

To Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

I am writing you based on the 12-day dairy rule in our state. After doing some research the rule seems to be a bad deal for all Montana Milk consumers. There is no information on the milk container for Montana Consumers to tell how long the milk is good for. I have always thought that was expiration date. I was not happy when I found out different. I cannot find any information on how long after the sell by date the milk will last. That doesn't make sense does it? Why not give consumers good information. I have heard 3 days from a web site, but was not from the state of Montana. I did find the report from Harvard that you better read (the link below). It stats that 91% of consumers use sell by dates as a expiration date and is the biggest cause of waist in America. I can't believe Montana is one of the biggest offenders of this rule. The Montana sell by date is for the retailers. Montana stores are dumping good milk down the drain; again this doesn't make sense to me. Every store I have talked to says the 12 day rule does keep the price of milk up. They feel that Dairygold and Meadow gold are making all the money on this rule. It seems that the 12 day rule is hurting small grocery stores which are mostly owned by Montana families. Who is the 12 day rule protecting? Please just tell me an expiration date like all other products in my fridge.

I have two questions I want answered. Are you going to support two out of state companies in Dairygold and Meadow gold or are you going to fight for all Montana Families? It is a black and white question.

Why is the Meadow gold plant putting a longer date on milk shipping it to Idaho and selling it to them cheaper than our own local Montana stores?

http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/2013/09/20_hls-flpc-co-authors-report-on-food-waste.html



Daniel Halstead

9685 glacier lily ct

Missoula Mt 59808