

Wisconsin News Connection

A statewide news service for Wisconsin

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Are WI Farmers Getting a Raw Deal on Raw Milk?

Madison, WI – Some Wisconsin farmers are hoping the state changes the way it regulates the sale of raw milk from farms directly to consumers, but others are worried about safety. Comments from Scott Trautman of Trautman Family Farm in Oregon, Wisconsin.

Intro: With depressed dairy prices and farmers looking for new ways to sell directly to consumers, some Wisconsin farmers are banking on raw milk as an answer. Currently, farmers in Wisconsin are barred from selling raw or unpasteurized milk to the general public. That could all change if a bill making its way through the Legislature passes. Scott Trautman is a family farmer in Oregon, Wisconsin, who would like to sell raw milk to make his organic farming operation more profitable.

:09 *"I cannot fathom that nature got it wrong, that innately these cows produce a biohazard that only pasteurization can cure."*

Tag: Fans of raw milk tout its health benefits, but those who oppose the bill say the ban should stay in place to protect public health. Currently, about half the states in the nation allow the sale of raw milk.

Second Cut: Trautman expects lawmakers will take up the bill when they're back in Madison in January.

:10 *"Probably in the next session in January, there's going to be hearings on it and then there will be a vote on it, and that will legalize raw milk."*

Third Cut: Trautman went on to say the real issue at play with raw milk sales is personal freedom.

:13 *"A lot of this comes down to the ability to make choices for yourself, and the government desiring to get in the way for whatever reason and say 'nah you're really too stupid to make your own choices about these things.'"*

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: With depressed dairy prices and farmers looking for new ways to sell directly to consumers, some Wisconsin farmers are banking on raw milk as an answer. Glen Gardner reports.

:37 *Outcue...I'm Glen Gardner reporting.*

Note to Editors: Trautman is at 608-516-7447.