Feldspar is one of the minor minerals produced by Pennsylvania. The State's output in 1920, as reported by the U. S. Geological Survey, was 8,562 tons valued at $81,104. It all came from the southeastern part of the State, and chiefly from Chester and Delaware counties.

Feldspar is used very extensively in the manufacture of china and porcelain to influence the character of the "mix" as to fusion, body, etc. Its melting point being lower than that of the other constituents, it serves as a flux to bind the particles of clay and quartz together. It has been used a little as a source of aluminum and potash, though hardly with commercial success. It is also used as a binder in making emery wheels; in the manufacture of certain kinds of glass and enamels; and as a polishing or scouring medium. Being a little less gritty than silica or ground sand, it is suited for use in scouring soap.

Feldspar is a general name for a group of minerals, all of which
contain aluminum, silicon, and oxygen, and in varying amounts, one or two of the elements, calcium, potassium, and sodium. Some of the feldspars known as Amazon stone, moonstone, and sunstone are used as gems. All three of these gem stones have been found at Mineral Hill in Delaware County.

Feldspar is one of the three principal minerals composing granite and it occurs in crystals in other rocks. The commercial deposits, however, occur in the form of pegmatite dikes and veins. Most of the deposits are of the usual type of granite-pegmatite, but those in the extreme southwest part of Chester County belong to an entirely different type, which may be designated soda pegmatite, its principal mineral being the soda feldspar, albite. This variety contains no quartz.

The dikes or veins that have been quarried are 6 to 25 feet wide and in most places the feldspar, which is cream to pink or flesh colored, occurs in crystals that are from 1 inch to 2 inches across. In some places pure crystals up to 1 foot in diameter have been found. The places where feldspar has been mined in the past and is still to be found are along a line from the Leiperville quarries near Chester, to Upland and Avondale, and in general along Plum Creek in Delaware County. In Chester County it occurs in many localities, as at Unionville, Pennsburg, West Chester, and at Brinton's quarry. It occurs in a more or less disconnected line from West Philadelphia to Frankford; and from Germantown and Chestnut Hill to the Schuylkill. In recent years it has been mined at Avondale, Toughkenamon, Chatham, New Garden and at West Caln near the Maryland line in Chester County; at Elan in Delaware County; and several places in Montgomery County.