

# Ag, DCED Secretaries Award Small Business First Loan

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — On Monday, Agriculture Secretary Dennis C Wolff and Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Yablonsky awarded Gro-Lan Farms \$200,000 as part of the Small Business First Program.

"We are pleased that Gro-Lan Farms is able to benefit from the Small Business First Loan program," said Wolff. "By choosing to enhance their current facility, they are taking an important step toward securing a more profitable future for their farm. The Small Business First Program is an important economic development tool for agriculture. I hope that more agricultural operations will take advantage of the benefits of this worthwhile program."

The SBF program, an economic development initiative, provides low-interest loans of up to \$200,000 for businesses with 100

employees or fewer. Last spring, the General Assembly opened up the SBF program for the first time to agricultural entities.

"It is absolutely crucial that we do a better job to support one of Pennsylvania's largest industries," Yablonsky said. "I am committed to providing the necessary financial tools and incentives to assist farmers with their capital funding needs. Through the Governor's proposed stimulus program, this financing will become a revolving loan fund that will ensure farmers will have continued access to financial assistance in the future."

Gro-Lan Farms, a 300-acre facility, is owned and operated by Jay and Jeff Grove in Shippensburg. The SBF loan will be used toward the construction of a 186-foot X 113-foot freestall barn. The larger barn will allow the dairy operation to expand into a



On Monday, the Small Business First Program awarded \$200,000 to Gro-Lan Farms. From left, Mike Ross, Franklin County Area Development Corp.; Jeff Coy, state representative; Dennis C Wolff, secretary of agriculture; Jeff Grove, owner, Gro-Lan Farms; Jay Grove, owner, Gro-Lan Farms; and Dennis Yablonsky, DCED secretary.



The Grove family, from left, clockwise, Laura Grove, state FFA sentinel; Mrs. Jeff Grove; Jeff Grove; Emily Grove, alternate dairy princess; Jay Grove; Caleb Grove; and Renee Grove.

modern, environmentally sound facility conducive to improved animal health.

"This project represents a major commitment to the future of agriculture and to the future of our farm," said Jeff Grove. "We are thrilled to be the beneficiaries of the Small Business First Loan Program, and hope that other farmers will be encouraged to apply to the program after seeing what it can do to help farmers expand and improve their operations."

The SBF program provides low-interest loans for small businesses for land and building purchases and construction, machinery, equipment, and funds.

Businesses interested in apply-

ing for funds through the Small Business First program must submit their loan application to the Area Loan Organization (ALO) that services the area where the

borrower's business is located.

For more information about the Small Business Loan Program, visit DCED's Website at [www.inventpa.com](http://www.inventpa.com).

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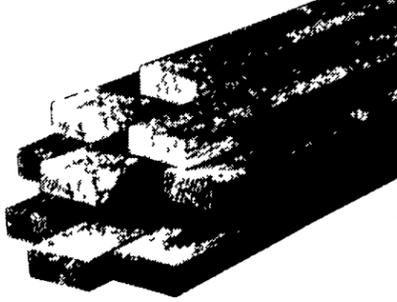
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