House Panel Approves Miller's Bill To Increase Access To Fishing

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)
— The House Game and Fisheries
Committee has unanimously approved a bill sponsored by Rep.
Sheila Miller (R-Berks) which
would allow farm families to fish
in lakes and streams on their property without having to purchase a
fishing license.

The measure also allows farm families, who own 80 or more acres and keep their property open to the public for fishing, to purchase a Pennsylvania fishing license for half the regular fee to fish anywhere in the state.

"House Bill 1512 is a way to say, 'thank you,' to Pennsylvania's farm families for providing the public with increased access to fishing in the creeks and ponds on their farms," Miller said.

"In return for their support of the sport, I'm suggesting that the state allow these individuals to not only fish on their own property without a license, but to have the privilege of fishing anywhere in the state with a license purchased at half the regular cost."

Miller said the legislation was suggested to her by the local Farm Bureau.

The provisions of Miller's bill apply to the owners, lessees or tenants of general farms, truck farms, commercial orchards, or commercial nurseries, as well as their family members and regularly hired help. The Pennsylvania Fish Commission would administer the program which is modeled after a similar program, for farmers who keep their lands open for public hunting.

Free fishing licenses would be issued to the qualified individuals who are Pennsylvania residents,

age 16 or older, who meet the regular requirements for securing a li-

"As an added benefit to farmers and their employees, my legislaton also contains a provision allowing these people to fish without a license on lands adjacent to their farms as long as they have the written consent of the neighboring farm's owner," Miller stressed.

"The lakes, streams, ponds, creeks and rivers located on the Commonwelth's farms are some of the best fishing spots in the state." Miller said.

"If my legislation is enacted, more people could have access to these beautiful and tranquil areas," the Lawmaker added.

Dairylea Cooperative Reviews Year of Growth

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Rutherford swaid, "The bottom line of all our endeavors...is to help improve the productivity, profitability and quality of life for our farmer members. Our efforts in this regard are second to none."

In light of the low pricing cycle experienced by farmers, Rutherford reviewed Dairylea's recent efforts aimed at establishing over-Order pricing in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. "The circumstances of this year have warranted immediate and forceful action. It has become abundantly clear that the marketplace is not working for our members."

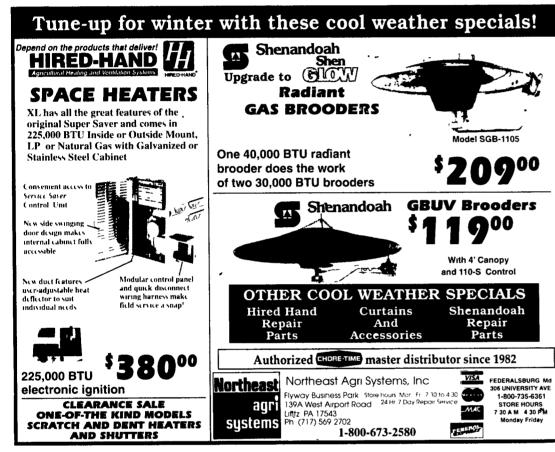
Additionally, Rutherford stressed the importance of dairy farmers contacting their government representatives to explain the hardship of the current price/cost squeeze. "Let them know that emergency price relief measures are needed now," he added.

Dairylea Cooperative is a Syracuse-based agricultural service organization, cooperatively owned by more than 2,800 farmers throughout the Northeast. Marketing approximately five billion pounds of milk annually, it participates, and is invested, in a milk-marketing network stretching from Maine to Ohio to Maryland.

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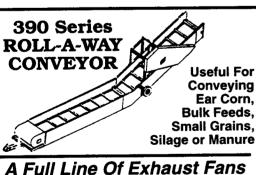
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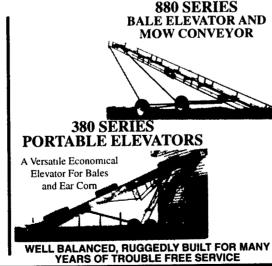


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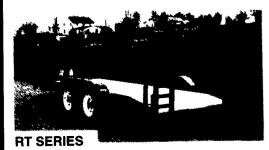


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