

Cooper, Kathy

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From: B. Corson [hooftales@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 6:27 PM
To: IRRC

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To Whom it may concern,

I am a veterinarian, registered nurse, family-cow owner, and life-long consumer of all kinds of dairy products.

I believe that the Milk Sanitation code changes proposed by the PDA are unproductive and unreasonable.

Specifically, it is unproductive and unreasonable to require that "no pathogens may be present" because it is not possible to meaningfully define a "pathogen".

There are probably no microbes that would NEVER cause disease under any circumstances; and there are also probably no microbes that would ALWAYS cause disease in every person that consumed them.

Also, given the number of variables that can lead to bacterial pathogenicity, I'm not sure twice a year testing would make any meaningful difference. If you are going to assume that ANY level of Campylobacter or E. coli O157:H7 is unacceptable, why would you feel better looking for them only twice a year? It just doesn't make sense. It would be like saying we are only going to check airline passengers for concealed weapons twice a year.

In a more general way, I object to the idea that my government can or should be responsible for what I eat. I would prefer if food decisions could be based on an open and transparent relationship between the food producer and consumer. If a dairy farmer lets me see how he milks his cows and handles his milk, and if I as an informed adult want to buy some milk, why should the government object?

In my opinion, a more sensible approach than the proposed changes, would be to require the sellers of raw dairy products to post educational information (including the results of bacteriological testing, however frequently it is done) and then allow the consumers to make their own decisions.

sincerely,

Barbara Corson RN, VMD

Dauphin Pa