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EDWARD G. RENDELL, Governor

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**GOVERNOR RENDELL LAUDS USDA FOR INVESTMENT
IN PA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**
PENNSYLVANIA RESEARCH LAB RECEIVES \$20.1 MILLION IN RECOVERY AID

HARRISBURG – Governor Edward G. Rendell said that agricultural research and food safety efforts in Pennsylvania will be enhanced by the award today of \$20.1 million to the Eastern Regional Research Center in Montgomery County through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for research projects.

The center conducts research on many agricultural commodities including meat, poultry, cheese, milk, wool, fats, oils, grains, fruits, vegetables and juices. The research benefits Pennsylvania's farmers and communities by increasing efficiencies and developing new technologies.

“The research made possible by these funds will help Pennsylvania producers increase production, decrease costs, and provide safe, affordable food, while also further bolstering the use of renewable energy and biofuels statewide,” said Governor Rendell. “I applaud USDA Secretary Vilsack for making such a worthwhile investment in Pennsylvania's agricultural infrastructure.”

Secretary Vilsack announced the funding today as part of a \$176 million Recovery Act investment in research at laboratories in 29 states. The Pennsylvania-based laboratory received the fourth largest amount of funding.

Studies conducted at the Eastern Regional Research Center include economically competitive renewable fuels made from grain and related products, improved techniques for detecting foodborne pathogens, and other research related to food production, safety and nutrition.

To learn more about how the federal Recovery Act will benefit Pennsylvania, visit www.recovery.pa.gov.