



## **Rural Vermont RAW MILK Regulation Summary:**

This sheet is intended to be a reference outlining the basics of the current raw milk regulations. For more information please visit [www.ruralvermont.org](http://www.ruralvermont.org) or review the complete law, V.S.A. 6 Chapter 152. **New Amendments are Effective July 1, 2014**

### **All raw milk producers must meet the Tier 1 Requirements.**

#### **TIER 1 – Farmers selling up to 87.5 gallons per week (average 50 quarts or less per day)**

- Milk is sold only in fluid form.
- Milk must be sold directly from farmer to consumer at the farm (except Tier two).
- Customers must be offered an opportunity to tour the farm and any area associated with milking prior to purchasing milk.
- Farmers must maintain a list of their customers with their contact information.
- Farmers must keep transaction records of all milk purchases for one year.
- A warning sign with specific language and size requirements must be displayed where customers can see it.
- Milk container labels must contain the following: milking date, farmer contact info, type of animal and same warning language as sign.
- Animals must be tested for Tuberculosis and Brucellosis annually (tests determined by VAAFM) and vaccinated for rabies. Brucellosis ring test is acceptable after initial blood test. Documentation of tests must be posted where customers can see it.
- If animals are treated with antibiotics, milk must test clear of antibiotic residue before selling.
- Animals must be housed in a clean, dry environment.
- Animals' udders and teats must be cleaned and sanitized prior to milking and milking must be performed in a location that can be kept clean.
- Milking equipment must be sanitized prior to milking and cleaned after each use.
- Bulk storage containers must be cleaned each time they are emptied or; if not cleaned daily, a chart must be prominently displayed that shows the storage container has been cleaned at least every 72 hours.
- Farmer must be able to demonstrate that there is adequate cold storage for amount of milk sold on highest volume sales day.
- Sales of milk more than four days after milking date are prohibited.
- Potable water supply must be available and tested every three years.
- Milk must be cooled to 40° or lower within two hours of milking and maintained at or below 40° until received by the customer.
- Daily milk samples, labeled with milking date, must be kept frozen for 14 days.

#### **TIER 2 – Farmers selling more than 87.5 gallons and up to 280 gallons per week (average 40 gallons or less per day) and/or delivering to customer's home, or farmers' market**

- Farmers must register with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFM).
- Annual inspection by VAAFM.
- Only farmers are able to fill customer bottles.
- Raw milk must be tested twice per month at a FDA-accredited lab for the following:
  - total bacterial count: 15,000 cfu/ml
  - total coliform count: 10 cfu/ml
  - somatic cell count: 225,000/ml (cows); 500,000/ml (goats).
- Farmer will ensure test results are sent to VAAFM within 5 days of receipt and post in a location visible to customers. Results kept on file for one year.
- Farmers must report annual total raw milk sales to VAAFM.

#### **DELIVERY OF RAW MILK (Tier 2 Only)**

##### **All above requirements plus:**

- Milk must be purchased in advance.
- During delivery, milk must be protected from sunlight and kept at 40° or less at all times.
- Milk must be transported and stored in a manner that maintains it at 40° or lower at all times, and be delivered to customer at his/her home or into refrigerated unit (40°) at customer's home.
- Producers may contract with another individual to deliver the milk.

#### **DELIVERY AT FARMERS' MARKETS (Tier 2 Only)**

##### **All above requirements plus:**

- All customers must visit the farm and must be offered an opportunity to tour the farm prior to picking up raw milk at farmers' markets.
- Milk must be transported and stored in a manner that maintains it at 40° or lower at all times.
- Farmers must notify VAAFM which markets they will be delivering to, including days/times.
- Delivery must be at a defined farmers' market, and farmer must be a vendor at that market.
- Farmers must display proof of Tier 2 registration prominently at farmers' market booth or stand.