

PA State Dept. of Agriculture Unlawfully Raids Amish Family Organic Farm, Seizing Food & Property, Shutting Down Operations

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[TCTL editor's note: Those of us who have purchased food from Miller's Farm network over the years (many of us travelling from other states) know what a gift they are to a wide community who value pure foods (including raw milk) and value the care in growth and preparation of those foods. If food freedom is essential to you, please consider [sending a donation](#) or supporting them by writing to the state "authorities" involved in this raid.]

[State Employees Search Amos Miller Farm, Seize Property](#)

by [The Lancaster Patriot Staff](#)

January 4, 2023



State agents carry off coolers full of Amos Miller's property on Jan. 4, 2024 in Upper Leacock Township, Pennsylvania.

Three Pennsylvania State Troopers and seven other individuals spent several hours inside a building on Amos Miller's Lancaster County farm while conducting a search on Jan. 4, 2024, eventually leaving with multiple coolers containing Miller's property.

Attempts were made by The Lancaster Patriot to enter the facility during the search, but a Pennsylvania State Trooper said, "we're conducting a search warrant inside this building right now," and told the reporter to leave the building until the search was completed.

The search was conducted by employees of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, with Pennsylvania State Police offering assistance as needed.

A search warrant was issued on Jan. 3, 2024, by Magisterial District Judge B. Denise Commins and included an affidavit of probable cause completed by Sheri Morris, Acting Bureau Director of Food Safety with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The affidavit referenced incidents involving Miller's products

dating back to 2016, with the latest including the claim that on Dec. 19, 2023, Morris was informed “by the NY state Department of Health of a confirmed positive case of a foodborne pathogen (STEC – Shiga toxin producing E. Coli) in an underage individual” who had allegedly consumed products from Miller’s private buying club. On Dec. 28, 2023, Morris was allegedly notified about a similar incident in Michigan.

In the affidavit, Morris contends that Miller has not filed for applications from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture “for registration, licensing, or permitting under the pertinent Retail Food Facility Safety Act, Food Safety Act, or Milk Sanitation Laws.”

A report of seized property provided to Miller after the search was conducted listed 37 items, including sour cream, chocolate milk, ice cream, and eggnog.

A notice affixed to a walk-in cooler door stated that the food in the cooler “has been detained by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture pursuant to Section 5726(a) of the Food Safety Act.” The notice states that the food “may be adulterated or misbranded and shall be detained.” The notice states that it is “unlawful to remove the food from the premises or to dispose of it without approval of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.”

Removal or disposal of “a detained or embargoed food article” is a criminal and civil offense.

The cooler contains hundreds of items and represents a large portion of Miller’s products.



Products in Amos Miller's walk-in cooler put "under detention" by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Miller's private buying club provides customers with sustainable alternatives to commercially produced food. In addition to serving customers who travel to his location, Miller also ships his products across the nation.

"They [his customers] don't trust the large corporations," [Miller told The Lancaster Patriot in 2022](#). "It's not sustainable. For some reason the government keeps endorsing the large corporations, and it can cause big trouble."

Miller's products include cheese, meat, eggs, and raw milk. His company [website](#) states that all food products "are only available to members who belong to our Private Association and are NOT available to the PUBLIC." Miller's products are not sold in grocery stores.

Looks like Amos Miller's farm is being raided.

With all of the problems in society today, this is what the

government wants to focus on?

A man growing food for informed customers, without participating in the industrial meat/milk complex?

It's shameful that it's come to this. <https://t.co/pWwjp6cgPh>

– Thomas Massie (@RepThomasMassie) [January 4, 2024](#)

U.S. Congressman Thomas Massie (R-Kentucky) [shared a post](#) from The Lancaster Patriot on X (the platform formerly known as Twitter) and commented in support of Miller.

“Looks like Amos Miller’s farm is being raided,” Massie said. “With all of the problems in society today, this is what the government wants to focus on? A man growing food for informed customers, without participating in the industrial meat/milk complex? It’s shameful that it’s come to this.”

The post on X has garnered over 745,000 views in less than six hours, with many comments in support of Miller and food freedom, noting that Miller’s buyers knowingly purchase his raw products and accept any associated risks.



The mailbox for Miller's Organic Farm sits along Mill Creek School Road in Upper Leacock Township.

Miller's attorney, [Robert Barnes](#), released the following statement just hours after the search was conducted:

"Today, the Department of Agriculture of the State of Pennsylvania suddenly came, without notice, raided Amos' farm, and detained everything Amos had in the farm's freezer. They did so in a lawless manner, without appropriate authority, in violation of their own rules and regulations, despite never objecting to the prior resolutions reached with the federal government, and despite a complete failure by the state to even reach out to Amos' known counsel, Robert Barnes. The state's own rules require advance notice, reasonable time frames for inspections, and a showing of credentials, none of which occurred here. Instead, the state unlawfully obtained a search warrant, based on materially false statements in an affidavit by a high-ranking state official in an agency with a known grievance against independent farmers like Amos, and, after the raid and finding no evidence of wrongdoing, then illegally ordered detained every item of

food in one of Amos Miller's coolers, including buffalo meat not even subject to federal regulation. The detention order is patently illegal under Pennsylvania law. Despite the constant harassment, Amos will continue to do all he legally can to provide the food his members deeply need. Amos thanks you for your continued support at this critical time for food freedom in America."

(This story has been updated.)

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From [GiveSendGo Campaign](#) page in support of Miller's Farm:

Amos Miller's Amish farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, was raided on January 4, 2024. Under the watchful eye of Pennsylvania State Troopers, and the backing of a search warrant, agents of the state entered Amos' property, spent hours inside his buildings, and then hauled off some of his products. The remaining products they are forbidding Amos from selling, effectively ending his business until further notice. As Amos fights this injustice, he needs to keep paying his employees and supporting the small farms that rely on Amos to sell their natural products. If you would like to help keep Amos in business, please consider a donation.

Also, if you live in Pennsylvania, please contact your State Representative and State Senator and ask them to pressure Dept. of Ag Secretary Russell Redding to rescind the food detainment order. If you are outside Pennsylvania, please consider contacting Redding directly (https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/about/executive_office/Pages/Russell-Redding.aspx)

For more on Amos Miller,
visit: <https://www.thelancasterpatriot.com/foodfreedom/>

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