

### **Small Herd Exemption (IDAPA 02.04.13 Rules Governing Raw Milk):**

Small herd (no more than 3 lactating cows or 7 lactating goats, or 7 lactating sheep (wanting to legally sell or provide raw milk for human consumption for other than immediate household or non paying guests) may do so if the following criteria is met:

1. Facility and responsible party (small herd) are issued a Small Herd Permit from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA).
  - a. Completely fill out registration form. (*see registration form*)
  - b. Provide current copy of Tuberculosis testing results on all animals used in the small herd raw milk program (All animals must be tested **annually** by a licensed Veterinarian and documentation of testing results provided to ISDA).
  - c. ISDA will conduct a Brucellosis Ring Test (BRT) at least semi annually on Raw Milk samples collected from the monthly milk quality collection for cow milk.
  - d. BRT tests on goat and sheep milk are not official, therefore goats and sheep must have blood collected **annually** by a licensed Veterinarian for Brucellosis testing in an official lab and documentation of testing results provided to ISDA.
  - e. Provide individual animal identification for animals participating in the program, such as ear tags, or tattoos.
  - f. All female bovine dairy animals must be brucellosis vaccinated between four (4) months and twelve (12) months of age.
  - g. If your bovine is over (12) twelve months of age and is not vaccinated for Brucellosis, your veterinarian must draw a blood sample. If test results are negative, the animal can be adult vaccinated through a permit issued by the state veterinarian, if the animal originated in Idaho.

### **Milk /Drug Testing Criteria:**

1. ISDA will test raw milk a minimum of four (4) times (in separate months) in any consecutive six (6) month period for SPC (PAC), SCC, Coliform, Drugs, and Temperature.

2. ISDA will test raw milk products a minimum of four (4) times (in separate months) in any consecutive six (6) month period for drugs, Coliform, and SPC (PAC) if the product is not a cultured dairy product.
3. See Table below:

	Standard Plate Count	Coliform	Somatic Cell	Drugs	Temp
cows	15,000 mg/l	25	500,000	neg	40°
goats	15,000 mg/l	25	750,000	neg	40°
sheep	15,000 mg/l	25	750,000	neg	40°
Finished product (all animals)	15,000	25	n/a	neg.	n/a

4. Whenever three (3) out of the last five (5) tests exceed SPC, SCC, Coliform, temperature, or tests positive for drugs the milk cannot be used for human consumption outside the immediate household.

**Other Requirements:**

1. Raw milk or raw milk products cannot be sold to restaurants or other establishments where a consumer may not know the milk is from a raw milk source.
2. Must have ISDA label approval if sales take place at locations other than the point of production.

**Label Requirements:**

Labels for off-site sales of raw milk must include the following information:

- ✦ The words “unpasteurized” and “raw” must precede the product name, for example, “unpasteurized raw goat milk”.
- ✦ It must list the species if other than cow. (goat milk, goat cheese, etc).
- ✦ The volume of the product must be included on the label, (or container), for example, ½ gallon.  
You may want to consider using volume rather than weight, (pint, quart etc.) for some products or ounces for other products.
- ✦ Contact information for the owner of the small herd exemption must be on the label. Contact information consists of name and phone number or address.

- If selling a finished product, (that has more than one ingredient other than milk), cheese for example, producer must include a list of ingredients in order of predominance.
- Producers must submit a copy of their label for review and approval to the Dairy Bureau, Idaho State Department of Agriculture via fax (208-334-4062), email ([Martha.walbey@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:Martha.walbey@agri.idaho.gov)), or regular post (P.O. Box 790 Boise ID 83701).
- ISDA recommends, but does not require, the producer includes their ISDA permit number on their labels, which can be used in lieu of name & address.
- Please contact the Dairy Bureau at 208-332-8550 regarding any questions on raw milk labeling.