

Seamons, Colleen

From: Jane O'Shea [earthmom@bigpond.net.au]
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To: submissions
Subject: Proposal P1007:Primary Production and Processing Requirements for Raw Milk Products
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SUBMISSION

Jane O'Shea, Very Small Farmer
15 Fairway Road
Avonsleigh VIC 3782
(03) 5968 5650
earthmom@bigpond.net.au

I am writing to support the review of the Raw Milk Laws which currently exist in Australia. As an owner of a Jersey milk cow I feel I must have my voice heard regarding raw milk and other dairy products. I personally have not been able to tolerate pasteurized dairy products for many years. Even if I now could consume them, given the growing prevalence of inappropriate feeding and care of commercial dairy herds and also now the possibility that these herds are being fed genetically modified diets is enough to make me eliminate all store-bought pasteurized dairy from my family's diet.

- 1) People have a right to access the type of foods they feel are appropriate for their families. I find it difficult to understand why people can buy cigarettes and take them home to consume them when it is well-known that they will very likely seriously damage their health or kill them, and in the same country we do not have the right to make a decision regarding whether or not to purchase raw dairy products. If raw dairy products are truly "dangerous" then why not include a warning label on them to advise that and give the consumer the option of first purchasing that product and then deciding whether or not they will pasteurize it when they get it home.
- 2) Why not introduce testing of raw dairy products before they reach the market, thus eliminating the mystery of whether e.coli, salmonella, listeria or other harmful bacteria are present? Whilst I realize that this is expensive, I believe many consumers, myself included, would pay the extra cost in order to have access to pure dairy the way it was intended to be consumed.

If the reader of this submission could spend one day in my body and feel the cramps, bloating and chest pains that accompany the consumption of store-bought pasteurized milk he or she could no longer say that pasteurization does not affect the health benefits of milk. I consume raw milk from my cow every day, as does my family, as people have done for many generations and none of us experience the symptoms that accompany milk that has been altered by pasteurization. Perhaps we should consider that the abysmal state of the nation's health is at least partly due to the swing away from foods as close to nature as possible.

Yours respectfully,

Jane O'Shea