

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.

Note: If DVG Common Grant Application is used, the CCCF's Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date:

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation
Address: 510 South 31st Street, P.O. Box 8736
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736
Phone: 717-761-2740, ext 161
Website: www.pafbfriends.org

Contact Name: Sandy Wagner
Contact Title: Fundraising & Dev. Director
Contact E-mail: slwagner@pfb.com
Fax: 717-731-3579
Year Incorporated: 1986

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes No

Not Sure

Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure

Donor Advised Fund(s) Fund for Chester County Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Education
 Health Human Services Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

Chester County and all of PA

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: Nearly 100,000 PA youth in K-8th grades

Mission: The preservation and promotion of agriculture-the largest of the Commonwealth's industries. Specifically, the Foundation seeks to: enlighten the public about farming and agriculture; create educational programs for children in middle and elementary schools who may have no other exposure to agriculture; train teachers on agricultural concepts while helping them meet their own continuing education requirements; support farmland preservation; fund scholarships for postsecondary agricultural studies; promote career opportunities in agriculture.

Proposal Summary: The Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab program addresses the critical need of understanding the science of where your food comes from. The impact of this education can be profound when we see children's eyes light up because they've learned something new; they understand how the science of agriculture is critical in feeding them, their families, and their entire communities. This knowledge is empowering and the educational process gives them opportunities they did not have prior to participating.

If Capacity Building Proposal:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership Strategic Relationships
 Fundraising & Development Operations Other: _____

Annual Budget \$ 719,196 2 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
54 % of budget for program expenses 6 # of Board Volunteers
43 % of budget for administrative expenses 100 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
3 % of budget for fundraising expenses 1000's # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: PA Soybean Board, The Hershey Company, Walmart Foundation, PA Pork Producers Council, PA Dairymens Association

Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: \$ 5000



PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation was created in October of 1986 when a group of forward-thinking farmers and business leaders recognized the need to identify agricultural issues before they became problems. In fulfilling our mission, the Foundation connects with a diverse group of farmers, agribusinesses, non-agribusinesses, and consumers of the commodities provided by all Pennsylvania farmers.

The Foundation's key initiatives are as follows:

- The Mobile Ag Education Science Lab program began in 2003 with one lab. We now have six labs that travel across the entire state of PA educating our K-8th grade students about agriculture. Children learn to work cooperatively as they solve problems; form a hypothesis, collect data, and draw conclusions all inside a 40 foot lab fully equipped with materials, lab stations, and a certified teacher to instruct the agricultural lesson. Our curriculum is in alignment with the PA Department of Education Science & Technology and Environment & Ecology academic standards for PA schools. These are meaningful, creative, hands-on experiential learning opportunities for our Pennsylvania school age children. Children perform real science experiments, each teaching a lesson in agriculture that evokes such excitement and enthusiasm that they tend to share their knowledge with family, friends and neighbors. This is the "new" field trip for schools-WE go to them. Since this program began in 2003, we have educated more than 600,000 children who educate the adults in their lives. This program goes to inner city at risk schools as well as country schools to bridge the gap of understanding how food is produced so we can begin to address the issue of self-sustenance and therefore reduce hunger. We have a 75% rebooking rate!
- Ag in the Classroom Teachers Workshop (AITC) is offered every July; K-12 teachers are invited to attend. This is one week of a fun-filled, hands-on workshop that includes field trips, industry professional seminars, research and experiments. Educators can earn ACT 48 credits and/or Penn State graduate credits and they leave with curriculum and materials to integrate agriculture into their regular classroom. Triennially, we offer an AITC II workshop for graduates of AITC. We have educated hundreds of teachers who then take agriculture back into their classrooms. Many of our original children who went through the lab program as youth grown up to attend AITC - success!
- Our scholarship programs offer assistance to bright college students majoring in agricultural studies and attending Pennsylvania State University and Delaware Valley College. Additionally, we offer a scholarship to a deserving veterinarian student enrolled at University of Pennsylvania and interested in pursuing a career as a large animal veterinarian.

Our Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab, the program for which I request \$5000 in funding, provides youth oriented educational programs and hands on learning activities which cover nutritional issues that are so important and crucial to our children making wise nutritional choices for their health. Children perform real science experiments, some teaching a lesson in nutrition.

Nutrition/healthy choices lessons are: **Cream to Butter**-Students make butter from creams with varying levels of fat content; discover properties necessary for butter production. They learn about enzyme (lactase)in dairy foods. Label reading will be employed. **Snack Attack**-Students test popular snack foods

for fat presence. Nutritional labels for all snacks are read/examined to determine healthy snacks. **Where's the Juice?**-Students taste/test 4 fruit beverages to determine the amount of juice/sugar. Nutrition labels are read; students reach a conclusion about the nutritional value of the different fruit beverages. **Pigment Power**-using different fruit beverages, students test for the presence of Phytochemicals-naturally occurring plant chemicals that give plants color and provide health benefits. Students are encouraged to include a variety of fruits and vegetables in their diet to ensure healthy bodies/prevent disease. **Exciting Eggs**-Students act as egg inspectors-discover and label the parts of an egg; make observations of egg exterior to compare to quality labeling charts; record data as eggs are candled and inspected for freshness, weighed, and measured. **Oh Say Can You C?**-Students learn about different vitamins found naturally in the foods they eat and health benefits of the different vitamins. They then test for the presence and amount of Vitamin C in fruit beverages. Students are encouraged to read nutritional labels to select healthy foods. **Fiber Clean Sweep**-dietary fiber is defined; benefits of including foods containing fiber. Students then explore food sources of fiber by testing 6 different foods in order to determine if fiber is present. **Piggy Snack Sack**-A discussion of human nutritional needs leads to nutritional needs of animals. Students create a simulation of a feed ration for pigs that is a fun snack for them as well.

Our certified ag lab teachers ask the students a question about agriculture before their lesson and again after their lesson. Additionally the amount of rescheduling of the program from one school year to the next is indicative of success; most recently is was 77%. Also, our board sets a goal that our ag lab is in schools 150 weeks, we've exceeded that and were in 170 weeks in the 2013-2014 school year. Another indicator of long term success is the fact that the program started in 2003 with one lab; we now have six labs and they are constantly booked.

We pride ourselves in keeping this program very reasonably priced at \$2500 for a weeklong intensive, hands-on educational experience. This fee doesn't even cover all the costs but we are aware of schools' budget cuts and PTO Organizations being challenged to raise funds for basic needs so our Foundation absorbs the first \$400 for each school booked. That said, with a \$5000 donation towards the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab Program, we will be able to offer an educational opportunity to two schools (if they need full sponsorships, more if they only need partial sponsorships) Chester County schools impacting a minimum of 1200 students (may be more or less depending on attendance) and then those students share this knowledge they've learned with the adults in their lives and soon we see a change in the perception of agriculture and where our food comes from.

When we receive the funding from Chester County Community Foundation, we will reach out to those schools that've contacted us to schedule the ag lab but cannot afford it to let them know we have funding for them. Once scheduled, our area coordinator works with the school district to determine the best lessons for their intended goals; we have 30 lessons from which to choose. We will use these funds for the 2014-2015 school year, which we have already been scheduling the ag lab.

When we educate about this basic concept, we empower children to make great choices which lead to healthier decisions and therefore better life longevity. We've discovered that this education goes "full circle" because it is such an engaging hands-on experience that the students are inspired to talk about it for days, weeks, months to come. Please join us in creating a healthier Chester County Community!

Thank you for your interest in the PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation!

Respectfully,

Sandy Wagner

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Fundraising and Development Director
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