

Climate and PA Agriculture

Climate Change Advisory Committee
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The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Michael Roth, Policy Director

- Introduction
- PA Agriculture
- Climate Lens
- The Big Picture
- Crossover
- PDA Activities
- Looking to the Future
- Closing



- **7.3 million acres in agriculture** (approx. 25% of land)
- **Pennsylvania Agriculture Impact**
 - 593,600 jobs
 - \$132.5 Billion in Output
 - \$32.8 Billion in Labor Income
- **Rankings**
 - #1 in mushrooms (68 percent of US production)
 - #1 in hardwoods
 - In top five states for poultry layers, milk from cows, Christmas trees, and the nursery, greenhouse, and floriculture.
 - PA ranks 3rd in the Country on organic sales
 - (#1 in eggs, livestock & poultry, and mushrooms)

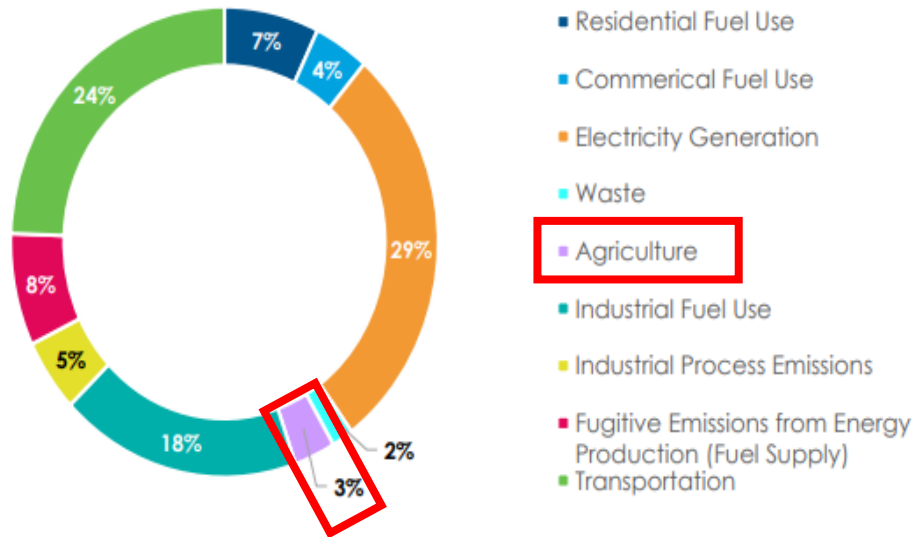


- **Why PDA cares about climate?**
 - **Mission** “Conserving farmland and natural resources for the prosperity of Pennsylvania”
 - **Vision** “To always be mindful...of agriculture's intersection with the most important issues of our time”
 - **Values** “Stewardship: responsible use and enhancement of our resources, whether it is our people, our tools, or our funding; promoting a culture where we put our people first”
- **Tangible threats (Warmer and Wetter)**
 - Heat stress
 - Extreme weather events
 - Infrastructure failure
 - Invasive species
 - Infectious disease and zoonosis

