

NO MILK THIS WEEKEND – FEBRUARY 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th, 2012

We are not releasing milk this weekend. There will be no milk pick-up and no milk delivery.

Our preliminary test from the lab came back with a presumptive positive for E. coli 0157 this week (this means E. coli bacterial DNA was in the milk sample).

We went through our usual protocol and retested the sample and ran tests on more samples from the tank.

The second set of samples came back negative – indicating that the milk is clean and there was no E. coli in the milk sample. (For those of you interested: the test uses a large volume 25 ml of milk pre-incubated overnight with E. coli growth media before they run the PCR, so the lab states that it has excellent sensitivity).

What does this mean? – most likely the sample itself was contaminated when it was gathered.

How could this happen? - This could happen by E. coli being present in the area of where the sample was taken – we do have vehicles from other farms that come on to our property – either conventional farms or organic farms that use conventional manure, or the person who took the sample had contact with some of the bacteria and inadvertently inoculated our sample. Also, we just started milking goats and although they have been fed only greens on our property for over two years, they came from a grainfed background. Despite multiple generations of grassfeeding now under our belt, we cannot guarantee that the acid resistant E. coli is completely eliminated, so we run tests on every batch. This is the reason we test weekly instead of the single monthly test common at other dairies.

The other possibility is that the friendly lactobacillus bacteria that is naturally present in our milk killed off the rude E. coli bacteria intruders. Many studies on raw milk from 100% grass fed cows have shown that the good bacteria naturally present in grass fed raw milk does kill off the pathogenic bacteria. (We think this is very cool and helps to explain why very few people got sick off of milk before industrial dairy practices came into being, and another great reason to be 100% grass fed).

Why are we not releasing milk if the final test came back as clean and free from E. coli? One bacterium of E.coli 0157 is potentially enough to cause very serious disease. We are not willing to risk one sick person.

What can I do to help?

Please come out to our markets in Denver & Boulder, and at the Farm to buy cheese, meat and eggs! We need your support! We are doing this for your safety.

What about the milk I missed this week?

You will not be charged credits from this week – so we are taking the loss on this weeks'

milk instead of you. We will not automatically deliver extra milk for you next week, but if you order in your account before Wednesday at noon of next week, we can deliver extra for you. You may also order cheese to make up for your missed milk. <http://csa.farmigo.com/account/windsordairy>