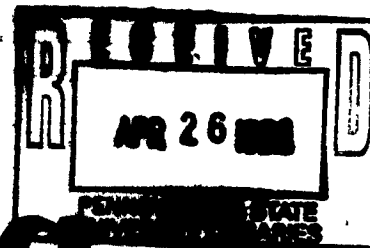


# Lancaster Farming



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## Anti-Disparagement Bill Announced At State Grange Meeting

# Agriculture Fights Back On False Claims About Food, Production

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor  
HARRISBURG (Dauphin  
Co.) — In an attempt to combat

the unfounded claims made against food by activists, State Representative Sheila Miller (R-Berks) announced here Monday that she

has introduced a Pennsylvania anti-disparagement bill into the State General Assembly. Miller used the support of the State Grange to introduce the legislation to the farm community at a working press luncheon during Grange Week legislative day activities.

The bill will provide a means for farmers, aquaculturalists, producers, marketers or sellers of perish-

able farm products (including animal, fruit and vegetable products) to recover civil damages for the disparagement of their products.

"We introduced this legislation because unfounded claims are being made by non-scientific groups that lead to economic harm to farmers and other producers," Miller said. "Farmers constantly need to defend allegations that

their products are in some way harmful to consumers."

Attending the press meeting along with Grange officials and a few farm reporters were Dr. Stan Curtis and Dr. Erskine Cash from Penn State. Miller credited Curtis and Cash with the initiation of the idea for the need of this legislation.

"Laws around the country have

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Brenda Shambaugh, legislative director and Gordon Hiller, Pennsylvania State Grange president, headed legislative activities at Grange Day on Monday in Harrisburg.

## Reading Terminal Market Needs Farmers' Produce

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
PHILADELPHIA — Regional produce farmers who are thinking about direct-marketing fresh fruit and vegetables, take heed — your product is in high demand.

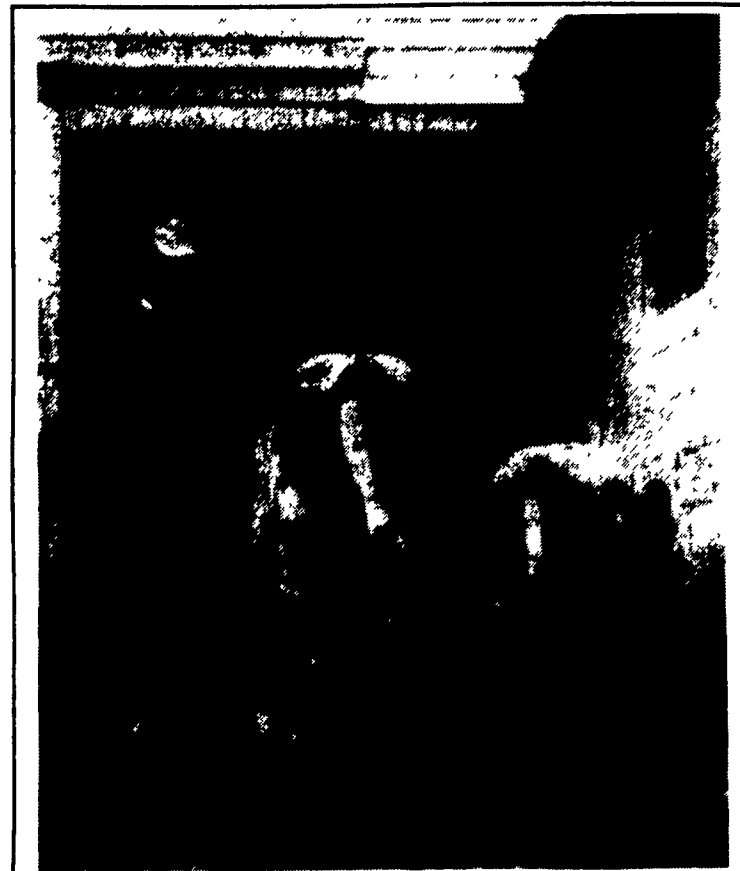
The Reading Terminal Farmers' Market Trust is thinking about establishing a label that will promote the products grown and marketed specifically in the Philadelphia area, and they need growers.

The profit margin to market fresh produce to the Reading Terminal may be appealing, especially for those farmers who are switching from growing tobacco or field crops to fresh fruit and vegetables, said R. Duane Perry, executive director of the Reading Terminal Farmers' Market Trust, a nonprofit organization.

"Our mission is to reach everyone, in particular the lower income people in the city who need more access to fresh fruit and vegetables," said Perry.

Perry was instrumental in estab-

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Brent Brubaker, Mount Joy, Lancaster County, shows Belgian Blue cattle that produce tasty, "Lancaster Lite Beef" in a short time. See this entrepreneur's story on Page B17. Photo by Lou Ann Good.

## Family, Future Is Farming; Farming Is Management

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
KLEINFELTERSVILLE

(Lebanon Co.) — On Tuesday afternoon, all the cows in Nelson and Susan Sensenig's 92-tie stall dairy barn were lying down on clean, dry bedding, chewing cud, except for two animals standing — one was eating and the other drinking water.

The center aisle also was clean.

His cows just laid there — on beds designed using the latest information on cow comfort for stall and bed design — making milk.

Six, 48-inch fans were tunneling air down through the barn. The ceramic tile manger, or feed bunk, still had some of the tested, carefully balanced totally mixed ration left in front of every cow.

No swollen hocks, no bad feet, no obvious risks of environmental mastitis.

Last year, the rolling herd average for the Sensenigs was more than 30,000 pounds of milk, for many reasons.

It dropped since then, but slightly. A herd reproductive problem related to a feeding problem, since resolved, curtailed having fresh cows in recent months, which continues to hurt production and income.

As of this week, the herd averaged more than 29,000 pounds of

milk with a 4 percent butterfat test. The Sensenigs ship milk once a day to their cooperative, Atlantic Dairy Cooperative.

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Nelson Sensenig holds the halter of one of his Holsteins that have given him a rolling herd average of close to 30,000 pounds of milk. His nutritionist says the herd average could be up to 35,000 pounds in several years. Susan Sensenig sits at the picnic table with the baby, Darren, Marla in front,

Joel sits on the table, and Daryl sits on the other seat. The cow is No. 34, an 85-point, 3-year-old daughter of Russdale Promise, with a 305-day record at 2-11, of 22,832 pounds milk, 912 pounds fat, and 743 pounds of protein. Photo by Vern Achenbach Jr.