

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Animal Health Section (802) 828-2421
Animal Testing and Vaccination Protocols for
Producers Selling Raw Milk for Public Consumption

General Requirements:

- Official Identification - all animals in a herd that produce fluid milk that is to be sold to the public without being pasteurized must be individually officially identified.
- Health Examination - all animals in a herd that produce fluid milk that is to be sold to the public without being processed by a licensed plant shall undergo an annual health examination by a Vermont-licensed accredited veterinarian and must be found to be in good general health and free of contagious disease. In instances where the animals are on a herd health plan with an accredited veterinarian, and that veterinarian has knowledge of the health status of the herd, the veterinarian may sign a statement attesting to the above in lieu of performing individual yearly examinations.
- All raw milk producers must maintain herd examination reports, Brucellosis and Tuberculosis test results, and official rabies certificates at the site of production. VAAFMM employees shall be allowed access to the premises to review these records during reasonable hours.
- Rabies vaccination - any herd or animal that produces fluid milk that will be sold to the public without pasteurization shall be vaccinated for rabies by, or under the supervision of, a Vermont-licensed, accredited veterinarian with an approved vaccine product according to the manufacturer recommendations. NOTE: if there is no approved vaccine for the animal being vaccinated (such as a goat) the veterinarian should extra label the vaccine they consider most appropriate.
- The Secretary of Agriculture shall reserve the right to change any testing or vaccination requirement as he or she deems appropriate.
- The following test requirements apply to herds or flocks of animals from which raw milk is sold for public consumption that also produce milk intended for pasteurization prior to consumption: NOTE: All of the animals in a herd or flock are to be tested. It is not acceptable to pick a sub-group that will be used to produce the raw milk for sale and only test those animals.

- **Brucellosis**

- Animals must test negative on an official blood test for Brucellosis prior to the initial sale of raw milk and any herd additions must be tested annually within 13 months of the test date anniversary. All testing shall be performed by a Vermont-licensed, accredited veterinarian, and the producer shall bear the expense of the testing.

For cattle:

- All new animals brought into the herd shall be tested prior to selling that milk.
- At an interval of not greater than 6 months, producers shall submit to a Brucellosis ring test conducted with respect to the animal or herd from which the raw milk is produced. The handling of these samples shall be performed by an individual approved by the Agency.

For other types of dairy animals:

- All new animals brought into the herd shall be tested prior to selling that milk.
- Annually (within 13 months) all animals are to be retested or; test a random sampling that will give a confidence level of 99% and a p value of 0.05. Below is a table that tells how many animals need to be tested to meet this criterion.

Table 1.

<u>Herd/Flock Size</u>	<u>Sampling Size</u>	<u>Herd/Flock Size</u>	<u>Sampling Size</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>75</u>
<u>50</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>77</u>
<u>100</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>79</u>
<u>150</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>200</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>81</u>

*For larger herds or flocks contact the Dairy Office (802) 828-2433

○ **Tuberculosis**

- Animals must test negative on an official test for Tuberculosis prior to the initial sale of raw milk and then annually thereafter within 13 months of the test date anniversary. All testing shall be performed by a Vermont-licensed, accredited veterinarian, and the producer shall bear the expense of the testing.

The following test requirements apply to animals from which only raw milk is sold for public consumption:

○ **Brucellosis (all types)**

- Animals must test negative on an official blood test for Brucellosis prior to the initial sale of raw milk and then annually thereafter within 13 months of the test date anniversary. All testing shall be performed by a Vermont-licensed, accredited veterinarian, and the producer shall bear the expense of the testing.
- All new animals brought into the herd shall be tested prior to selling that milk.
- Annually (within 13 months) all animals are to be retested; or test a random sampling that will give a confidence level of 99% and a p value of 0.05. Table 1 is used to determine how many animals need to be tested to meet this criterion.

○ **Tuberculosis**

- Animals must test negative on an official test for Tuberculosis prior to the initial sale of raw milk and then annually thereafter within 13 months of the test date anniversary. All testing shall be performed by a Vermont-licensed, accredited veterinarian, and the producer shall bear the expense of the testing.