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AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS PRESENCE OF BACTERIA IN RAW MILK SOLD BY YORK COUNTY DAIRY

HARRISBURG – The Department of Agriculture is recommending that consumers who have purchased raw milk from Stump Acres Dairy farm in New Salem, York County, discard it immediately due to the risk of *Listeria Monocytogenes* contamination, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff said today.

Test results today confirmed the presence of *Listeria Monocytogenes* in samples taken from the farm.

Raw milk is milk that has not been pasteurized or homogenized. Pennsylvania law allows farms to sell raw milk, but requires they obtain permits and be inspected to reduce health risks associated with the unpasteurized products.

In 2007, the Department of Agriculture revoked Stump Acres' permit after the Department of Health identified several individuals who had become sick after consuming raw milk from the dairy. State inspectors found that the dairy has begun selling raw milk again without a permit.

"Today's lab tests confirm that this specific, harmful strain of *Listeria* was present in the samples purchased at the farm," said Wolff. "If consumers have purchased raw milk from this farm, they should discard it immediately."

Wolff recommended that any products made from the raw milk, including hard or soft cheeses, should also be discarded.

No illnesses have been reported as a result of the potential contamination, but if people who consumed the raw milk become ill, they should consult their physician.

Samples were taken from the farm on June 12, and preliminary tests showed the presence of *Listeria Monocytogenes* on June 20.

Symptoms of Listeriosis are fever, muscle aches, and sometimes gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea or diarrhea. If infection spreads to the nervous system, symptoms such as headache, stiff neck,

confusion, loss of balance or convulsions can occur.

Infected pregnant women may experience only a mild, flu-like illness, but infections during pregnancy can lead to miscarriage or stillbirth.

Symptoms of Listeriosis can appear in four days to three weeks.

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