

Why Is Raw Milk So Good?

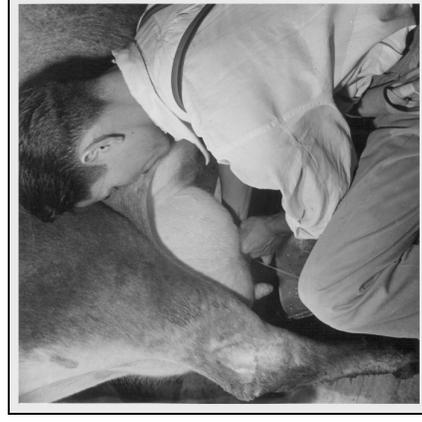
Raw milk is the ultimate whole food. It contains many nutrients essential to human health, and comes complete with companion enzymes and amino acids necessary for the human body to make use of those nutrients.

Raw milk contains:

- High levels of **calcium** and other **minerals**, and the **enzymes** necessary to metabolize these minerals. Those enzymes are destroyed in the pasteurization process.
- An abundance of **beneficial bacteria** that can rebalance a digestive system unable to process many foods, and can restore the immune system. These good bacteria help produce and assimilate vitamins and minerals, fight off illnesses and regulate bodily processes. Pasteurization destroys all bacteria in milk.
- Water- and fat-soluble vitamins, two-thirds or more of which are destroyed during pasteurization. **Vitamins B6 and B12** are almost entirely destroyed during pasteurization. More than 50% of milk's **Vitamin C** value is lost to pasteurization as well. Milk from grass-fed cows is higher in **Vitamins A and D** and has more **omega-3 fatty acids** ("the good fats") and **conjugated linoleic acid (CLA)**.
- A level of **fat necessary for the body to absorb milk's calcium and protein**. Pasteurized reduced-fat or skim milk is an ineffective source of calcium.

- The enzymes **phosphatase**, essential for the absorption of calcium; **lipase**, which aids in the digestion of fats; and **lactase**, which helps with the digestion of lactose. Pasteurization, however, destroys all three of these enzymes.

- **Amino acids**, essential to the body's ability to repair tissue, metabolize protein and generate energy. Pasteurization renders these acids useless.



Economic Benefits of Raw Milk

In 1950, Massachusetts had nearly 5,000 dairy farms. In 2008, there are fewer than 180 remaining. The main cause for this tragedy is economic. Rising fuel and feed costs in the Northeast mean local dairies cannot compete with large, industrialized confinement dairies operating in the Midwest and Canada. Fresh raw milk, however, sells at the farm for \$6 to \$10 per gallon—3 to 4 times what bottlers pay.

When consumers buy milk directly from the farmer they are helping to preserve their community by paying a fair price. That way the farmer can cover costs and afford to support a family.

Environmental Benefits of Raw Milk

Farms selling raw milk and receiving a retail price are more sustainable, meaning long-term preservation of open space and the use of management practices that are beneficial to the environment.

Cows are healthiest when they are able to be outdoors, grazing on pasture. In turn, they fertilize the soil and experience fewer animal health problems. When cows graze on pasture, less energy is needed to mow, bale and move hay, reducing fossil fuel use and cutting the carbon impact of producing a valuable food.

Massachusetts has many small grass-based dairies that are able to foster long-term sustainable farming practices, protecting the environment and the preservation of the rural and agricultural character of Massachusetts.

Practical Benefits of Raw Milk

Raw milk is extremely versatile. The milk and cream can be separated and the cream can be used to make butter, buttermilk, cream, ice cream and sour cream. The milk can be consumed directly or used to make kefir, yogurt and cheeses.

The freshness and purity of farm fresh milk leads to very little waste. Milk purchased fresh from the farm will keep up to two weeks when refrigerated. If it sours, the milk—unlike pasteurized milk, which goes bad—is still healthy and can be used for baking, biscuits, pancakes, etc.

History of Milk

People around the world have milked animals (cows, sheep, goats, camels, etc.) for thousands of years—consuming the raw milk directly and preserving it in the form of dairy products.

Pasteurized milk (heated to over 160 °F) is a relatively new product. Pasteurization came about less than a century ago, as a reaction to milk produced in urban dairies from cows kept in confinement and fed industrial waste—largely from distilleries.

Contamination of such milk was controlled by heating it (“pasteurizing” it) to kill all bacteria, both the good and the bad.

Eventually the urban dairies disappeared, but pasteurization remained. Now a growing number of people are learning that fresh milk from nearby dairy farms—where cows still graze outside and are managed using organic and sustainable practices—does not need pasteurization. It tastes better, is more beneficial to human health and the health of the environment, and directly supports local farmers and communities.

In Massachusetts there are more than 20 farms that pass rigorous inspections and are certified to sell raw milk from their farm stores. Visit one of these farms to learn more about this vital and healthy product.

Where to find Raw Milk

Alford • Milk House Jersey & Swiss • 413-528-5333
Ashfield • Sidehill Farm • 413-625-0011
Ashley Falls • Twin Rivers Farm • 413-229-7932
Charlestown • Farmstead at Mine Brook • 413-339-8500
Chilmark • Mermaid Farm & Dairy • 508-939-1040
Colrain • Hager Brothers • 413-624-3993
Dartmouth • Paskamansett Farms • 508-990-7859
Foxboro • Oake Knoll Ayrshires • 774-219-6257
Gill • Upinngil • 413-863-2297
Great Barrington • North Plain Farm • 413-429-6598
Greenfield • Bostrom Farm • 413-772-3732
Hadley • Cook Farm • 413-584-2224
Hardwick • Misty Brook Farm • 413-477-8234
Hardwick • Robinson Farm • 413-477-6988
Leyden • Bree-Z-Knoll Farm • 413-774-3038
Mendon • PWH Farm/Greener Acres • 508-473-9842
Natick • Natick Comm. Org. Farm (goat) • 508-655-2204
Rehoboth • Paul Bettencourt Dairy Farm • 508-252-5464
Shelburne • Davenport Maple Farm • 413-625-2866
W.Bridgewater • Anderson Bros • 508-586-0354
Warren • Rocky Acres Farms • 413-436-5806
Warwick • Chase Hill Farm • 978-544-6327
Westport • Lyons Brook Farm (goat) • 508-636-25552
Williamstown • Cricket Creek Farm • 413-458-5888

Eastern Massachusetts
Just Dairy • a raw milk buying club • www.justdairy.org

For more information about
these farms and raw milk visit
www.nofamass.org

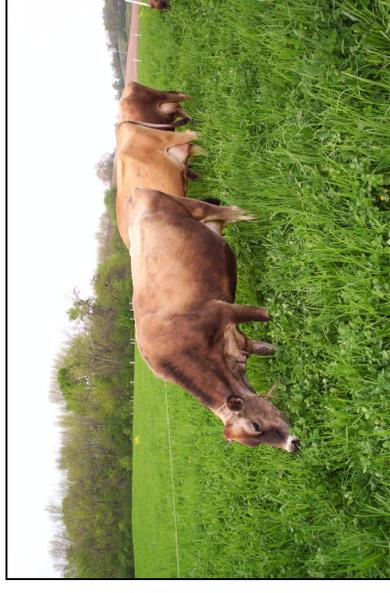
or contact

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NOFA/Mass, 411 Sheldon Rd., Barre, MA 01005

Raw Milk in Massachusetts



**Buying fresh, unpasteurized
milk from a local farm is
good for your family's health,
good for the farm, and
good for the environment.**

**Read inside to find out
more about nature's
most perfect food.**