

BOARD OF HEALTH

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Pursuant to its duty to protect the health of the community, the Scott County Board of Health has reviewed and discussed the health effects of consumption of raw milk. It is the Board's conclusion that science supports the prohibition of sale of raw milk in Iowa.

The Board finds that:

- Raw milk provides no demonstrated nutritional advantage over pasteurized milk.
- Pasteurization does not significantly degrade the nutritional quality of milk.
- Nutrients which provide substantive value in raw milk are present to the same degree in pasteurized milk.
- Claims that raw milk has immunological, allergic and structural advantages that are removed during pasteurization are not supported by peer-reviewed research.
- There is no reputable science to support claims that raw milk cures lactose intolerance, asthma, allergies, is more effective at preventing osteoporosis, or building immune systems.
- Even under ideal hygienic conditions for the collection and packaging of raw milk, the probability of contamination is high.
- Raw milk can contain a variety of disease-causing pathogens, including *E. coli* O157: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 life-threatening illness, particularly in the very young, elderly, pregnant women, and persons with compromised immune systems.
- While raw milk represents less than 1% of all milk consumed in the US, it is responsible for virtually all milk-related disease outbreaks. Unpasteurized milk is 150 times more likely to cause illness and results in 13 times more hospitalizations.
- Between 1993 and 2005 more than 1500 people in the United States became ill from raw milk and raw milk products.

Therefore, the Scott County Board of Health supports current Iowa law which prohibits the sale of raw milk for public consumption. We find this to be sound public policy which protects and preserves the health of Iowans.