

“Preliminary for Comment” 2/12/2010

Ohio Grass Grazed Symbol



We propose that a symbol be established to verify that livestock food products including meat, eggs, and milk were produced on Ohio grass pasture grazing farms.

We believe that the most fundamental differentiation in livestock food products is whether those animals were confined or grazed.

We believe that the commodity confinement livestock producers have an interest in reducing or eliminating the consumers' ability to make that differentiation.

The standard for this proposed symbol is that the farms producing the livestock are grass pasture grazing operations. This includes:

- All livestock is on pasture to the extent practical.
- The farm is committed to grass pasture grazing as its fundamental method of producing livestock.
- Total annual caloric intake of concentrated grain-based feed is less than 50% for ruminant animals including cows, goats & sheep.
- Total annual caloric intake of grass, and conserved grass such as hay and haylage is over 50% for ruminant (etc.)

The other fundamental requirement is that the methods of production must be documented and transparent; available to the public. See Appendix A for an example list of method details to be considered.

We suggest that the symbol and standard be established first for ruminant animals only, understanding it is our intent to expand the standard for all livestock foods. Including:

- Cows, goats, and sheep
- Milk of cows, goats, and sheep
- Pigs
- Chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese
- Eggs of chickens, ducks and geese

Science Based and Curiosity Driven- We believe the focus on lowest cost commodity food production has meant there is not a focus on producing more nutritious food. As methods are developed to increase production volume, there is no testing to assure the nutritional content is not compromised. This is ever more important as we learn more about human nutrition. We now understand that there are trace minerals, negligible flavonoids and variations of fatty acids, proteins, and starches which have varying effects on most or some humans.

Research Funding- All symbol holders will remit on a monthly basis 0.1% of their gross sales of products bearing the Pastured Ohio symbol for scientific study and research to investigate the methods of food production which result in the most nutritious food.

Continuous Improvement- Just as commodity lowest cost agriculture is always looking for ways to increase the volume or reduce costs, progressive grass pasture grazing farmers are always looking for ways to improve the health of their animals and the nutritional content of the food produced.

Continuing Education- Every symbol holder must verify that at least one member of each symbol holder farm has attended at least one day of conference or meeting regarding progressive livestock agriculture each year.

Community Involvement- Each farm contributes to its community. At least once per calendar year each symbol holder will sponsor a community event, charity, educational gathering, celebration or other activity. This will confirm the local farm's commitment to and involvement in the community.

We welcome your input.
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Milk the Way It Used to Be.
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Appendix A
Example List of Method Details

	Type	Frequency	History
Fertilizer			
Pesticides			
Herbicides			
Antibiotics			
Hormones			
Nutritional			
Supplements			
Grass			
Conserved Grass			
Concentrated Feed			
Breeding			
Birthing			
Rearing Young			
Grazing Methods			
Harvesting			
Slaughter			
# Animals			
# Acres			
# Farmers			
Age of Animals @			
Retirement (milk & eggs)			
Average Age of herd at slaughter			

◀ OPEN



2% REDUCED FAT MILK
38% LESS FAT THAN WHOLE MILK
Not Homogenized Shake Before Enjoying

We are pleased to explain that our milk cartons are the first food packages to bear the Ohio Grass Grazed symbol. This symbol is available to producers and processors of pasture grass grazed livestock. The symbol is your assurance that this livestock food product is produced on a farm committed to grass pasture grazing as its fundamental method. The specifics of the production methods are documented and transparent. More detailed information is available at www.snowvillecreamery.com

Sustainable Dairy Farming
We are committed to meeting your expectations. We only source milk from our neighboring dairy farmers who use sustainable pasture-grazing methods. This includes managing the herd without the use of artificial growth hormones and tending pasture without the use of pesticides and herbicides. After all, healthy soil is the foundation for healthy grass which results in healthy cows producing healthy milk.

Farm To Table Freshness
Our milk is usually in your local grocery store within two days of packaging. The "use by" branded on our cartons is 14 days from the time of packaging, but don't be surprised if it lasts as long as 20 days. Because our milk is not homogenized, the cream naturally rises to the top. You may notice small lumps of sweet cream in your milk. Simply shake the carton and enjoy! To ensure freshness, our milk is removed from store shelves well before the "use by" date and donated to local food pantries.

Cows Not Supplemented With rbST
Some farms supplement with rbST to increase production. We choose not to, following Nature's way without pushing for higher production. According to the FDA, no significant difference has been shown between milk derived from cows supplemented with rbST and cows not supplemented with rbST.

