

AABP POSITION STATEMENT

CONSUMPTION OF UNPASTEURIZED (RAW) MILK



In agreement with numerous public health agencies and organizations devoted to production of high quality, nutritious dairy products, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) supports consumption of pasteurized milk and discourages individuals from consuming unpasteurized (raw) milk. While sale of unpasteurized milk is legal in several states, the AABP recognizes that consumption of unpasteurized milk poses inherent and significant risks to the health of vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, immunosuppressed people and pregnant women. While risks to human health are unpredictable and well documented, nutritional benefits based on consumption of unpasteurized (raw) versus pasteurized milk have not been proven. In states that allow legal sales of unpasteurized milk, those products should be labeled “Not Pasteurized and May Contain Organisms that Cause Disease” and educational programs should be created to ensure consumers of unpasteurized (raw) milk products are informed about the risks.

More details about the facts that contributed to this policy can be accessed at the following links:

CDC Resources about Unpasteurized (Raw) Milk

<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/rawmilk/raw-milk-questions-and-answers.html>

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/rawmilkinfographic.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/rawmilk/raw-milk-resources.html#videos>

Government of Canada Policy on Unpasteurized (Raw) Milk

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/milk-infant-formula/raw-or-unpasteurized-milk.html>

FDA Policy about Unpasteurized (Raw) Milk

<https://www.fda.gov/food/resources-you-food/raw-milk>

AVMA Policy about Unpasteurized (Raw) Milk

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/raw-milk>

National Mastitis Council Policy about Raw Milk

<https://www.nmconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NMC-Position-Statement-raw-milk-FINAL-2020.pdf>

(Developed by the AABP Milk Quality and Udder Health Committee
Approved November 2023)