

HB1244 Raw milk direct sales

Representative Marvin E. Nelson, District 9

House Agriculture Committee, Representative Dennis Johnson, Chairman.

HB1244 makes direct sales of raw milk and raw milk products legal.

It sets up a license simply to have it so in the case of a disease outbreak, the sales can be stopped until the situation is fixed.

The idea was to make this all very simple. But I have had some feedback that since the bill doesn't set out a lot of criteria that some people are concerned, they will have to make Grade A standards and be inspected all the time and so on. That is not the intention. The consumer is given the right to inspect with certain sanitary precautions some producers may require.

The Dept. can check for disease, it is not the intention to have a big inspection program but I felt it was necessary to have it where the department could come in and if there was a disease situation could stop sales temporarily.

One potential difficulty is with the administrative rules, there of course aren't any currently covering this and so people are reading and thinking those are what they must do. So we may need to put something additional into the bill to make it clear. If there needs to be a delay in implementation to give time for rules, that would be understandable.

I should note too that the idea is not to limit direct milk sales to only the very small producer. If someone wants to buy a pail of milk from an existing farm with however many cows, that should be legal. Grade A, Grade B, Grade whatever, if direct sale it should be allowed.

I find a lot of the interest in in goat milk and goat milk products like some of the cheeses. Maybe this can be a stepping stone for the growth of an industry here.