

Ag Projects Approved for Funding from the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority

The Greater Berks Development Fund (GBDF), an affiliate of the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance (GRCA), announced today that the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) approved three economic development loans for projects in Berks County:

Plum Creek Farm, LLC: This project will assist a local food processor and farm market with the construction of a new 12,000 sf facility with a \$1,000,000 PIDA loan. Plum Creek Farm, LLC, d/b/a Plum Creek Farm, Market and Creamery, is in Penn Township at 5035 Bernville Road. The market started operations at its current site in April 2017 and has outgrown the existing facility. The expanded operation will carry produce grown at a nearby farm that is affiliated with the market that includes such items as strawberries, sweet corn, strawberries, tomatoes, onions egg plants, zucchini, and pumpkins. Other locally grown produce will also be sold there. Additionally, Plum Creek Farm, LLC has expanded into their own lines of food that is manufactured on site such as ice cream, soups, baked goods, and smoked meats. It is expected the project will result in 20 new full-time positions. Company owner, Keith Zimmerman commented “We feel blessed by the growth we’ve experienced at Plum Creek and believe this expansion will allow us to continue to cheerfully serve our customers and community for many years.”

Joshua and Joyce Zimmerman: Joshua and Joyce Zimmerman have received approval for a \$165,000 PIDA loan that will help them with the acquisition of a 37-acre tract of unimproved cropland along Haas Road. It will be used for crop farming, for corn and soybeans production and will supplement their existing farm operation also located in Windsor Township.

Daryl Z. Weaver: PIDA approved a \$400,000 loan to support the acquisition of an organic poultry broiler and crop farm for Daryl Z. Weaver. The 43-acre site is located in Perry Township at 886 Laurel Road. In addition to chickens, the farm also raises corn and soybeans.

Senator David G. Argall (R-29) commented, “PIDA financing for projects like these, supporting various agriculture production opportunities, adds value to this industry. I am pleased to see these family farms continue to grow.”

PIDA is a state authority established in 1956 and is managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The GBDF is the Certified Economic Development Organization for Berks County.

For more information regarding project financing available through the GRCA, call Chris Witmer at 610-898-7794 or send him an email at cwitmer@greaterreading.org.

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ABOUT THE GREATER READING CHAMBER ALLIANCE: *Our mission is to be Berks County’s leading unified resource for building a healthy, competitive business community. Our vision is to assist companies to retain, expand and grow their operations and employment and attract new business to Berks County.*