

fresh milk fact sheet

Did you know?

Fresh milk is one of the healthiest options. Contrary to claims by dairy industry lobbyists and their allies in government, fresh milk that is handled and bottled under sanitary conditions less likely than pasteurized milk to cause illness.

Big dairy lobbyists won't tell you fresh milk is better for you because they're afraid consumers will prefer the alternative in a free market. Pasteurization isn't bad, per se. As it happens, big dairy producers rely on it, because their facilities are so massive compared to family farms that produce fresh milk. Family farms that have been doing business in their communities for generations shouldn't be treated the same as large industrial factory farms which pose a much more serious epidemiological risk.

Small family-farm producers shouldn't have to worry about armed federal agents raiding them at dawn just for distributing milk to willing consumers. House Resolution 1830, introduced by Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), would repeal the interstate ban on transporting fresh dairy products. Dr. Paul is a current presidential candidate and one of a handful of physicians in the House of Representatives.

Fresh milk by the numbers...

2,000,000,000 pounds of fresh dairy consumed between 1996-2005

1,333 times more likely to be sickened by eating at a restaurant than by fresh milk¹

1987 year interstate ban was adopted²

50 states in which it's legal to consume fresh milk³

¹ Tracy Sweely, "Raw Milk Dairies: Public Threat or Easy Kill?" February 22, 2011

² Federal Register at 21 CFR Part 1240.61, August 10, 1987.

³ Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund.