



RURAL VERMONT

RAW MILK REGULATION SUMMARY

(AS OF 7/1/21)

This document is intended to be a general reference outlining the basics of the current Vermont raw milk regulations. For more information, please call 802-223-7222 or review the complete law, V.S.A. 6 Chapter 152. New amendments (underlined) became law on July 1, 2021. 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). *Tier 1 producers may follow the requirements for Tier 2 (and additional requirements for off-farm sales outlined on page two of this document) if they wish to deliver to customers' homes, sell at farmers' markets, or as of 7/1/21, sell at other farms' farmstands or CSAs.*

- Milk is sold only in fluid form.
- Milk must be sold directly from farmer to consumer at the farm.
- Customers must be offered an opportunity to tour the farm 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 that is 8.5x11 inches in size with the words “Unpasteurized (Raw) Milk. Keep Refrigerated. Consuming raw unpasteurized milk may cause illness, particularly in children, seniors, persons with weakened immune systems, and pregnant women.” must be displayed where customers can see it. The required sign is available for download and print [here](#).
- Milk container labels must contain the following: milking date, farmer contact info, type of animal, and the same language as the warning sign.
- All ruminants must be tested for Tuberculosis and Brucellosis before starting to sell raw milk. Any new dairy animals joining the herd must be tested by a licensed veterinarian, including those born on the farm. Herd must be vaccinated for rabies annually. 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.
- 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 displayed indicating that 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°F within two hours of milking and maintained below 40°F at all times.
- 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 350 gallons per week (average 50 gallons or less per day) have to meet all Tier 1 requirements in addition to the Tier 2 requirements below.

Tier 2 producers can deliver directly to customers' homes, sell their product at farmer's markets, and as of 7/1/2021, sell raw milk at other farms' farmstands and CSAs within the state of Vermont. It is prohibited for Tier 2 producers to sell more than 350 gallons/week.

- Farmers must register with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFM).
- Annual inspection by VAAFM.
- Farmers must report annual total raw milk sales to VAAFM.
- Only farmers are able to fill customer bottles.
- Raw milk must be tested twice per month at a FDA-accredited lab, using accredited lab approved testing containers, 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.
- Milk must be protected from sunlight and kept at 40° or lower at all times.
- Producers may contract with another individual to deliver the milk.
- The sale of more than 350 gallons of unpasteurized milk per week is prohibited.

SALE OR DELIVERY AT FARMERS' MARKETS, CSA, OR FARMSTAND (TIER 2 ONLY) -- As of 7/1/21, producers meeting Tier 2 requirements can sell their products at other farms' farmstands, CSAs, in addition to the existing permission of sale and delivery of raw milk at farmers' markets. They must follow all of the Tier 1 & 2 requirements as well as the following:

- Farmers must notify VAAFM which markets they will be selling at or delivering to, including proof of registration/market/days. Delivery and sales must be at a farmers' market where the farmer is a vendor.
- The milk producer must notify VAAFM of any CSA or farmstand locations where their milk is being sold. These locations will be subject to inspection by VAAFM.
- During delivery or storage, milk must be protected from sunlight and kept at 40° or lower at all times.
- Vendors shall inform each customer of the need to keep milk refrigerated.
- Farmers must display the required 8.5"x11" [warning sign](#) and proof of Tier 2 registration prominently at farmers' market booth or stand, collect new customer contact information.
- The warning sign must also be prominently displayed at any farmstand/CSA where raw milk is sold.
- The CSA/farmstand selling the milk will maintain the transaction records and customer contact records required by existing law. Farmstand/CSA owners will transfer this information to the milk producer within one week of when it is collected.

RAW MILK AS COMMERCIAL FEED -- Raw milk may be manufactured or distributed as commercial animal feed in Vermont under the following requirements:

- Raw milk is rendered distinguishable from products packaged for human consumption;
- Raw animal feed product is labeled "not for human consumption."
- Products are not stored or placed for retail sale with, or in the vicinity of, milk products for human consumption;
- Compliance with 6 V.S.A Chapter 26.