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**Shomper, Kris**

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**From:** Sarah Rider [bluegrassbeef@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 04, 2010 7:11 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** The future of raw milk in PA

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IRRC

2010 OCT -5 A 9:05

Hello,

I am writing to express my deep concerns with the proposed changes to the PA milk regulations that will be going to the floor this week. Please consider postponing the proposed changes to the raw milk section until further discussion can be had with the many organizations that represent a diverse segment of Pennsylvania's dairy farming population. Many farmers who rely on their raw milk sales are our plain clothes neighbors and these changes will affect a disproportionate number of Amish and old order Mennonite who, I believe, have not have had sufficient time, nor representation, to offer their input on the matter.

The proposed changes will shoulder the farmers of Pennsylvania with added expense that is intentionally indifferent to the scale of their operation. While all food-producing operations should be implementing best food safety and sanitation measures, in reality those measures parallel the scale of the operation and are not the same between a 5 cow dairy and a 5000 cow dairy.

In reading some of the comments from the PDA, there seems to be a justification that any added expense is easily covered by the seemingly high prices that farmers receive for raw milk. This is a rather simple way of looking at an economy that is just not that simple. Many farmers that are selling raw milk are putting themselves at a great legal and financial risk, many doing this not out of entrepreneurship, but out of a belief that the fruits of their hard work should go directly to the consumer and with a minimal amount of processing. Their business is very different than that of strictly commodity based farming, and just like the differences of scale, we need to account for variations of business models before passing judgment that "they can afford any increased expenses".

After farming in several states where raw milk is illegal, I am more and more appreciative that Pennsylvania has a permitting process for selling raw milk at all. Thus far, PDA has been, in my experience, willing to to work with an issue that I am sure makes them very uncomfortable. I commend the PDA for taking precautions for upholding safety standards for raw milk, but would like to have a real discussion that incorporates and represents all of those involved prior to any changes to the regulations.

Again, please consider killing the proposed changes to the raw milk regulations, or at least postponing the vote until further discussions can be had.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Rider  
Farmer  
Flying Plow Farm  
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