

Dear Editor,

This past Saturday my wife and I were proud to participate in a sizeable rally of concerned citizens from throughout Central PA, New Jersey, and Virginia at Mark, Maryann and the children's small local diversified farm in Newville.

We gathered to protest what at best was an unnecessary harassment and attempted intimidation by PDA and USFDA of a local farm family and at worst a heavy-handed demonstration of the erosion of the rights of all farmers to produce any foods that consumers wish to purchase on the private property of the farm without the interference of man-made law.

We were also there to share ideas to help strategize our needed continued vigilance and future action and the ideas were remarkable as well as encouraging. As a covered dish affair it was a feast of real food such as grass fed beef and food prepared using raw milk products, vegetables and fruit grown without pesticides, fungicides, chemical fertilizer or genetic modification. Ice-cold raw milk was the beverage of choice along with other natural (no high fructose corn syrup or other harmful ingredients) beverages.

Many attendees shared their concerns and ideas and the resulting high Richter scale applause from the rest of the group didn't seem to bother the herd of 22 cows that were nearby. It was as if they understood that we had gathered to take a stand for their right to good, fresh pasture as much as for our own God-given rights to purchase products made from their mega-nutritious, live, unpasteurized milk.

It was also very clear to the participants that both the heavily corporate influenced laws and the legislators who no longer worked for the rights of the citizens who voted for them would need to be changed.

In any free society, the individual with their vote is always more important than the public servants who represent them. We are empowered by democratic free elections and by the products we chose to purchase.

If small local farms are to remain a part of the American landscape, we must exercise both powers with great integrity and intelligence. It is important to contact your public servant today!

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## **The Land of Milk and Honey?**

Yes, Editor, I want the raw, unadulterated, living stuff and I don't think that the farmer should be arrested.

Here's the story: On August 10, 2007, a group of 10 armed State Police, officials from PDA and U.S. FDA confiscated about \$25,000 worth of raw milk products, packaging and equipment in a surprise raid on a Cumberland County diversified farm, where I have gone for many years to purchase raw milk products, eggs, processed chickens and lamb.

I arrived shortly after to find Mark's wife and children and a neighbor farmer already discussing what needed to be done to stop this harassment and intimidation. Several main issues were: how was the farmer to get the stolen products and supplies, which had been seized unjustly, returned or paid for, and how were they to make the intruders understand that the milk law is fraudulent and that all citizens have a God-given right to establish a private contract with local food producers on the farm in order to purchase the foods of their choice outside of the jurisdiction of manmade law.

The farmer is also under threat of arrest for "contempt of court" for continuing to supply me with products. The picture of a farmer in jail for providing me with wholesome foods is simply unbelievable to me and surely must be an abomination to God.

During all of the years I have consumed raw milk products I have never met even one other enthusiast who became ill from it. In fact, most available research shows that it is almost impossible for raw milk to support pathogens of any kind. Raw milk does not go bad; it simply sours to go on to become other edible products. Pasteurized milk on the other hand turns putrid. In fact there are more than one report about pasteurized milk becoming contaminated.

The real adulteration here is neither the raw milk nor the products but the robbers of our rights. Have we not lost enough small local family farms due to the corporate influenced laws that we now need to close down even more of them?

I commend the farmers for their defense of freedom for all of us as much as I condemn the raiders for their lack of it.

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