



# UNPASTEURIZED (RAW) MILK: THE BASICS

Act 62 of 2009 created a tiered regulatory system for farmers producing raw milk based on the quantity of milk sold. All farmers must meet the requirements for Tier 1 producers, and if selling more than 50 quarts of milk per day there are additional requirements for Tier 2 producers. Any farmer who delivers raw milk must meet the Tier 2 requirements.

### TIER 1 – Farmers selling 50 quarts or less per day

- Milk must be sold directly from farmer to consumer at the farm.
- Customers must be given a tour of the farm and any area associated with milking prior to purchasing milk.
- Farmers must keep records of customers with their contact information (does not need to be submitted).
- Farmers must keep transaction records of purchases for one year.
- A warning sign with specific language on health risks must be prominently displayed on farm.
- Milk container labels must contain the following: milking date, farmer contact info, name of animal, and same warning language as sign.
- Animals must be tested for Tuberculosis and Brucellosis annually (frequency of tests determined by Agency of Agriculture) and vaccinated for rabies. Documentation of tests must be posted prominently on the farm.
- If animals are treated with antibiotics, milk must test clear of residue before selling.
- Animals must be housed in clean, dry environment.
- Animals' udders and teats must be cleaned and sanitized prior to milking and milking must be performed in location that can be kept clean.
- Milking equipment must be sanitized prior to milking and cleaned after use.
- Potable water supply must be available and tested every three years.
- Milk must be cooled to 40°F within two hours of milking.
- Daily milk samples, labeled with milking date, must be kept frozen for 14 days.

### TIER 2 – Farmers selling more than 50 quarts and up to 40 gallons per day and/or making home deliveries

- Farmers must register with Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFM).
- Facilities must be inspected annually by VAAFM.
- Only farmers are able to fill bottles.
- Raw milk must be tested twice per month at an FDA-accredited lab for the following (VAAFM requires testing done by the state lab and for samples to be hand-submitted in two containers in which milk is sold):
  - total bacterial count: less than 15,000 cfu/ml
  - total coliform count: less than 10 cfu/ml
  - somatic cell count: less than 225,000/ml (cows); 500,000/ml (goats)
- Farmer will ensure test results are sent to VAAFM within 5 days and will keep results on file for one year as well as post in a prominent place.
- Farmers must report annual total raw milk sales to VAAFM.

### DELIVERY OF RAW MILK

- Producers delivering raw milk must meet Tier 2 requirements listed above and quantity of milk delivered shall not exceed 40 gallons per day.
- Milk must be purchased in advance.
- During delivery, milk must be protected from sunlight and kept at 40°F or less at all times.
- Milk must be delivered to customer at his/her home or into refrigerated unit (40°F) at customer's home.
- Producers may contract with another individual to deliver the milk.