

From: Wetzstein, Merv A AL:EX
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2008 9:04 AM
To: Sand, Debra AL:EX
Cc: Nash, Sarah AL:EX
Subject: FW: BC shared cow set ups.

This is the e-mail that is being requested by Mr. Watson. We do not have any information related to the other FOI requests.

Thanks!
Merv

From: Wetzstein, Merv A AL:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2008 12:27 PM
To: Copeland, Larry CDC:IP; XT:HLTH Rice, George

Cc: Wilcott, Lynn CDC:IP
Subject: RE: BC shared cow set ups.

It has been reported to me that cows are being milked across the road from s.22

s.22 This farm is not licenced by the Ministry. It has also been reported to me that individuals are arriving at the farm and leaving with what appears to be glass bottles of milk. The exact address is not know as there is no sign indicating the number of the property. s.22
s.22

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From: Copeland, Larry [<mailto:Larry.Copeland@bccdc.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2008 8:18 AM
To: XT:HLTH Rice, George
Cc: Wilcott, Lynn CDC:IP; Wetzstein, Merv A AL:EX
Subject: RE: BC shared cow set ups.

Thanks George - trust Merv will supply the address. Lynn is there anything that needs to be arranged with JR?

Regards
Larry Copeland, Program Director
Food Protection Services
BC Centre For Disease Control
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-6628
email: larry.copeland@bccdc.ca

From: Rice, George [<mailto:George.Rice@fraserhealth.ca>]
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 9:38 PM
To: Copeland, Larry
Subject: RE: BC shared cow set ups.

We have discussed with our lawyer a/s.14 I have yet to be provided with the details of where this farm and who may be running it. So far I have been told "there is a farm in Chilliwack" no other details as to where it is. Ag was going to get that to me but I have yet to see it. In order to cover our bases, we will require the formal complaint to trigger our investigation.

I am ready to go Wed morning if Lynn has the lab set up confirmed.

Tim Shum has let the other HAs know of the list on Mr Watson's web site.

George Rice C.P.H.I.(C)

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From: Copeland, Larry [<mailto:Larry.Copeland@bccdc.ca>]
Sent: Fri 06/06/2008 8:08 AM
To: Rice, George; [PHSA] Wilcott, Lynn; Merv.Wetzstein@gov.bc.ca
Cc: [PHSA] Shyng, Sion; Shum, Tim
Subject: RE: BC shared cow set ups.

George I appreciate the sentiment but not sure about the picking on part though. If you are aware of potential violations seems to me you have an obligation to at least investigate. In fact strategically might be better to proceed with one and establish the precedent for other situations?

We're happy to meet further - certainly would be good to alert the other HA's where this activity is allegedly occurring.

Regards

Larry Copeland, Program Director
Food Protection Services
BC Centre For Disease Control
Phone: 604-660-5357 Fax: 604-660-6628
email: larry.copeland@bccdc.ca

From: Rice, George [<mailto:George.Rice@fraserhealth.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2008 9:57 PM
To: Wilcott, Lynn; Merv.Wetzstein@gems9.gov.bc.ca
Cc: Copeland, Larry; Shyng, Sion; [FHA] Shum, Tim
Subject: BC shared cow set ups.

Our food practice consultant did some research for me. She found that Chilliwack is not the only place this is happening. Will someone be looking into all of them? I don't want to get into a situation where we are seen as picking on the operator in FHA when others are allowed to run in the province.

Lynn - just a bit of an update. Before we go ahead with legal action we will be consulting with our lawyers as to what steps to take. The "cowshare" issue has raised a lot of debate in FHA.

George,

I did a bit of research on this topic and found the following:
I had some time - so if you haven't already found the following:

Currently there are several farms in BC where shares in cows may be purchased:

1. Home on the Range - Chilliwack
2. Wild Things Organic - Christina Lake
3. Birdsong Farm - Enderby

Mr. Watson states that there are 2 cowshares on Van. Is. - near Duncan and Victoria - but does not provide names.

This is Mr. Watson's site

Legal way to get REAL MILK in BC
<http://www.freewebs.com/bovinity/>

Wild Things Organic - farm in Christina Lake also selling cow shares for raw milk
Q & A explains how the shares are set up.
<http://www.wildthingorganics.com/cowshare.html>

"THE LEGAL:

Strict regulations here in Canada determine the parameters of our herd share agreement. Please note that we are NOT in the business of "selling" raw dairy products, which is forbidden by law. We simply board and maintain the animals for our share members, and as part owners of the animals, you are entitled to a portion of the products that come from them. Your quarterly payments cover feed, maintenance, shelter and care for the animals. The milk, cream, etc. that issue from this relationship are not bought and sold: they are simply a privilege of farm animal ownership. And since most people can't make use of the 5+ gallons a day of milk a Jersey produces, it makes sense to offer shares that enable many individuals to own a percentage of the animal and take the corresponding amount of milk production. The more shares you purchase, the more of the animal you own, and the more milk you are entitled to take home. Since we have the land and facilities, we will board and care for the animals for you."

I found this site advertizing raw milk - attached is info about shares in chilliwack cows.
<http://www.realmilk.com/where-other.html>

Chilliwack: Home on the Range, Yale Road, Chilliwack BC. home_on_the_range@telus.net . Contact: Alice Jersey Cow shares available/Goat shares available. Antibiotic/Hormone Free, Organic, pasture fed. Delivery to depots in Abbotsford, Langley, Vancouver. Organic Eggs also available.

Vancouver: Gordon Watson, Box 63009 RPO Highgate Burnaby British Columbia V5E 4J6, (604) 526-5324. nuncio@canada.com . Cow shares available from a farm in Chilliwack to two depots in Vancouver.

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