

# Farmers Wonder: What Will It Take To Pass Bottle Bill?

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 spent about an hour and a half picking up bottles and cans strewn about on his farm, using a two-wheel trailer hooked to a four-wheel vehicle. The trash was collected into the small wagon. If a five-cent deposit existed, someone could collect enough nickels from

"Until we get some monetary reward for not littering, all the mandatory recycling we have is not going to be effective."  
 Kopp blames the lack of passage of the Bottle Bill by pressure from "large-manufacturer lobbying groups that are not taking responsibility for the problems we have out

reminded those who are concerned with the future of farming about the "significant financial hardship" that this trash causes on the farm. Since the 1980s, when the first such press conference was held at the farm, "we still have the same trash stream out here, we still have the same problems with cut tires and shredded cans and bottles and so on."

Donaldson said PFB is urging members of the state General Assembly to approve H.B. 922, introduced by Rep. Arthur Hershey (R-13th) with 53 co-sponsors.

The bill is in the House State Government Committee, chaired by Rep. Paul Clymer, according to a PFB release. It was released to the committee on March 18 this year.

The legislation would place at least a five-cent deposit on bottles and cans, making it worth the effort to recycle beverage containers instead of dumping them along the highway.

The bill clearly outlines provisions of the deposit, including administration of the law and enforcement.

Donaldson said that 13 years and three months is long enough to wait for an action plan to clean up the bottles and cans being dumped

But its passage is still uncertain. Yet that doesn't stop producers from putting on the pressure. More than 400 farmers were in Harrisburg in mid-April visiting legislators, seeking support for the Bottle Bill and other legislation affecting rural residents.

Mandatory township recycling may be well in its place, Kopp noted, "but here in rural Pennsylvania it's not doing the job.

"The public has to take responsibility for throwing away the trash. And until we get some financial incentive for them to do that, I don't think it'll ever happen."

Said George Moyer of Myerstown, "We are now going to get something done, even if we have to clean house in Harrisburg."

Editor's Note: In the last part of the series, opponents of the Bottle Bill provide their side of the story. Either way, farmers can now have their voices heard. Next week, *Lancaster Farming* will print a petition to be filled out and returned to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to convince legislators of the need for a Pennsylvania Bottle Bill.

*'Our patience has run out.'*

deposits on the trash "to go to the movies or something."  
 "Kids could pick up trash along the road at five cents a can and have a little spending change for the weekend," said Kopp.

here in the country.  
 "Until this society realizes they are responsible for our future environment, this stuff is only going to fill up landfills."  
 At the conference, Kopp

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state recycling law would correct the problems in the rural areas. This law is extremely effective in the urban areas. However, it has absolutely no benefits for rural areas."

Donaldson told the media that the farm group supported the 1988 Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act which started curbside recycling.

in rural areas.

In April, PFB hosted state legislators at a banquet at the Ramada Inn on Market Square in Harrisburg. Earlier, the individual farmers carried bottles of root beer to their legislators. They explained the bottles had been purchased here at a local supermarket. The bottles have a deposit value in nine other states.

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"I never met anybody who opposes a bottle bill," said Moyer, right. On a day in June, Moyer asked Tim Lynch of GTE if Pennsylvania should have a bottle bill. The answer: yes.

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