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Cooper, Kathy

From: Deborah Engisch-Platt [riversong3@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:09 AM
To: IRRRC; wchirdon@state.pa.us
Subject: Dairy Industry & Raw Milk

As a mother & a consumer I much prefer raw milk for health reasons – Pasteurized dairy products kills off the natural enzymes that actually allow it to be digested. As a woman of over 50 years old – I have personally had raw milk for many years with no health issues whatsoever. No member of my family has ever had any problem with it either.

It is being made increasingly difficult for small dairies to operate their business's as it is due the way in which the larger diary industry folks are doing their level best to shut them down with regulations that force them to spend their hard earned dollars to comply with over regulation requirements. All the while it is the large outfits that have the greater problems with bacteria such as e-coli contamination & the like from substandard hygiene & overcrowding – not to mention overuse of antibiotics & hormones in their livestock. The larger the industrialized farm the higher pollution they create from methane & the contamination of both land & water.

The number of rooms required to sell bottled raw milk in single use containers would be two (the milkroom plus one), and cheesemaking can be done with a minimum of one additional room (for cutting and wrapping). This is important because, taken literally, the language of 59a.410(a), plus existing regulations for cheese production, could mean that a permitholder would need as many as 5 or 6 rooms to do fluid milk sales and cheese production together! Also, please note that all permits will be considered eligible for supplying retail outlets, which had certainly not been the case before. These two points can be considered improvements over the past situation where confusion about such issues was rampant.

Beyond the above points – the very idea that FDA officials have gone onto Amish farms at 5 AM, with guns – threatening these people due to the way they sell their products is absolutely under the heading of terrorizing not to mention absurd. It's just unbelievable to me that this can be justified in anyway shape or form unless you have proof that they're dealing drugs – or arming their cows with automatic weapons (and maybe they should be – just to be able to stand a fighting chance against an overzealous governmental regulatory body).

Signed a practical & concerned consumer,
Deborah Engisch-Platt
From Bucks County, PA

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