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FOOD SAFETY ADVISORY

Sales of Raw Milk in Indiana

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Indiana law prohibits the sale and advertisement of raw milk intended for human consumption. Raw milk is defined as milk that has not undergone pasteurization, a process in which milk is heated to a specific temperature for a designated period to destroy harmful bacteria. Unpasteurized milk and milk products may contain pathogens such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Listeria*, all of which are known to cause serious foodborne illness, or even death. These risks are particularly significant for pregnant women, young children, older adults, and people with compromised immune systems.

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) is responsible for administering state laws designed to protect public health by ensuring the safety of animal-sourced foods and preventing and controlling the spread of animal diseases. As part of this mandate, the safety of milk produced in Indiana is monitored from on-farm production through transportation and processing. Finished dairy products are routinely tested each month to verify compliance with pathogen-reduction and quality standards.

Raw Milk Sales

To be sold lawfully within the state of Indiana, milk and milk products must comply with the requirements set forth in the following regulations:

- 1. 345 IAC Article 8 – Dairy Products:** Rule 2, governing the production, handling, processing, packaging, and distribution of milk and milk products.
- 2. Indiana Code 15-18-1 – Dairy Products; Milk and Milk Products Permits.**

Indiana Code § 15-18-1-21(a) states: “A person may not offer, display for sale, sell, deliver, or have possession of with intent to sell or deliver milk or milk products for human consumption unless every particle of the final mixture of the milk or milk products used in processing or manufacture has been thoroughly pasteurized by equipment approved by the board.”

Advertising

To ensure compliance with state law, a person must remove any references to “raw milk” from all advertising platforms, including but not limited to social media, websites, yard signage, farmers’ markets, and farm stores, unless the advertising clearly indicates that the product is **not** intended for human consumption.

Additional Safety Warning

Recent detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle have raised concerns about the safety of humans and pets consuming raw, unpasteurized milk. While pasteurization reliably inactivates viruses like HPAI, raw milk may contain infectious virus particles that could pose a health risk to people and animals, especially cats. To date, HPAI has not been identified in Indiana dairy cattle.

For questions regarding the legal requirements for advertising or selling raw milk in Indiana, please contact BOAH at **877-747-3038**.