



July 2025 | Volume 57

**Manufacturing Day
2025**

Training & Events

**Energy &
Manufacturing
Grant Program**

**Manufacturing
Ambassador Dream
Team**

National News



Experts and growers gathered to consider how AI is reshaping farming at forum

Farmers have known AI to mean one thing — the birds and the bees for bulls — for quite some time, but now it's starting to mean something else.

Artificial Intelligence is set to collide with agriculture in big ways, changing how farmers approach everything from planting to harvest. At the April CIFT Agribusiness Forum, held at the Agricultural Incubator Foundation in Bowling Green, Ohio, experts and growers gathered to consider how AI is reshaping farming operations in very real, practical ways.

**Read
Article**

Wisconsin's 200-Year Manufacturing Evolution

Wisconsin serves as a critical manufacturing hub in the U.S. The sector contributes almost \$70 billion annually to the state's economy, equating to 19% of its total economic output, and employs 575,000 workers across more than 92,000 manufacturing firms.

The "Badger State" owes its nickname to its long manufacturing heritage. In the 1820s and 1830s, lead mining brought thousands of poor workers to the state, and they survived its harsh winters by burrowing holes into the hillsides for shelter. Wisconsin residents started to refer to them as badgers, owing to their animal-like behavior, and the association stuck; in 1889, the University of Wisconsin adopted the badger mascot.

By the mid-1800s, Wisconsin's rapid population growth saw a sharp uptick in agricultural and industrial activity.

[Learn More](#)

State News

Creating Jobs in Westmoreland County: Shapiro-Davis Administration Secures \$13.6 Million Investment from Premier Automation to Expand its Manufacturing Operation and Create and Retain Jobs in Westmoreland County

On June 12th, Governor Josh Shapiro announced that the Commonwealth is investing more than \$3 million to support [Premier Automation's](#) (Premier) manufacturing expansion in Westmoreland County. The engineered solutions company, which specializes in creating and upgrading industrial robotic automation systems to help businesses run more efficiently, will inject \$13.6 million into the local economy, create 111 new jobs, and retain at least 130 existing positions over the next five years.

Premier has purchased a 170,000-square-foot building at 3700 Haney Court in Murrysville to expand its manufacturing operations. As part of its commitment to the Commonwealth, the company is also maintaining all existing operations at its headquarters in Monroeville, Allegheny County.

[Continue Reading](#)

Shapiro Administration Secures \$15.4 Million Investment from Berner International to Expand Manufacturing Operations and Create Over 70 New Jobs in Lawrence County

On June 11th, Governor Josh Shapiro announced the Commonwealth is investing \$3 million to support [Berner International's](#) (Berner) expansion of its manufacturing operation in Lawrence County, which will inject \$15.4 million into the local economy, create at least 74 new jobs, and retain at least 127 existing positions over the next three years.

Berner will construct a 55,000-square-foot addition to its manufacturing facility

located at 111 Progress Avenue in Shenango Township. This expansion will allow the company to scale up production capacity, introduce advanced manufacturing technologies, and enhance logistical operations, enabling it to remain competitive and grow in the global marketplace. Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Rick Siger joined Berner leadership to help break ground on the facility's addition.

[Read More](#)

Regional News

Shapiro Administration Secures \$30 Million Investment from Pittston Co-Packers Corp. to Open First American Production Operation and Create Hundreds of New Jobs in Luzerne County

on June 23rd, Governor Josh Shapiro announced that [Pittston Co-Packers Corp.](#) will open its first beverage production operation in the U.S, injecting \$30 million into the local economy and creating at least 226 new, full-time jobs in Luzerne County within the next three years. The Commonwealth is investing more than \$1 million to support this new production operation.

The company has acquired the equipment and balance of Joriki Beverages' lease at 575 Research Drive in Pittston Township, which permanently closed in January 2025. Pittston Co-Packers Corp. will produce beverages for top U.S. brand contracts that were held by Joriki, and provide job opportunities for that company's former employees.

[Continue Reading](#)

Available Real Estate for Manufacturers

Check out this month's real estate listings from B.I.D.A Industrial Complex and Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services!

