

CALPHO

Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

Local Public Health Perspective on Raw Milk Regulation and Policies

Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee

July 11, 2024

Speakers

- **Jason Vahling**, Public Health Director, Broomfield Public Health & Environment
- **Kimberly Baker**, Health in All Policies Coordinator, Larimer Department of Health & Environment

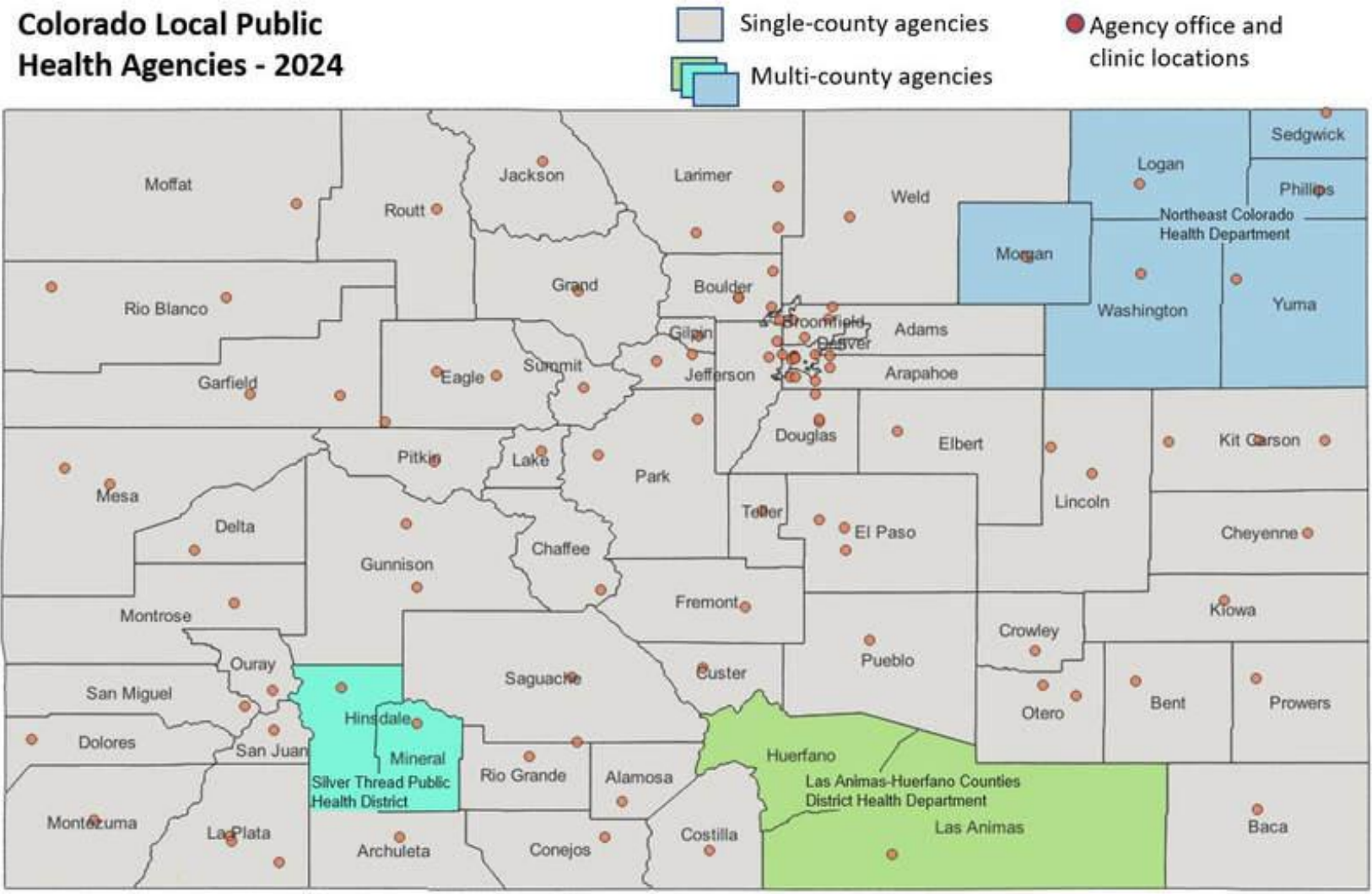
Overview of Remarks

- About CALPHO and our membership
- Key points for opposition to Senate Bill 24-043
- Next steps and continued engagement



ABOUT CALPHO

CALPHO is the professional association representing Colorado's 56 local public health agencies.



CALPHO Mission:

To connect and empower local public health leaders and advocate for a **strong, effective, and sustainable** public health system.

