



Farm-to-Consumer
Legal Defense Fund®

FDA Throws a Bone

John Moody – November 4, 2011

FDA throws Raw Milk Freedom Riders a bone, but what we really want . . . is a roast. The first Farm Food Freedom Coalition event, with participants from diverse groups such as the [Weston A. Price Foundation](#) (WAPF), the [Raw Milk Institute](#) (RAWMI), and more, converged on the FDA headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland on Tuesday, November 1st. Joel Salatin, David Gumpert, and many other food activists came to speak and lend support to this ground breaking effort to end the food totalitarianism foisted upon a mostly unaware American populace by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). [Natural News](#), [Adam Vs. The Man](#), and a number of other alternative media outlets came to record and report on the happenings.

A group of mom's with kids, after legally acquiring real milk in Pennsylvania, drove to Maryland, thus committing a "crime" per the FDA's interpretation of the federal ban on interstate commerce of real milk.

The group was met at the state border by a caravan of folks from multiple states to journey on to the FDA headquarters. These demonstrators were joined by dozens more at the FDA headquarters, where a rally with up to 200 people took place for over three hours and much real milk was shared and enjoyed by the attendees. Speakers included Joel Salatin, author of the newly released book [Folks, This Ain't Normal](#); Canadian biodynamic farmer and activist [Michael Schmidt](#); Sally Fallon Morell, president of WAPF and founder of the [Campaign for Real Milk](#); raw milk activist Max Kane from Wisconsin; Liz Reitzig, one of the rally organizers and co-founder of [FFFC](#); Mark McAfee of [Organic Pastures Dairy Company](#) in California; David Gumpert, journalist and author of the [Raw Milk Revolution](#); and others.

The day held few surprises - lots of hugs, chants, chatting, speeches, and solidarity among those present from dozens of states - other than the rally goers being greeted and surrounded by roughly **thirty** police and homeland security vehicles, with at least that many or more officers.

Good thing no one planned a crime spree in Silver Springs that afternoon, or those real food protestors may have gotten out of control and stormed the building when the police had to go find some petty criminals to deal with... and, by the way, to all you taxpayers, this show of force probably cost you somewhere between twenty and thirty thousand dollars, a smidgen of what the government is burning through terrorizing small farmers, buying clubs, and other various businesses like [Wilderness Family Naturals](#) these days. Good thing the FED keeps those printing presses turning! Reminds one of Rawsome... stop, or the arugula will shoot!

No one from the FDA came out to visit or kick back a glass of white gold, though earlier in the week someone from the FDA's "emergency communications department" contacted Liz Reitzig, one of the main organizers of the event, saying that the FDA "wants to talk." One wonders if they want to have a "parent to child" type of chat, or a real discussion about their ill-conceived, incorrect, and evil actions against small farms and small farm supporters on behalf of big agribusiness, pharmaceutical companies, and vested interests under the façade of food safety and public health.

More interesting was an FDA press release given later in the day of the rally, which you can read in full here, that came to the attention of a small group of us as we decompressed after a long day of travel at the home of one of the organizers. Especially pertinent was [this little statement](#):

"With respect to the *interstate* sale and distribution of raw milk, the FDA has never taken, ***nor does it intend to take, enforcement action against an individual who purchased and transported raw milk across state lines solely for his or her own personal consumption.***" [emphasis mine]



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The leaders in the food freedom movement agreed that this is little more than a bone from the FDA. They still see any group effort to move real milk across state lines as criminal. They still think that they, not you, have the right to determine what you may and may not choose to eat.

So, what happens next? We'll see who makes the next move: [Raw Milk Freedom Riders](#) or FDA.

Edited version of article originally posted as "FDA throws Raw Milk Freedom Riders a bone, but what we really want . . ." at [Food Clubs & Coops](#); posted here by author's permission.

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Hyperlinks for the PDF

Weston A. Price Foundation – website for WAPF = <http://www.westonaprice.org/>

Raw Milk Institute – website for RAWMI = <http://rawmilkstitute.net/>

Natural News – raw milk news posted at NaturalNews.com = http://www.naturalnews.com/raw_milk.html

Adam Vs. The Man – website, "About AVTM 3.0" = <http://www.adamvstheman.com/about>

Folks, This Ain't Normal – shopping cart for *Folks, This Ain't Normal: A Farmer's Advice for Happier Hens, Healthier People and A Better World* by Joel Salatin = <https://www.farmtoconsumer.net/SalatinFolks.asp>

Michael Schmidt – press release, "Michael Schmidt on Hunger Strike for Responsible Food Freedom", 10 October 2011 = <http://www.farmtoconsumer.org/press/press-11oct2011.htm>

Campaign for Real Milk - website = <http://www.realmilk.com/>

FFFC – website for Farm Food Freedom Coalition = <http://farmfoodfreedom.org/>

Organic Pastures – website for OPDC = <http://www.organicpastures.com/>

Raw Milk Revolution – website for David E. Gumpert, see sidebar link to *Raw Milk Revolution: Behind America's Emerging Battle Over Food Rights* = <http://www.davidgumpert.com/>

Wilderness Family Naturals – David E. Gumpert, "We're Still in Business,' Says Determined Wilderness Family Naturals, Despite FDA's Determination to Bleed Farm", 28 July 2009 = <http://www.thecompletpatient.com/journal/2009/7/28/were-still-in-business-says-determined-wilderness-family-nat.html>

stop, or the arugula will shoot – YouTube video, "Police Begin 'Guns Drawn' Raids on Organic Food Stores in California", posted 2 August 2010 = <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b27EFIdZ17k>

this little statement – FDA press release, "Food Safety and Raw Milk", 1 November 2011 = <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/Product-SpecificInformation/MilkSafety/ucm277854.htm>

Raw Milk Freedom Riders – website = <http://www.rawmilkfreedomriders.com/>

Food Clubs & Coops – John Moody, "FDA throws Raw Milk Freedom Riders a bone, but what we really want . . .", = <http://www.foodclubsandcoops.com/fda-throws-raw-milk-freedom-riders-a-bone-but-what-we-really-want/51/#more-51>