipment, shipping costs, professional fees, travel, training, and hired labor costs.
- 2023 focus: animal welfare certification



# HFC JUMPSTART PROGRAM

Part of *Young & Beginning Farmer Program*

[horizonfc.com/jumpstart](https://horizonfc.com/jumpstart)

- Closed
- Competitive
- Beginning farmer w/ 2 years or less experience, or planning to start farming in the next two years
- Reside in Horizon Farm Credit's territory (all of PA)
- Do not have to be a HFC member
- Typically online app, top 20 interview, 10 selectees



# HFC FARMERS ON THE RISE AWARD

[horizonfc.com/rise](http://horizonfc.com/rise)

- Closed
- Competitive
- BF w/ at least 3 but no more than 10 years farming
- Reside in HFC territory
- Individual or biz partner
- Online app, 20 finalists interview, 10 selectees
- **Award**, not a grant



# PAVFN MINI-GRANT

- \$500-1500
- Competitive
- Online application
- Usually annual, more often when funding allows (donated funds)
- W-9 required
- Material purchases







# PDA VETERAN FARMER GRANTS

## **PAVFN Force Multiplier Grant**

- Competitive
- For profit veteran farmers in PA with 2+ year experience; tangible items, conservation program cost share reimbursement.
- Total project cost not to exceed \$10,000
- Business plan, 2 years' Schedule F
- Walkthrough webinar TBA
- Application **planned** to open mid Feb-late March; awards in May.

## **Butler Community Partnership Veteran Farmer Grant**

[yourcapinfo.org/](http://yourcapinfo.org/)

- Anticipated: entering farmers, farming 2 years or less.
- No schedule F required (at this time).

# NE SARE

## Northeast Sustainable Ag Research & Education

### Farmer Grant

- \$5,000 to \$30,000
- Commercial farmers\* who want to test a new idea using a field trial, on-farm demonstration, marketing initiative, or other techniques.
- Pays some labor costs
- Technical partner required
- Project includes promulgating results.
- [Get notified](#) of future rounds.

“Farm= any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and normally would have been sold, during the census year.”



# SKIRTED SOLDIER GRANT

- Closed; if funded, opens after Jan. 1st
- Competitive
- Historically \$1000
- Women veteran owned farms in PA
- Honorable discharge
- Material purchases (not marketing)
- Online application
- W-9 required



# HOW WE HELP

- Post opportunities in newsletter, social, ours on website
- “2<sup>nd</sup> pair of eyes”
- Application assistance
- Connection with other VFs who’ve been successful

## QUESTIONS?

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