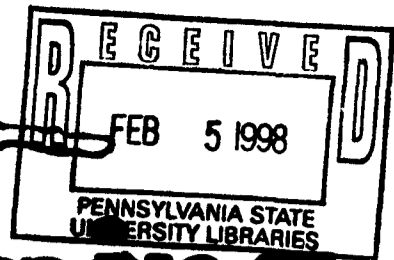


# Lancaster Farming



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## ARMPPA Presents Case To Amish Farmers

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

CHRISTIANA (Lancaster Co.) — More than 500 Amish farmers with a handful of "Englishmen" mixed in, packed church-bench style into Peter Sheims' cow mattress manufacturing building Wednesday evening. By nightfall, the normally deserted rural road that winds west of town over small hills and vales, was lit up like Grand Central Station with horses and buggies, Amish transport vans, farm trucks, and cars of every description. They came to hear officials of the new American Raw Milk Producers Pricing Association (ARMPPA) bring a case for a national grass-roots effort for farmers to take back pricing of their milk into their own hands.

ARMPPA is structured as a non-profit, non-stock cooperative which supporters say has its base in the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922. This gives farmers the right to organize as a cooperative and puts the rules in place to govern the pricing and moving of milk. In a telephone conversation with the organization's vice president, John Kinsman, LaValle, Wisconsin, *Lancaster Farming* learned that

the roots of the movement are in the former efforts to mobilize farmers in what was known here in the East as RCMA. Kinsman said a lot was learned from this effort six years ago and said the present effort started two years ago is a pricing-only cooperative aimed at doing essentially on a national basis what RCMA tried to do regionally. Because of the national scope, Kinsman believes this effort will succeed where the regional effort did not.

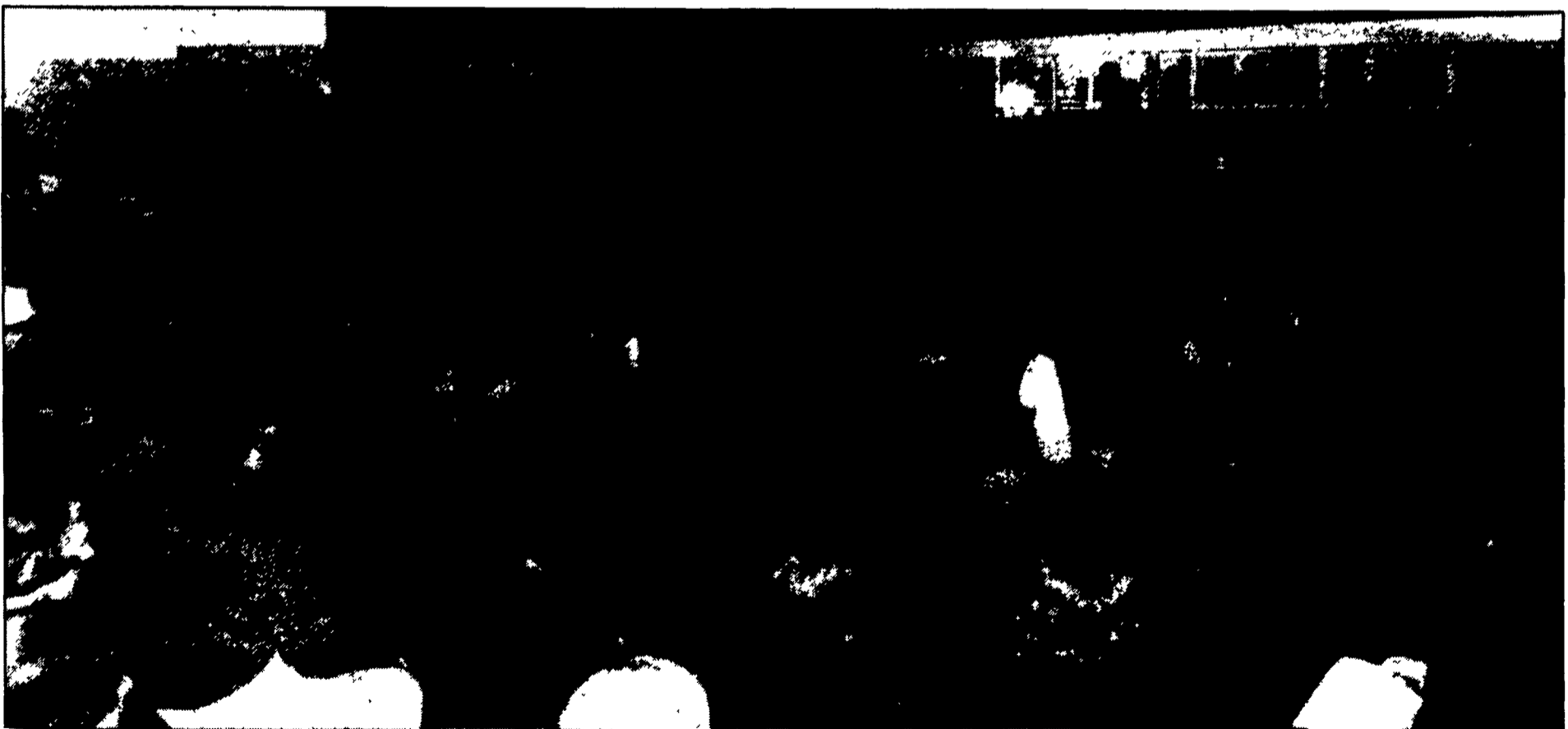
"Our goals are to keep farmers on the land and help the industry, not work against it," Kinsman said. "We plan to work with Marketing Agencies In Common (MAIC's) and other supportive handlers and cooperatives to negotiate prices that the market will bear. We do not want to come across as being against present cooperatives, but we want to act as an umbrella cooperative to help them and to help independent handlers get more of the consumer's dollar back to the dairy farmers."

The cooperative has designated 12 regions for the nation. Each region has a director on the board, and each region will be researched for

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Amanda DeSio was named the 1998 Pennsylvania Fair Queen at the state fair association's annual meeting last week. In her court are from left, April Bryington, retiring queen; Ms. DeSio; and Jessica Watson, first runner-up. See story page A22.



An estimated 600 Amish dairy farmers crowded into a Christiana manufacturing facility Wednesday night to hear officials of the American Raw Milk Producers Pricing Association (ARMPPA) discuss the merits of this new milk pricing cooperative. Many of the farmers were already members,

here to show solidarity. Many others became members at the close of the meeting. One Amish dairy farmer who attended the meeting estimated that 85 percent of those attending the meeting are now members. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

## Calif. Dominates Southeast, Mid-Atlantic Peach Market

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — At the annual meeting of the state vegetable and fruit growers here at the Hershey Lodge and Conven-

tion Center, the managing director of the National Peach Council told growers that California is gaining, and everybody else is losing.

What's being lost? It's the battle for peach crop market share.

According to Charles Walker, managing director of the National Peach Council, Columbia, S.C., California will ship about 750-770 million pounds of peaches this season, nearly double the amount of a

decade ago. Peaches will be hauled to store shelves in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic, where traditionally seasonal crops in the heart of summer from local growers dominate store displays.

Walker spoke to more than 100 peach producers and agri-industry representatives Wednesday at the 139th Annual Meeting and Trade Show of the State Horticultural

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