



Common Standards

Mission

The mission of the Raw Milk Institute (RAWMI) is to improve the safety and quality of raw milk and raw milk products through training and mentoring farmers; educating consumers; establishing international raw milk guidelines; improving consumer access and producer transparency; and investment in raw milk research.

There are three fundamental components to the Raw Milk Institute farmer mentoring program:

- **Common Standards** that all *LISTED* farmers follow
- **Risk Analysis and Management Plan (RAMP)**, food safety program specific and appropriate to farm size, breed, and type of production
- **Training and Education**

The following Common Standards are guidelines for the production of raw milk. All farmers *LISTED* with Raw Milk Institute make every possible effort to achieve these Common Standards with transparency and integrity.

Common Standards for RAWMI LISTED Raw Milk Farmers:

1. Have a Risk Analysis and Management Plan (RAMP) for raw milk production
2. Test for coliform bacteria at least monthly
 - a. Testing frequency will depend on each farmer's individual RAMP
 - b. Target: a rolling three-month average of less than 10 coliforms per ml raw milk
3. Test for Standard Plate Count (SPC)* at least monthly
 - a. Testing frequency will depend on each farmer's individual RAMP
 - b. Target: a rolling three-month average of less than 5,000 per ml raw milk
4. Raw Milk shall not contain pathogens including the following 4 main pathogens for raw milk: *Salmonella spp.*, *E. coli* O157:H7, *Campylobacter spp.*, and *Listeria monocytogenes*.
 - a. Pathogen testing and testing frequency will depend on each farmer's individual RAMP
 - b. Small farms and farms who do not have access to pathogen testing labs may rely on coliform and SPC testing as a general indicator of milk hygiene and safety
5. Sell raw milk that meets the standards as intended for direct human consumption that is only from their own farm
 - a. Commingling of raw milk from other dairies is not permitted
6. Provide documentation and assurance that herds are tuberculosis (TB) free and tested one time per year OR meet local TB requirements
7. Provide documentation or assurance that herds are brucellosis free

* Bactoscan or other equivalent testing methods may be substituted for SPC.

The Common Standards are basic guidelines for effective risk reduction practices. Farmers are encouraged to expand on the basic guidelines and include other risks that may be found in their specific set of conditions. RAWMI is available to assist farmers if they choose to expand their programs to address additional risks and risk reduction practices.

RAMP Food Safety Plan (Risk Analysis and Management Plan)

All *LISTED* farmers have a basic food safety plan- a **RAMP**- that assists them in optimizing their production of raw milk. With technical assistance provided by RAWMI, each *LISTED* farmer develops their own specific RAMP with size-appropriate frequency of monitoring, sampling and testing. This comprehensive plan identifies potential risks that are present at the farm. Management practices are set up to reduce, manage, or mitigate those potential risks.

Individual RAMPs include:

Risk assessment and mitigation measures for the following risks

1. Animal introduction onto farm (transportation and trade risks)
 - a. New animal risk introduction and risk mitigation
 - i. Health screening animals for potential health issues, bacterial hazards, etc.
 - ii. Segregating animals introduced into the herd
2. Herd health
 - a. Mastitis prevention and management
 - b. Preventative veterinary program
3. Milk handling and management
 - a. Training of milking team and milking protocols
 - b. Protection and security of raw milk after milking is complete
 - c. Ensuring that milk is rapidly chilled and kept cold
 - d. Cleaning protocols and documentation
4. Environmental management
 - a. Water sources
 - b. Pasture management
 - c. Manure management
 - d. Bedding management
 - e. Wild animals/rodents
 - f. Land and soil issues
 - g. Weather
 - h. Other livestock such as chickens, pigs, etc.
5. Feed sources
 - a. Pasture
 - b. Purchased feed
 - c. Hay and silage
 - d. Water feeder management
6. Human factors
 - a. Health of milking team
 - b. Risk introduction by people
7. Nutritional management of the dairy cow, goat, sheep, or other lactating mammals
8. Management of freshened animals and new offspring
9. Management of bulls

Procedures, protocols, and documentation

10. Testing procedures for indicator bacteria including coliforms and SPC
11. Testing procedures (if utilized in specific RAMP) for potential bacteria including *Salmonella*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Campylobacter* and *E. coli O157:H7*

* Bactoscan or other equivalent testing methods may be substituted for SPC.

12. Checklists that document annual, monthly, weekly and daily management practices
13. Protocols for action steps in the event of substandard results

Additional RAWMI Training and Resources

1. Farm bio-security – how to protect your herd
2. Know your enemy- basic microbiology, bacteria, the good and the bad
3. Preventive herd health medicine
4. Quarterly LISTED farmer meetings to exchange knowledge and aid with troubleshooting
5. Consumer education and outreach
6. Media management and communication skills
7. Recall and critical incident management