B.I.D.A Industrial Complex: Contact info@bida.com or [\(570\) 752-3612](tel:(570)752-3612) should you wish to inquire about the featured properties.



435 West Third Street, Building 287, Berwick, PA 18603

85,000 SF

[Click here](#) to learn more about this property.

435 West Third Street, Building 294, Berwick, PA 18603

30,192 SF



[Click here](#) to learn more about this property.

Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services: [Click here](#) to email Jim Cummings, VP of Marketing for Mericle, should you wish to inquire about one of the featured properties.



620 Oak Ridge Road,
Hazle Township

248,000 SF

[Click here](#) to learn more about this property.



63 Green Mountain Road,
Hazle Township

83,200 - 293,493 SF

[Click here](#) to learn more about this property.

The Latest from NEPIRC



Download the Latest: Spanish Manufacturing Education Guides Now Available!

In an effort to provide high school students with additional resources to make well-informed career choices, NEPIRC recently published its Spanish version of the *Manufacturing Education Guide*.

The Manufacturing Education Guide provides several options for students, including those seeking post-secondary education opportunities, students undecided or not yet ready to pursue post-secondary education after high school but entertain the thought of it and for students looking to dive into the workforce immediately following high school.

The Guide will connect students with great manufacturing career opportunities and promote affordable education at our local colleges and universities. For those institutions of higher education who have chosen to participate in this initiative, the Guide is a cost-effective way to get their advanced manufacturing technology and skill programs in front of students. The Guide also includes approximately 70 local manufacturers that offer tuition reimbursement or assistance for students who might want to pursue a career directly out of high school and entertain the thought of obtaining a college degree or program certificate at a later time.

[Download here!](#)

Silver Sponsors of MFG DAY 2025

NEPIRC would like to thank its 2025 Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY) Summit & Expo Silver Sponsors, Ashley Machine & Tool Co. and Advent Design Corp.! We appreciate your support of our annual event, happening Friday, October 3rd, at Mohegan Pennsylvania.

Learn more about MFG DAY and sponsorship by [clicking here.com](https://www.mfgday.com) or emailing Kira@NEPIRC.com.



The Manufacturing Millennial Selected as MFG DAY Keynote Speaker

Jake Hall, known as the "Manufacturing Millennial," was recently named keynote speaker for MFG DAY 2025.

Considered one of the loudest voices in the industry and awarded by LinkedIn as the Top Voice in Robotics, Automation and Manufacturing, Hall is helping companies future-proof their businesses with technology and attract the workforce of tomorrow.

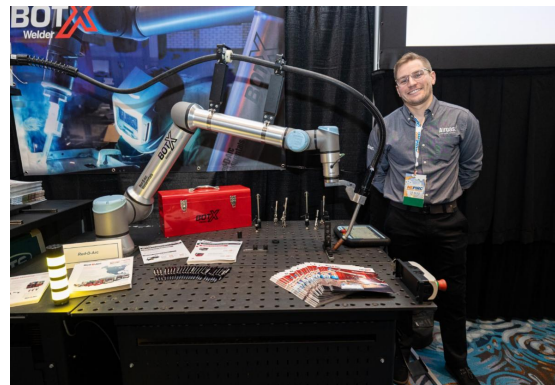
In addition to Hall's keynote address, "The Future of Manufacturing: Technology and Workforce," he will host a breakout session on the power of social media that will teach manufacturers how to leverage it for workforce attraction.

[Click here](#) to learn more about The Manufacturing Millennial and MFG DAY.

MFG DAY Tickets Now on Sale

Tickets for [MFG DAY 2025](#) are on sale! Join NEPIRC on October 3 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and connect with hundreds of manufacturers and industry professionals at our region's largest manufacturing networking and best practices event. Tickets are only \$75 for manufacturers and \$125 for non-manufacturers.

Questions? Email Kira@NEPIRC.com.



Celebrating Randy Yash: 10 Years of Dedication at NEPIRC!

In his role, Randy is responsible for NEPIRC's IT infrastructure, including the



management of the organization's Salesforce database and data analysis reports. He also oversees initiatives like NEPIRC's federal and state stakeholder reporting processes and the supplier scouting initiative, which connects local manufacturers with other manufacturers nationwide to help them source the raw materials and components they need domestically.

