

Project Profile



Location:

1665 Coxes Creek Road
Somerset, PA
Laurelvistafarm.com

County:

Somerset

Description:

Family Farm Business
Expansion

Total Project Cost:

\$250,000



Laurel Vista Farms



People:

Today's savvy shoppers want quality, locally grown produce. Laurel Vista Farms owners, sisters Marian Soldano and Rita Resick and husbands Ken Soldano and Rick Stafford, saw in that trend the best chance small farming has had in decades to be self-sufficient – if farms could package their harvests in a way the supermarket chains can handle. So their Laurel Vista Farms set out to build a facility for storing, packing and shipping not just their own products, but those from other farms in the region as well.

Progress:

The Progress Fund loaned \$150,000, and helped arrange a \$100,000 loan from Pennsylvania's First Industries Agriculture

Program. It also hired Laurel Vista as a consultant to its agriculture initiative, funded by the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

Impact:

Laurel Vista can now supply 12 grocery stores and a regional restaurant chain with its local snap beans, sweet onions, and potatoes and is well-positioned to meet increasing demand. The new building will create 5 new part time jobs and one new full time job and sends a refreshing message. "Farming doesn't have to die as a family-sustaining activity," said Rick. "It can prosper with new marketing direction and new investment."

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