

Dakota Resource Council
1720 Burnt Boat Dr. Ste 104
Bismarck ND 58503
Neutral Testimony for HB 1255

To the Honorable Chairman of the House Ag Committee and to the representatives of the house. DRC would like to ask the following questions regarding this bill.

1. Why exactly are we changing the definition of Milk in North Dakota? It would seem that it wants to broaden the definition of Milk beyond that of just cows which we have no problem with. Some of our members milk goats and we applaud the inclusiveness but we wonder what purpose water buffalo, yak, horse, and donkey milk has in being defined in this bill?
2. Why is the language of "raw, cooled, pasteurized, homogenized, recombined, or concentrated, provided the secretion meets applicable grade A requirements" removed? Will this lower the bar of what can be labeled as milk?

In the language of this bill there is no clear requirement for labeling exactly what animal your milk is coming from and no clear requirement to label what treatment was given to the Milk. Currently, Milk is defined as from a cow so we can be reasonably sure that anything labeled Milk in our supermarkets is from a cow. With this change, anything labeled Milk could be from a cow, a donkey, a reindeer, or for all we know a combination of milks mixed together from many animals. We would humbly suggest that an amendment be added that all milk in North Dakota be labeled properly with the animal it was obtained from so consumers can make responsible decisions regarding their milk purchases.

Possible Language to consider

14. "Labeling" means any display of written, printed, or graphic matter upon the immediate container of any article

10. Labeling All milk products should be clearly labeled which animal or animals the milk was obtained from and specify if the product is raw, cooled, pasteurized, homogenized, recombined, or concentrated, provided the secretion meets applicable grade A requirements.