Randy, your efforts go a long way in helping our region's small and mid-sized manufacturers succeed. Thank you for all you've done for NEPIRC!



NEPIRC is now an approved SHRM Recertification Provider

Exciting news! NEPIRC is now a Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Recertification Provider! Enhance your expertise and earn Professional Development Credits (PDC's) towards your SHRM certification through our targeted trainings. Invest in your professional growth with NEPIRC!

Check out our upcoming training schedule on SHRMS's website.

[Visit SHRM](#)

Manufacturer of the Month



Manufacturer of the Month: EFS-Plastics

NEPIRC is honored to announce EFS-plastics as our July Manufacturer of the Month! Located in Hazleton, PA, EFS-plastics is one of the leading players in the plastics recycling industry.

Founded in 2007, EFS-plastics helps protect the environment and reduce waste by processing post-consumer recycled plastics into a viable, mainstream resource. With three facilities strategically located throughout North America, we can process over 100 million pounds of polyolefin plastics into resins each year. Their process diverts mixed plastics and shopping bags from ending in landfills, not only reducing waste but also conserving valuable resources and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

EF-plastics is 100% post-consumer certified and sources only curbside-collected and commercially generated plastic scraps. Their diverse product portfolio ranges from PET flakes to polyolefin resins such as LDPE, HDPE, and PP.

Congratulations to EFS-plastics, on being named NEPIRC's July Manufacturer of the Month!

If you'd like to be featured as a Manufacturer of the Month, please email Kira@NEPIRC.com for more information.



Use NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board to Find Your New Employees

Manufacturers are welcome and encouraged to join NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board to aid in your employee recruitment efforts. At no cost to you, your logo, address and a link to your Careers page can appear on our Jobs Board.

NEPIRC's Jobs Board was created specifically with manufacturers in mind and is a central database for those looking to work in manufacturing

Explore NEPIRC's Job Board



Build A High- Performing Team

This month, NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club is reading *The Stargazer* by Katie Desiderio and Michael Frino.

The Stargazer, by Katie Desiderio and Michael Frino, delivers a thought-provoking leadership fable. The story explores the importance of growth partnership as a catalyst for building high-performing teams. Throughout the book, readers are invited to reflect on their leadership styles and team dynamics, with practical exercises and symbolic activities that inspire growth and brilliance.

NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will meet on Thursday, June 26 from noon to 1 p.m. via MS Teams. Click the button below to learn more about this book and sign up.

Join the Club!

Upcoming Training Program; Register Today

OSHA 30 Training Course for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesdays, July 8 to July 29, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., NEPIRC Hanover & Virtual

8-week Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Wednesdays, July 9 to August 27, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., virtually via MS Teams

Medical Marijuana & Reasonable Suspicion Training, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesday, August 6 8 - 10:00 a.m., virtually via MS Teams

Two-Hour Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Tuesday, August 12, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., NEPIRC Hanover

Two-Hour Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Thursday August 14, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., Community Giving Foundation

OSHA 10 Training Course for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesdays, August 27 to September 10, 8 a.m. to noon, TekRidge Center & Virtual

[Learn More & Register](#)

Companies in Need of Suppliers

NEPIRC is relaying these potential new business opportunities to manufacturers across our region. To learn more, email Randall Yash, Director of Technology, at Randy@NEPIRC.com.

- **Custom Plastic Components** - Missouri based company is looking for a supplier to manufacture two custom plastic components: a tray and a handle. Each will be produced in green (Pantone 349c) and one additional, cost-effective color. The supplier must be able to provide pricing for small-to-mid range production volumes. The client is seeking price quotes for 100, 200, 500, and 1,500 units. Price sensitivity noted; cost-effective options preferred.
- **Stamped Metal Strips** - California manufacturer is seeking a supplier for stamped and formed metal conductive strips approximately 6cm in length, .5cm width, and 1mm thick, that are corrosion resistant. Approximately Battery strips: 140,000 stamped metal strips annually.



NEPIRC | 75 Young St. | Hanover Township, PA 18706-1471 US

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