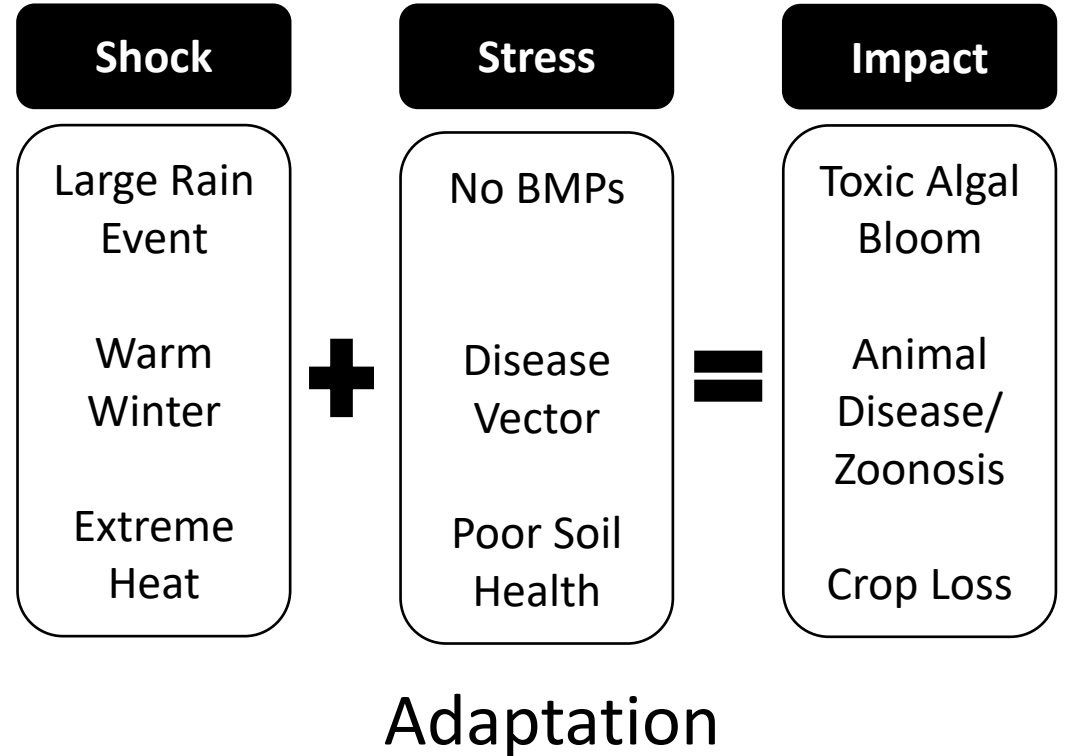


The Big Picture

Figure ES-2. Pennsylvania 2017 GHG emissions by sector

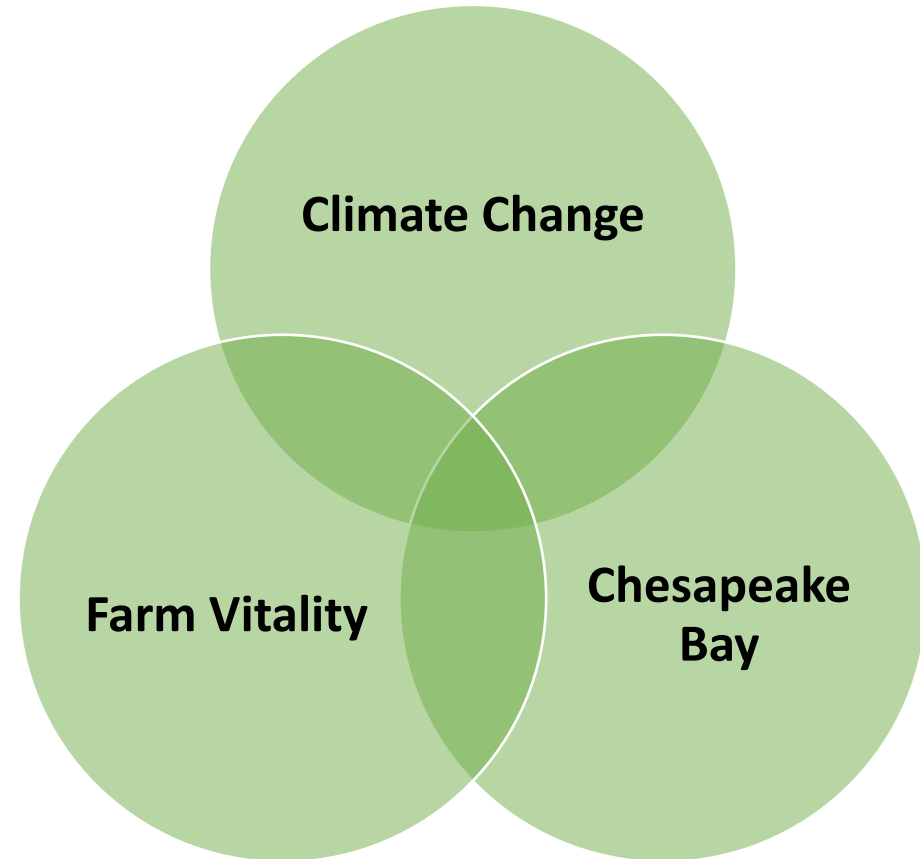
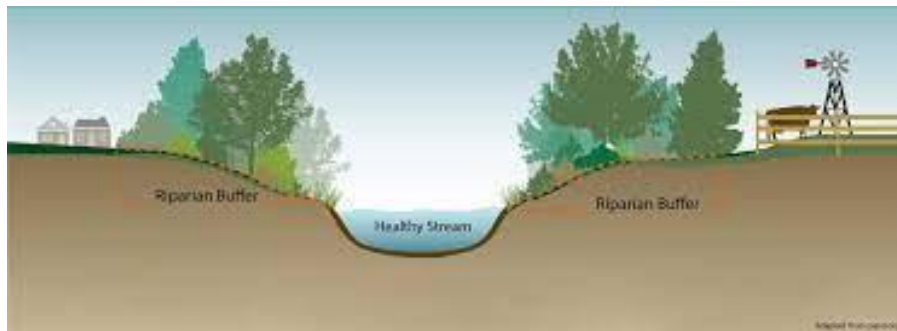


Mitigation



NRCS Conservation Practices

- Cover crops
- No or reduced till
- Silvopasture
- Prescribed grazing
- Anaerobic digesters
- Forest buffers



PDA Activities: Farmland Preservation



- Current Status
 - More than 6,000 farms enrolled, and 600,000 acres preserved
- Banking Land
 - Preserved Farmland
 - Clean and Green (9.3 million acres)
 - Benefits
 - Reduced carbon intensive development
 - Weather buffer
 - Food security
- Soil Health Training
 - Supports soil health workshops with county farmland preservation programs



#1 in the Nation!