CALPHO's 2024 Policy Priorities

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Prevention

Public Health Workforce

Communicable Diseases

Local Public Health Infrastructure and Funding



OPPOSITION
TO SENATE BILL
24-043

Takeaways From the CDC

- Pasteurization is crucial for milk safety, killing harmful germs that can cause illness
- Consuming raw milk can lead to serious health risks, especially for certain vulnerable populations
- Choosing pasteurized milk and dairy products is the best way to safely enjoy the nutritional benefits of milk

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/foods/raw-milk.html>



The screenshot shows the CDC website's 'Food Safety' section. At the top, the CDC logo and name are visible. Below the 'Food Safety' header, there is a navigation link for 'Food Safety Home'. The main heading is 'Raw Milk'. Below the heading is a photograph of a glass pitcher and a glass of milk on a wooden stump in a grassy field. Underneath the photo, there is a paragraph of text discussing the popularity of less processed foods and the risks of raw milk.

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Food Safety

< Food Safety Home

Raw Milk



Many Americans are choosing to eat foods that are less processed.

Unfortunately, some people are choosing to drink raw milk. Raw milk—and products made from it—can make you and your loved ones sick. Raw milk has not undergone a process called pasteurization that kills disease-causing germs.



Reasons for CALPHO's 2024 Opposition

1. Expanding access to raw milk is most likely to negatively impact children, the elderly, and people who are immunocompromised.
2. This is an avoidable problem with a simple, effective, and longstanding solution.
3. Outbreaks have increased in states with looser sales regulations, and illnesses caused by raw milk are underreported.
4. SB 43 lacked critical mitigating features and guardrails, such as a proactive inspection protocol or robust tracking requirements.
5. More outbreaks linked to raw milk consumption would create yet another unfunded mandate for local public health agencies.
6. Unpasteurized milk is now linked to the spread of avian influenza, or the A(H5N1) virus.

National Organizations Opposing Expanded Access to Raw Milk

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Medical Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Veterinary Medical Association
- Association of Food and Drug Officials
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
- Food and Drug Administration
- International Association for Food Protection
- National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
- U.S. Animal Health Association

Source: National Environmental Health Association 2023 Policy Statement on Raw Milk
<https://www.neha.org/Images/resources/Raw%20Milk%20Policy%20Statement%20July%202028.pdf>

More Resources and Studies

- [CDC: Raw Milk: Know the Raw Facts](#)
- [Foodborne Illness Outbreaks Linked to Unpasteurized Milk and Relationship to Changes in State Laws – United States, 1998–2018](#)
- [FDA: Raw Milk Questions and Answers](#)
- [Patient Story: Julie Riggs](#)
- [Patient Story: Mary McGonigle-Martin](#)
- [Patient Story: Kalee Prue](#)
- [Colorado Sun: Colorado now has the worst outbreak of bird flu among dairy cattle in the country \(July 2, 2024\)](#)

Foodborne illness linked to raw milk in Colorado

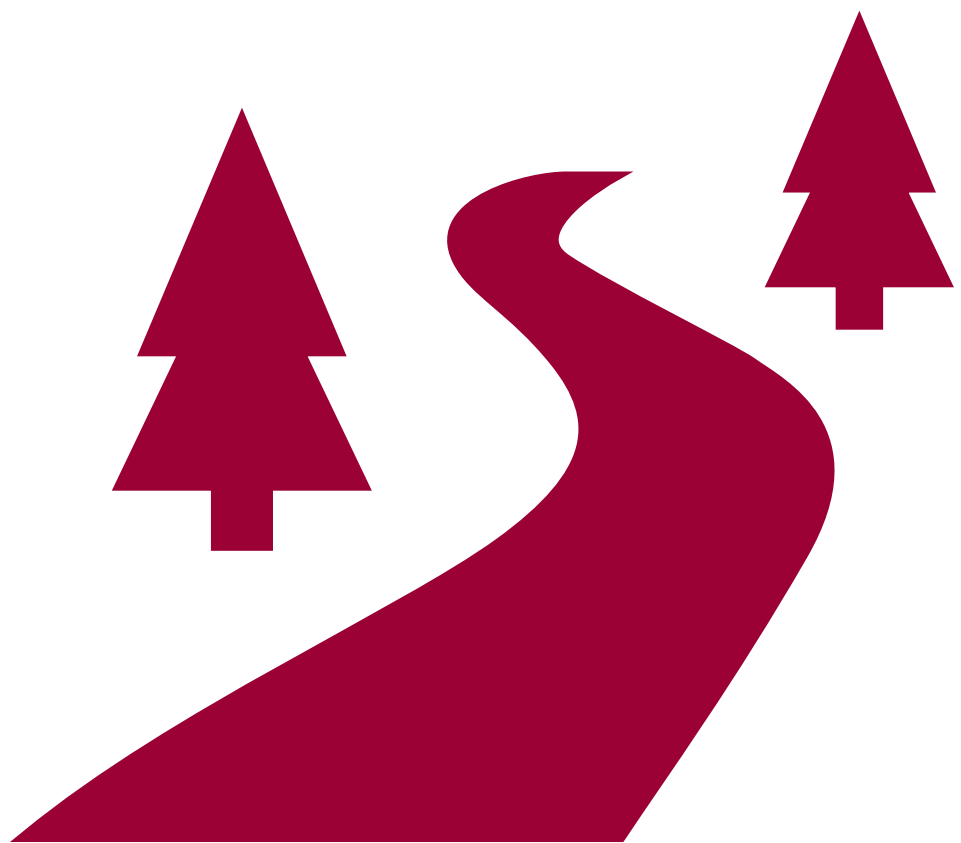
Since 1989, there have been 14 outbreaks that state health officials traced to raw milk. A total of 247 were sickened; there were no deaths.

