



PENNSYLVANIA VEGETABLE MARKETING & RESEARCH PROGRAM



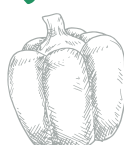
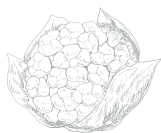
WWW.PAVEGGIES.ORG

717.694.3596

PA PRODUCE MONTH IS BACK!

Just like designing a crop plan, successful marketing campaigns begin way before harvest or, in this case, before August, the official PA Produce Month. Now's the time to prepare! Much like ordering seeds and repairing equipment, we should start to gather content, update our consumer touch points, familiarize ourselves with a promotional timeline, and have a firm grasp on our goals.

BUT FIRST, A QUICK MARKETING LESSON!



TERMS & TECHNIQUES

1 CONSISTENCY Consistency is key and has dual meaning. Content should be shared frequently, following a consistent schedule as much as possible, and the style of content shared should remain consistent. In other words, keep in touch with your customers as often as possible and make sure your style and messaging is not all over the place. From company flyers to Facebook posts, use similar colors, fonts, words, phrases, and personality in all your content.

2 CONTENT

Content includes printed and digital images or messaging that comes in contact with the consumer. Your website, blogs, social media posts, business cards, flyers, farmers market banners, and newspaper ads all qualify as content.

5 EMAILS

Focus on a tempting subject title; the rest is useless if it doesn't get opened. Make sure the content is visually compelling and encourages a click to your website or another valuable platform.

3 FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Here's your chance to endear yourself to your consumers. It's important to keep a consistent focus, but use it as if you're holding a conversation with a friend or regular customer. Let your authentic personality shine and remember that a conversation should be two-way. Share "day-in-the-life" updates on your platform regularly and be educational, but also interact with and ask questions to like-minded businesses and people. On **Facebook**, share industry news, links to your latest blog, quick videos, and plenty of photos. On Instagram, keep the content brief and the imagery captivating. Present a call to action as often as possible.

4 BLOG

Blogging is all about sharing your voice, personality, and knowledge. Don't be afraid to offer insider tips to colleagues and potential customers. Being generous with what you know will help you develop trust by positioning yourself as an industry expert. Keep it relatively short, from the heart, and motivate readers to take action.

6 ANALYZE

If a crop kept failing, would you just let it be? Make sure you measure effectiveness and adjust accordingly.

HOW TO GET READY FOR AUGUST



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1) PA FARMERS ARE THE STAR OF THE SHOW!

PA Produce Month is all about growing your business by increasing consumer awareness of local vegetables through exciting and educational content and events. This year, WWW.PAVEGGIES.ORG will feature custom recipe videos and NEW relevant articles throughout August for you to share with your audience. However, don't forget to put yourself in the spotlight as much as possible - whether it's a personal mailer to your customers or a quick video in the field. People connect with people and authentic messaging should always be part of your strategy.

2) BE PROACTIVE, MAKE IT YOUR OWN!

In addition to utilizing the resources and custom content created by PA Veggies, use this opportunity to host your own events. Here are just a few ideas:

- Invite regular market goers or standout CSA members for a tour of the farm or a planting demonstration
- Run a special all month long that can only be redeemed if people LIKE and SHARE your Facebook page
- Host a community potluck, with your vegetables as the shining stars in each dish

3) USE YOUR RESOURCES

We'll be sharing marketing ideas and tools to help you promote your products and services through August, and the rest of the season. Some items to get excited about include:

- marketing checklist
- campaign themes
- social media graphics
- press release templates
- communication prompts
- blogs
- email graphics
- recipe videos
- campaign checklist

4) FOLLOW THESE NEXT STEPS FOR SUCCESS

- **EMAIL** pvmrp@embarqmail.com today to join the PA Produce Month email list to receive messages through August, featuring resources and helpful instructions.
- **LIKE** PA Veggies on Facebook and **FOLLOW** @PAVeggies on Instagram.
- **FAMILIARIZE** yourself with PAVeggies.org and all the resources, created just for you!