

# STARTING A DAIRY FARM: GRADE A OR MANUFACTURED?

*This is a quick overview of state requirements and considerations in starting a dairy operation. This is not all inclusive. Please refer to the listed regulations for complete details; available online at: [www.in.gov/boah](http://www.in.gov/boah)*

## What type of dairy farm will you have?

- What type and number of animals will be milked?
- Will it be cows, goats, sheep, or other dairy animals?
- Grade A or Manufactured?
  - Grade A milk is used for pasteurized fluid milk products.
    - Will require a bulk tank or silo for storage, or may be removed from the farm through direct loading.
  - Manufactured Grade milk is used for pasteurization for products such as cheese.
    - Can be stored in milk cans or a bulk tank.
- The milk can be sold from the farm to either a marketing association or directly to a licensed processing facility.
- Make sure a milk hauler/route is available in your area.
- If you intend to process your milk for dairy products you will need to obtain a permit for processing milk and milk products. (SF 36560)

## Basic Requirements

### Permits and Applications

- Submit an application for Permit to Sell Raw Milk for Pasteurization to BOAH for approval. (SF 38018)
  - Submit an Application to Install or Modify a Milking System, along with blueprints or drawings of the proposed facility and equipment. (SF 54101)
  - Register your farm with BOAH premises identification.
  - Check with your local county health department for any permits or requirements they may have for water and wastes disposal.
  - Have a satisfactory water sample (collected by BOAH).
- Health papers and testing requirements should be met before any livestock are brought onto the site.
- Review Indiana Department of Environmental Management requirements regarding manure handling. ([www.in.gov/idem](http://www.in.gov/idem))

## Routine Inspection and Testing

- BOAH will conduct routine inspections of your facility.
- Your marketing association or receiving plant will be required to submit test results of your raw milk supply on bacteria, temperature, somatic cell count and drug residues routinely.
- Well water supplies are tested at least every 3 years and after any changes are made to the water supply.

## Facility

- A milk house used only for milking operations is required.
  - Smooth, impervious, easily cleanable light-colored walls and floors
  - Doors and windows that are tight-sealing
  - Self-closing doors
  - Adequate ventilation and lighting



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DA-x 6-2018

- Appropriate cleaning system for equipment
- Hose port if using bulk tank
- Adequate milk storage capable of maintaining milk temperature below 45°F (Grade A) and below 60°F (Manufactured Grade)
- Hand sink, soap & towels
- Two-compartment wash vats
- Floor drains, trapped
- Adequate hot water
- Proper drug storage; drugs for lactating and non-lactating separated, with approved labeling
- Approved water supply and construction
- Restroom, if applicable
- Separation from horses, calves, bulls, etc.

## General Requirements

- Permit approval by BOAH must be complete before any milk can be sold and all inspection items noted must be corrected.
- Requirements are the same for all dairy animals, except for the somatic cell count requirement and milk collection time requirement.
- Bulk tank/silos must have automatic start-up agitation.
- Milk and samples must be collected by a BOAH-licensed bulk hauler/sampler.
- Those who store milk in cans must have milk picked up by a BOAH-licensed can route owner.
- Direct-load farms must have approved in-line sampling equipment and samplers.
- Raw milk cannot be sold to the consumer; it must be sold for processing to a licensed facility or marketing association.

## Regulations

Links to these documents can be found on the BOAH web site at: [www.boah.in.gov](http://www.boah.in.gov). Click on “Dairy Inspection”, then “Resources for Dairy Farmers.”

- 345 IAC 8 Indiana Administrative Code
- IC 15-18 Indiana Code
- IC 16-42 Indiana Code
- PMO-2017 Revision - Pasteurized Milk Ordinance

## Resources for Information

- Many dairy industry people are willing to answer questions about starting a dairy farm
- Indiana Professional Dairy Producers can provide advice from dairy producers who have farms, [www.indianadairy.org](http://www.indianadairy.org)
- BOAH Dairy Division Staff can give information about rules and regulations
- The BOAH web site [www.in.gov/boah](http://www.in.gov/boah) provides written copies of state guidelines
- Purdue Dairy Extension, [www.ag.purdue.edu/ansc](http://www.ag.purdue.edu/ansc)
- Dairy marketing associations in Indiana