PDA Activities: State Conservation Commission



- Climate supporting programs
 - Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP)
 - Dirt and Gravel Road
 - CEG
 - Agri-Link
 - Nutrient Management
- Closer look at REAP
 - tax credits to offset the cost of implementing conservation practices.
 - helps farmers off-set the costs of implementing best management practices (BMPs) that benefit their farms and work to protect water quality at the same time
 - no-till planting equipment; precision nutrient application equipment; manure storage structures; cover crops; grazing practices; forested riparian buffers; others

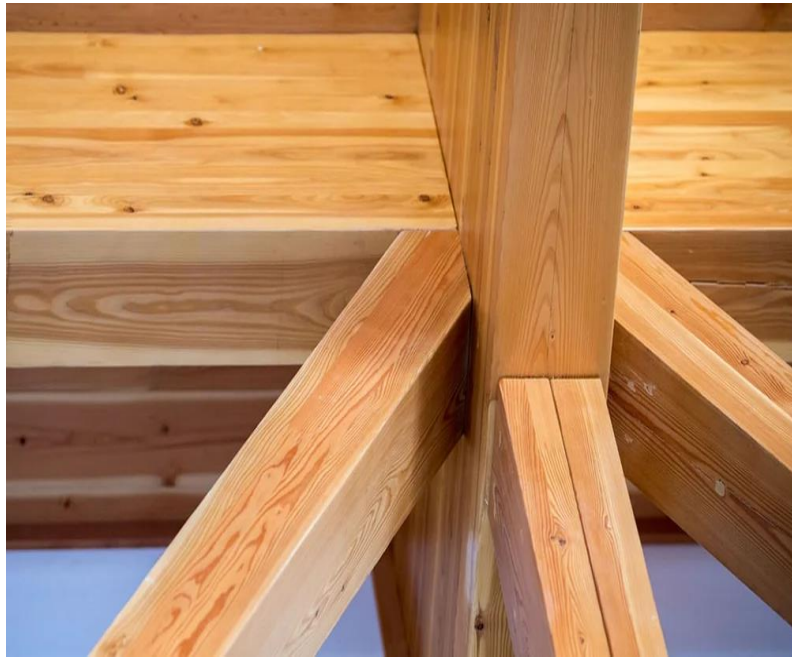


PDA Activities: Markets and Others

- Markets
 - PA Preferred
 - Farm vitality
 - Ag Research
 - PA Specialty Crop
- Hardwoods
 - Carbon storing products
- Plant Industry
 - Hemp Program
 - Invasive Species
- DEP
 - Ag energy efficiency grant program (dairy and poultry)
- Federal REAP Program



Meeting Demand for Biomaterials



- ✓ Locally sourced
- ✓ Indoor Air Quality
- ✓ Urban Infill
- ✓ Clean Life Cycle
- ✓ Low to No Emissions
- ✓ Anticipated ICC approval

(Carbon storing, high preforming, urban/rural, resilience, local jobs etc...)

Looking to the Future

- Consumers are driving major changes



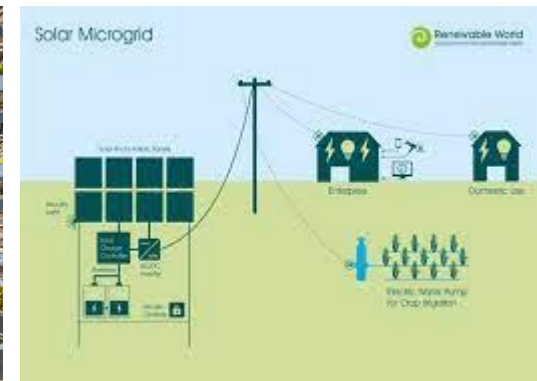
U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative

RETAILERS

Giant Eagle Sets Goal To Achieve Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2040

Will invest \$100 million in sustainability efforts over the next 10 years

- PDA Engagement
 - USCA, USDA NRCS CSCG, stakeholders, etc...
- Building Resiliency



Thank you!

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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