



Herdshare Dairy Products

PROVIDING SAMPLES OF RAW MILK AND/OR MILK PRODUCTS MADE BY UNLICENSED HERDSHARES AT THE FARMERS MARKET IS PROHIBITED

A herdshare has multiple members – individuals who exercise joint ownership of several cows.

A herdshare can legally milk their herd and produce dairy products without needing a dairy license from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Food Safety Program. However, none of the milk and/or milk product(s) can be sold or given to the public. To get one's "share" of what was produced, one must become a member first.

Drop-off sites are used for herdshare members to obtain their share of the milk produced. The ODA Food Safety Program has allowed herdshares to use farmer markets and ODA-licensed facilities as drop-off sites for members to pick up their product. This practice of dropping product off for herdshare members is allowed provided that **NO SALE** or **PROMOTION** of **PRODUCT** occurs at these sites. Product promotion includes but is not limited to registering new members, giving product away or providing samples.

A herdshare is not allowed to provide product promotion or samples at any public event.

Samples of milk and milk products are required to meet the dairy regulations if they are to be provided to the public. The Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 624.038 does not exempt samples from the requirements of the dairy regulations (ORS chapter 616 or 621). Providing raw milk and/or milk products produced by a herdshare to the public is **prohibited** for several reasons:

- Raw milk and/or milk products can carry dangerous bacteria such as Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria, Campylobacter, and others that cause foodborne illness. Raw milk and milk products with bacteria can cause serious illness.
- Raw milk produced at an unlicensed herdshare does not undergo quarterly sanitary inspections by the regulatory agency that includes testing milk for bacteria and drug residue.
- Raw milk and/or milk products produced by an unlicensed herdshare are not required to comply with sanitation standards and may have been produced or held "under insanitary conditions whereby it may have become contaminated and rendered diseased, unwholesome or injurious to health."

Find dairy licensing and additional information online:

<https://oda.direct/dairy>