

Murdo, Patricia

Subject: FW: milk dating issue

From: **Pam Clevenger** >
Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2014
Subject: milk dating issue
To: "greghertz11@gmail.com" <greghertz11@gmail.com>

3/26/14

Economic Affairs Interim Committee
State of Montana

Dear committee member,

The generally accepted shelf life for milk is now 21-24 days after the date of pasteurization - generally accepted, I should say, about most everywhere in the country except the state of Montana, where every day probably hundreds of gallons of good milk gets tossed out because of an artificially set 12-day pull date on the cartons. When the state of Montana started enforcing this 12-day milk rule, the Good Food Store had to pull from our shelves and discontinue several types of milk from out of state that were in demand from our customers. Now the only out-of-state milk that we can carry is ultra-pasteurized, which many prefer to avoid.

The Good Food Store has a reputation for supporting and promoting our local farmers, ranchers and producers. We don't, however, feel that we need to give them unfair advantages over out-of-state vendors. We balance that support with our support of our customers, who deserve to get the best possible price for the best quality product. There are definitely out-of-state milks that our customers would happily start buying again if we could legally put them on our shelf again. Please reconsider this arbitrary and outdated rule, and bring Montana in line with the rest of the states in our region.

Sincerely,
Pam Clevenger
Grocery Manager, Good Food Store
1600 South 3rd. St. West
Missoula, MT 59801