

ORGANIC DAIRY AND HEALTH

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ORGANIC DAIRY MEANS

- No antibiotics, synthetic growth hormones, GMOs, or pesticides
- The health and natural behavior of animals are prioritized
- All livestock feed must be 100% organically produced
- Cows are pasture-raised and grazed throughout the grazing season
- Organic dairy farmers use holistic, preventive health care practices
- Organic dairy production helps protect the environment

ORGANIC AND FARMWORKER HEALTH

Farmers and farmworkers are a fundamental part of the United States, producing food for our families and providing an economic scaffolding for our country. Unfortunately, the sustained use of synthetic pesticides in conventional farming systems puts this population at serious risk for a wide range of adverse health effects-- a consequence of conventional agriculture that is largely overlooked. Over 1.1 billion pounds of agricultural chemicals are used annually in the United States. Antibiotic resistance has been described as one of the most pressing human health concerns today, and pesticide exposures on conventional farms cause thousands of illnesses every year. A large body of research documents the health risks associated with both short- and long-term exposure to pesticides: cancer, neurodegenerative disorders and poor reproductive health. Even with the best management practices while handling and applying pesticides, farmers and farmworkers are still at risk for exposure. The adoption of organic techniques that avoid the use of toxic, synthetic pesticides provides the surest safeguard against chemical-related occupational health problems.

(Source: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pesticides-industry-sales-and-usage>)

ORGANIC & ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Antibiotics are banned from use in organic dairy production, and with good reason. Using antibiotics can lead to antibiotic-resistant infections in animals that can be passed to humans. Antibiotic resistance has been described as one of the most pressing human health concerns today, and contributes to thousands of deaths each year. While the use of antibiotics in conventional agricultural practices has been implicated as an important contributor to this growing crisis, research also demonstrates that organic farming systems can also be part of the solution because they successfully produce nutritious food without the use of antibiotics.

