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Shomper, Kris

From: Fr. Mark Lichtenstein [frmarklichtenstein@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:44 AM
To: IRRRC; wchirdon@state.pa.us
Subject: raw milk regulations

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear PA regulatory apparatus,

I had hoped to go to the meeting on Thursday. I now live in Camp Hill just across the river, but have been scheduled by my church leadership to be in Pittsburgh during the meeting time, otherwise, I'd definitely go.

I used to have a raw milk (and USDA certified organic) cow dairy farm in Wayne County. When it was becoming obvious that I might have to sell everything for financial reasons, I looked into what it would take to set up a more minimalist raw milk operation, like starting with 2 cows one to fresh in the spring and one in the fall. My milk inspector, overall a very decent fellow, couldn't even think about operations that didn't start with facilities that implied 50 cows, minimum: a bulk tank, pipeline, tons and tons of concrete, and on and on. Humans have safely had milk products from cows since way before copper tools were invented, let alone stainless.

I had great test results and I stored my bottles and caps in plastic bags in my machinery room or next to the bulk tank. I had great test results for microbiology and I hand capped my milk jugs for my customers and for my yearly ?quarterly? I forget now, sample taken by milk inspector (as well as on my samples taken on a biweekly basis). I do not see how this new set of regulations will improve the quality of raw milk in PA. Without these rules, my milk could be stored at 34 degrees F and would only start, yes, start, to sour after two weeks---at which point it is still safe to drink raw, even if I don't care for it much when it is sour, though it makes better and better pancakes and waffles the more sour it gets.

All this strongly suggests to me that the goal here is a way to put raw milk producers out of business. The state needs to back off.

Sincerely,

Fr. Mark

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