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# Lancaster Farming

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C Cala Hill Kelly Ned-Red caught the judge's eye and earned the grand championship at the Holstein State Spring Show in Harrisburg on Thursday. From left are Lynette Loper, state dairy princess; Harvey Clem; and show judge Robert Brown.

## State Holstein title to Kelly Ned-Red again

**BY WENDY WEHR**  
 HARRISBURG -- When you go to a state Holstein show, you expect the top cows to all be there — in black and white. But sometimes expectations are dashed and a splash of red reigns in the Holstein show ring.  
 C Cala Hill Kelly Ned-Red returned to claim the senior and grand championships at the Holstein state spring show on Thursday in Harrisburg. Kelly

Ned-Red, owned by Queens Manor, Jamestown, was also named grand champion at the state championship show last September.  
 Out of Cala Hill Dale-Red, Kelly Ned-Red is sired by Agro Acres Marquis Ned. Breeder of the fancy red cow was Robert Blair.  
 Kelly Ned-Red also earned production honors in her five-year-old class with a record of 25,268 pounds milk and 1010 pounds fat  
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## Production to increase as dairy diversion ends?

**BY JAMES H. EVERHART**  
 The end of the 15-month dairy diversion program brings some hope of improved prices and a lot of uncertainty about the future of dairy production and profitability.

Experts interviewed by Lancaster Farming said they expect production figures to increase slightly following the end of diversion next week.

But they said the small production hikes — in the range of one to two percent — would most likely reflect improvements in the feed prices, rather than the release of products withheld from the market because of the producer-paid diversion program.

"There will be a spring flush, all right, but I don't see any flood," said Penn State Extension Agent Tom Jurchak. "If there is, it will be because of the feed-price-to-milk-price ratio, rather than the end of the diversion program."

The Middle Atlantic states, will be affected less than most other areas of the country, because of the low level of participation in the program, added James Fraher, economist for Interstate Milk Producers.

Only eight percent of Pennsylvania's dairy farmers signed up for the plan, agreeing to "divert" only about two percent of the state's milk production, Fraher said.

And much of the reduction of the past year, he added, could be attributed to the unfavorable feed



price situation, rather than the voluntary reduction program.

Adds Penn State ag economist Jack J. Kirkland, "a lot of them saw the advantage in taking money for what they've already done."

Production in the future, the economists said, will be more strongly influenced by outside factors — like feed and milk prices — than by the end of the diversion plan.

Figures for February, in fact, indicated that milk production already has begun to climb. That month's figures, available only recently, indicate production has increased about .8 percent, the first increase observed since the program began.

Fraher in particular discounted the possibility that milk production would increase dramatically

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## Morris, Wenger introduce farmland preservation bill

**BY JACK HUBLEY**  
 MECHANICSBURG — Members of both the State House and Senate unveiled legislation this week that would allocate state funds for the purchase of conservation easements. Such easements would allow prime farmland to remain in production by paying landowners the difference between the land's agricultural value and its value for development.

The announcement came Wednesday on the farm of Robert and Michael Berkheimer, Mechanicsburg, where prime sponsors Sen. Noah Wenger (R-Ephrata) and Rep. Sam Morris (D-Pottstown) held a news conference to introduce the bill. Also present were co-sponsors Rep. Carmel Sirianni and Sen. Patrick Stapleton.

The proposed legislation would amend Act 43, of 1981, which authorized the creation of agricultural areas, but made no provisions for the actual purchase of development rights other than through county funding.  
 "This will have the state become

a partner, along with local governments and the counties, in providing funding for purchasing conservation easements and assuring that at least some of our prime farmland will continue to be

available for agriculture in the future," Wenger said.

And to slow the steady loss of the commonwealth's farmland, Wenger, Morris and their co-

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Responding to questions about proposed farmland preservation legislation are (left) Senator Patrick Stapleton, Representatives Carmel Sirianni and Sam Morris, and Senator Noah Wenger.

### INSIDE this issue

#### Dairy policy

As the Farm Bill and other Administration proposals begin to take shape in Washington, more attention will be drawn to dairy policy

This week, Lancaster Farming begins a series of nine articles written by dairy experts, who attempt to define the issues at stake  
 Turn to page A36 for the first in the series

#### Lehigh Valley

Farm stress, the immediate future of prices and a whole host of farm problems were among the topics discussed at the meeting this week of the Lehigh Valley Farmers.  
 For more information on the meeting, turn to page A24.

#### Exclusive IV Sale

A Pen-Col bull brought \$75,000 in the Exclusive IV and 331st Garden Spot sales in Lancaster Wednesday

For more information about the sale, turn to page A33

#### Dairy features

With the end of dairy diversion comes a new market and a new set of realities for dairy farmers.

Lancaster Farming takes a look at the dairy picture from the grass roots level this week, focusing on several individual farming operations.

Read about the Leathermans of Schuylkill County on page A20, the Graybills of Lancaster County on page A28, and the Strickers of Berks County on page A32.