

# Lara Weisensel

Thank you for putting forth these proposed regulations for raw dairy in the state of Alaska.

In reading through the proposal, I am amazed at the amount of capital that will be needed for any small farm to actually meet all the requirements. My first question for you to consider is who are you trying to help with these proposed regulations? Are you trying to open up small scale agriculture? If so, this is far too costly and cumbersome for anything on a small, local level. For example, is there really a need for 5 separate sinks? Is there a need for multiple separate buildings. Is there a need to keep a sample from every single milking?

These regulations may work very well for a large scale dairy that distributes and sells large volumes of raw milk and raw dairy products. When a farm shifts from small scale to large scale, their profits should shift also and they can absorb regulatory costs easier than a small scale farm.

My proposal is to add an exemption for small farms with on-site sales of raw milk and raw milk products. Perhaps you could limit the size as other states do in order to successfully allow small farms to provide high quality raw products to consumers who want raw dairy and not pasteurized or homogenized dairy. The size could be limited to number of gallons sold weekly or monthly. Bacteria test counts could be required monthly as well.

Truly, farmers who sell directly to consumers want to offer the best product possible. This is in their self-interest because bad products means loss of business. Poor quality products are a result of a loss in the seller-consumer relationship. From farm to table with minimal regulation spells agricultural freedom for the state of Alaska.

Thank you again for your time in considering my comments.