Maine’s Licensed Raw Milk Farms

Maine is one of the 43 U.S. states which provide consumers with legal access to raw milk.

In the State of Maine, raw milk farms are licensed and raw milk is regulated. Raw milk is readily available to consumers from farms, at farmers markets, and in grocery stores. Farms openly advertise (examples: Tide Mill Organic Farm and Winter Hill Farm). They can produce value-added products such as raw milk cheese, butter, and yogurt. In Maine, raw milk is not a “hot button” topic that governments will not go near. In fact, the government of Maine provides a PowerPoint presentation advising farmers on how to get licensed and helpful guidelines for licensed raw milk farmers.

Maine has an estimated population in 2017 of 1,350,200 and currently has 74 licensed raw milk farms. There were only 10 licensed farms in 2003 – and this chart shows how consumer demand for raw milk has grown in the state (and similarly in the U.S. in general):

If British Columbia had a proportional number of raw milk farms to its population as Maine does, it would have 264 licensed raw milk farms.

Data Sources: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry; Statistics Canada; Population of America 2017; Maine Dairy Program: How to get a Dairy License (PowerPoint)

For more information, contact the B.C. Herdshare Association.
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