Year	County	Farm/Location	Number ill	Notes
2022	Delta	Graff Brothers Dairy	6	Milk from this farm is sent off-site for pasteurization. Milk consumed by staff/family members prior to pasteurization
2019	Adams	Ebert Family Farms	3	
2016	Pueblo	Larga Vista Ranch	17	
2013	Fremont	Four Mile Correctional Facility	4	Milk is pasteurized and provided to other Colorado Department of Corrections facilities. Milk consumed prior to pasteurization
2013	Gunnison	Parker Pastures Dairy	34	
2012	Jefferson	Fetchin Farms	3	
2010	Boulder	Billy Goat Dairy	30	
2009	Montrose	Kinikin Dairy	81	
2006	Boulder	Out-of-state farm	5	Farm was in another state. Milk brought to Boulder Co.
2005	Larimer	Taft Hill	22	
2005	Weld	Unknown	5	Additional data not available
1996	Boulder	Raw milk from sports coach	27	Unknown source of milk
1996	Teller	Unknown	10	Additional data not available
1989	Weld	Unknown	Unknown	Additional data not available

Source: [Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment](#)



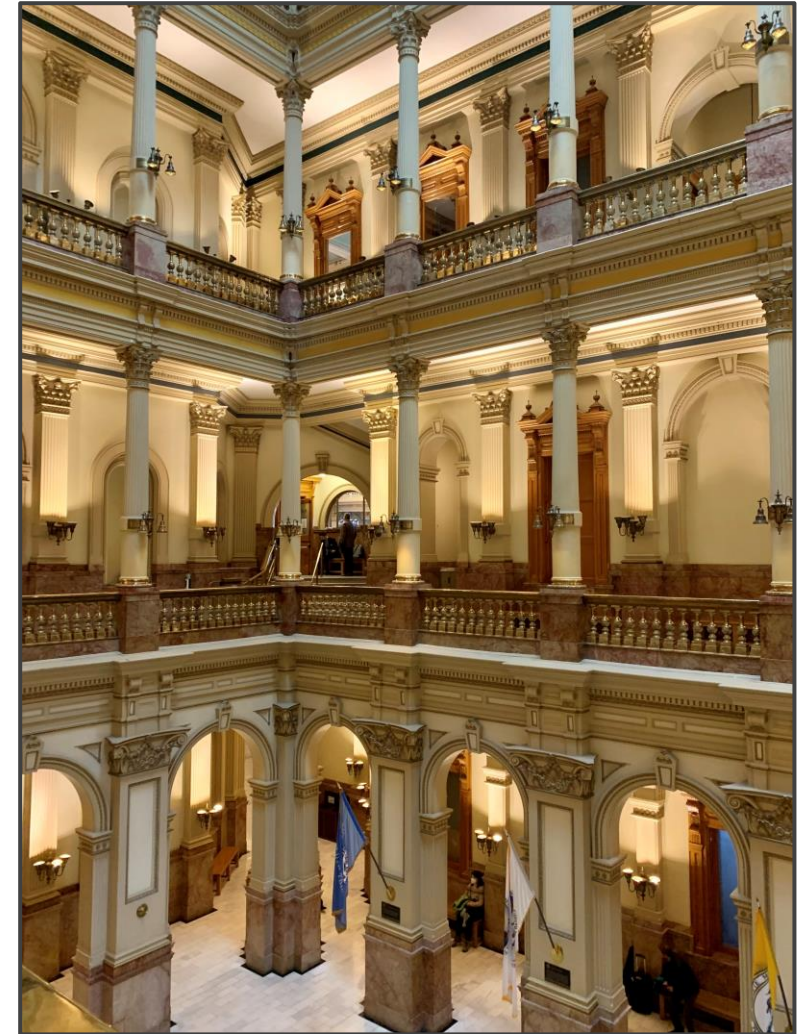
Source: <https://coloradosun.com/2023/09/10/colorado-raw-milk-food-freedom/>



NEXT STEPS

Continued Engagement

- Public health officials are continuing to closely monitor the spread of avian influenza.
- We are in contact with partners in the dairy industry, as well as local and national health experts.
- CALPHO would not take a formal position without reviewing new legislation in detail.
- We are here to support your continued work on this issue and are available to answer questions today and in follow-up conversations.
- Thank you to the Committee and to SB 43's sponsors for your invitation and interest.





Jason Vahling

Broomfield Public Health & Environment

jvahling@broomfield.org

Kimberly Baker

Larimer Department of Health & Environment

kbaker@larimer.org



Discussion & Questions