

# Personal Use and Consumption of Milk by Animal Owner: TCA-53-3-119

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**B**eef and dairy producers occasionally sell a partial interest or a share of a live animal to a customer/consumer. The sale of a live beef or dairy animal that does not involve harvesting or processing of the animal does not require a permit from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Live animal sales include the sale of a portion or a share of a live animal. It should be noted that there are licensing and bonding requirements for livestock dealers, and there are beef checkoff regulations for live animal sales.

Beef and dairy producers that sell live animals are encouraged to use a written bill of sale to document the sale of live animals and to use a written agreement

to document the specific terms when a portion or a share of an animal is sold. At the time of publication, no permit, license or registration is required in the state for the sale of animal shares.



The following is the exact wording involving the use of milk by the owner of an animal or the owner of a portion or share of an animal that appears in the Tennessee Code Annotated; Title 53, Food, Drugs and Cosmetics; Chapter 3, Dairy Law of the State of Tennessee; Part 1, General Provisions.

*53-3-119 --- Use of milk from hooved mammal for owner's personal consumption or use. Nothing in this part or any other law shall be construed as prohibiting the independent or partial owner of any hooved mammal from using the milk from the animal for the owner's personal consumption or other personal use.*

It is well documented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that raw milk can carry strains of bacteria that cause disease, including Salmonella, E. coli O157:H7, Campylobacter and Listeria. In susceptible populations, such as the elderly, very young and immunocompromised individuals, exposure to these harmful bacteria can have serious health impacts. Occasionally, even people that are not

part of these susceptible populations can fall ill. Symptoms of foodborne illness include bloody diarrhea, Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, reactive arthritis, miscarriage or death. Individuals engaging in the consumption of raw milk are encouraged to learn more about these food safety risks so they can make informed decisions.



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