



STATE OF VERMONT

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

IF YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DUMP MILK OR ARE ACCEPTING A LOAD OF MILK, HERE ARE SOME FACTORS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

- A manure pit is the best location to dump milk, assuming there is adequate pit capacity and freeboard requirements are maintained. Directly spreading on fields may lead to a very strong, unpleasant smell and should not be done on any field adjacent to a surface water.
- Milk contains nutrients beyond just the fat and protein, and at rates higher than manure. 4,500 gallons of milk can have 200 lbs. of Nitrogen (N), 81 lbs. of P₂O₅ and 67 lbs. of K₂O.
- Keep track of the milk volume you might add to your manure pit, for your nutrient management plan.
- When you start to spread, it would be advisable to take a manure sample at that time, after adequate pit agitation. This is so you have a better idea of what nutrients you are adding to your fields.
- **DO NOT** dump the milk into a septic system or a Vegetated Treatment Area (VTA). Milk has a Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) of 140 times that of regular milk house waste or barnyard runoff. Large volumes of milk would overwhelm these systems and will likely cause complete system failure.



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MILK WEIGHT VERIFICATION.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture for allowing discarded milk to be counted toward milk marketings for the Dairy Revenue Production (DRP) or as actual marketings for the Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy (LGM-Dairy) programs. That decision will allow dairy farmers participating in those risk management programs not to lose coverage on any milk that can't be marketed and will be helpful in mitigating some of the catastrophic damage many dairies face due to supply-chain disruption caused by the coronavirus crisis.

For all dairy farmers that do not belong to a cooperative and are considered independent: If you are told to dump milk at the farm (the milk is never loaded on the truck), please take the following steps:

1. Record the date and stick weight.
2. If possible, take a picture of the stick and include a date stamp on the picture.
3. Have another person read the stick weight and sign off to verify that this was completed.
4. Take a sample of the milk and freeze it for component sample if needed in the future.

Beside the importance of these milk weight for the Dairy Revenue Production and Livestock Gross Margin programs, there are requests into USDA Secretary Perdue for possible reimbursement for dumped milk. Taking these measures will help to verify milk weights if this program is adopted.



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If you have any questions concerning milk dumping please do not hesitate to call the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets at 802-828-2430.