

Raw Milk Sales and Distribution

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Issue

Describe the ways in which raw milk may be sold or distributed in Connecticut.

Summary

Connecticut law allows raw milk to be sold, distributed, or offered for barter, exchange, or sale in Connecticut if it is from a dairy farm registered as a “milk producer” or “retail raw milk producer” with the state agriculture department ([CGS § 22-129\(b\)](#)). The farm may also need to have a milk dealer license from the public health board of the municipality where it is located ([CGS § 22-167](#)).

Raw milk must be sold in its unprocessed state, with no ingredients added or removed ([CGS § 22-173a\(c\)](#)). There are specific regulatory requirements for raw milk producers concerning such things as cooling and storing the milk, quality standards, milk sampling, labeling, and cleaning and sanitization ([Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 22-133-124 to -127, -129 to -130, and -132](#)).

Raw milk may also be (1) produced for personal consumption or for use by immediate family members or (2) transferred or exchanged between people who are parties to the same shared animal ownership agreement. A shared animal ownership agreement, often referred to as a “herd share,” is a contract in which someone (1) obtains an ownership interest in a milk-producing animal, (2) agrees to pay or reimburse someone else or otherwise accept financial responsibility for the animal’s board, and (3) receives a share of the animal’s raw milk ([CGS § 22-129\(c\)](#)).

The law allows the agriculture commissioner to issue orders seeking compliance with the requirements. Violating the commissioner’s order is, for a first violation, an infraction. A subsequent

violation committed within one year of a prior violation is a class A misdemeanor subject to a fine of up to \$2,000, up to one year in jail, or both ([CGS § 22-129\(e\)](#)).

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