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Shomper, Kris

From: Jean Canale [fitzcan1@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 3:31 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation

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IRRC

2010 OCT -4 P 3:33

Dear Commission Members,

I have been serving raw milk and raw milk products in my home for over ten years. I have done the research and am making a well informed choice to purchase and serve raw milk to my family.

I am greatly concerned about how proposed regulation #2777 will impact small dairy farmers selling directly to consumers. Therefore, I respectfully request that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation. I have a respectful and trust based relationship with the farmer I purchase from and do not need the protection of such regulations. If they provide an unsatisfactory product or fail to appropriately correct a problem they will be out of business quickly. Every consumer polices that supplier with every transaction and has direct enforcement options.

Where we need government involvement is where the suppliers or markets are no longer our neighbors but rather corporations created by the State. Food safety is not size neutral. Larger operations are more complex, problems have much more far-reaching impacts and we have no direct meaningful recourse if there is a problem. The regulation needs to focus on those operations.

Although some regulations on this latter group are necessary, the regulation could be much simpler if they were performance standards, requiring that the end product achieves a desired result. How that result is achieved is the producers' responsibility, not the State's. That would result in the State's role being to test for compliance, a function that could easily be contracted out, rather than inserting itself in micromanaging the operation.

Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive, and in some cases onerous and unnecessary. These flaws warrant that the proposed regulation be rejected.

Sincerely,

Jean Canale