

I am in opposition of this bill. We (husband and I) run a small farm outside of Streeter ND, I grew up around livestock, spent many years working on a small dairy farm that shipped their milk bulk. That small dairy also was selling herdshares, but they were not Grade A. The cows were milked by the owner, or myself as an occasional relief milker. Now, my husband and I do herdshares for both goat and cow.

People do not like that they have to do paperwork, buy into the herd for each share (a share is approximately a gallon), and pay a weekly fee to receive their share of the milk. Many people walk away once you explain the legalities of raw milk to them, its easier to go to the store and buy the amount of milk they want vs having to pay multiple share buy ins to own part of the cow/goat/herd. I would love to support this bill, but as it is written, I do not support it. By opening up Grade A dairies to sell raw milk by the gallon with no contracts, herd buy ins, no hassle for the buyer, this has the potential to ruin the small producers that have successfully and safely been doing herdshares.

The need for accessible raw dairy is very real, but these Grade A dairies can already supply via herdshare (10% of their production, which is very likely more then the small producers even come close to producing)

I had emailed Representative Holle and discussed why I was against the bill as is. Then he called and stated the same info that we already talked about.

He could not tell me why the Grade A dairy cannot do the same thing as I have to do, herdshares. They can (only 10% of their production, but he also couldn't tell me what the average grade a dairy produces in ND, it's a lot more even at 10% then the little guys produce in whole).

He could not tell me what would happen to my (and other small herdshare suppliers) when they could go buy unlimited amount of gallons, have no contract to fill out and no buy in herd fee. To get multiple gallons legally in a herdshare, you have to buy that many shares. People don't like that at all, what happens to the little share providers if this bill were to pass as is?

He could not tell me how many cows in a grade a facility are tested for everything under the sun like most small herdshare producers do. (Not all,

but most test for many diseases and they test their milk for bacteria and quality)

He could tell me how the Grade A dairy is safer because they follow standards (most small producers are taking more precautions and following better standards, raw milk standards, not standards designed for pasteurized milk).

He could tell me that there is a need for raw milk sales (there absolutely is).

He could tell me that it's a great first step in the door (it's a great step for big dairy to take away from small dairy).

I can tell you, I would never ever drink raw milk from a bulk tank of any Grade A dairy. Pasteurized, absolutely, we bought a lot of milk from Bessy Best before they closed their doors.

MN allows on farm sales direct to the customer, MT allows that and selling of raw dairy at Farmers Markets. Many other states allow on farm raw milk sales. Not just for Grade A dairy, but for little producers.

I would hope that with the right bill, including all producers, that we would be able to sell raw milk directly off the farm to others, but until then, I invite the Grade A dairies to do the same as everyone else and offer herdshares to customers, At least with a herdshare, you know who is getting raw dairy, you know their name and they know yours. They know the names of their cow/ goat, and the health of that animal as they can come see them at any time.

Tiffany Rangeloff
Serenity Hill Ranch
Streeter ND