

Jones County Environmental Services

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Jones County Board of Health has reviewed and discussed the relevant facts of raw milk sales in Jones County Iowa. With the history of Campylobacter Jejuni outbreak affecting the public the Jones County Board of Health has passed a Raw Milk Resolution on September 12, 2013 which supports the current ban on the sale of raw milk for public consumption in Iowa.

The JCBOH support is based on the following:

- 1) Raw milk poses an inherently elevated risk of disease outbreaks and illnesses due to a variety of pathogens likely to be present in it;
- 2) The nutritional value of pasteurized milk is essentially identical to that of raw milk; and
- 3) The claims of protective health properties of raw milk versus pasteurized milk are unfounded.

Raw milk can become contaminated with a variety of disease-causing pathogens, including *E. coli* 0157:H7, *Salmonella*, *Streptococcus* spp., *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Listeria*, *monocytogenes*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Coxiella burnetti*. These disease agents are capable of causing severe and even life-threatening illness in humans, particularly the very young, the elderly, pregnant women, and those of compromised immune systems. Even under ideal hygienic conditions for the collection and packaging of raw milk, the probability of contamination is high. Pasteurization is the only way to kill the bacteria that can make people very sick. According to the CDC, **raw milk represents less than 1% of all milk consumed in the US, but causes the majority of milk related disease outbreaks. The risk of outbreaks caused by raw milk is at least 150 times greater than the risk of outbreaks caused by pasteurized milk.**

The Jones County outbreak on February 12, 2004 caused the public many days of diarrhea, stomach cramping, and vomiting. Less commonly, it can mean kidney failure, paralysis, chronic disorders, and even death. For example, a person can develop severe or even life-threatening diseases, such as Guillain-Barre syndrome, which can cause paralysis, and hemolytic uremic syndrome, which can result in kidney failure and stroke. Each ill person's symptoms can differ, depending on the type of germ, the amount of contamination, and the person's immune defenses.

While raw milk represents less than 1% of all milk consumed in the US, it is responsible for virtually all milk-related disease outbreaks.

Therefore:

The JCBOH supports current law which prohibits the sale of raw milk for public consumption.

Jones County Board of Health Members:

Lyle Theisen, Chair

Dr. David Gilchrist, Vice Chair

Dennis Coon

Keith Dirks

Kirk Kilburg, M.D.