

What is the Difference?

Pasture to Fork Dairy

No vaccinations

No synthetic hormones

Natural, organic minerals – free-choice

Once-in-a-blue-moon medications and veterinarian visits – *always as a last resort when homeopathic remedies aren't working*

Cattle self-spread their own manure - *except in the most inclement weather when they're in the barn*

Deep carbonaceous bedding for winter lounging protected from rain (nutrient leaching) by roof – *excellent soil amendment when spread the following summer*

Compost and biological soil amendments *beneficial and stimulating to soil life*

Forage feeding – permanent ground cover *no need for chemicals or tillage*

Ecologically enhance – *70% of all grain grown in the USA goes to herbivores (this is unnecessary and accounts for the majority of all pesticide, herbicide, fertilizer, and agricultural petroleum use)*

Traditional dairy breeds selected for forage efficiency and milk quality

Long productive life in cows; *ten years or more*

Unpasteurized *(vitamins, minerals, and enzymes all intact)*

Unhomogenized *(cream on top)*

Full-fat *(all the natural cream is in the milk)*

Completely natural, no additives

Milking and processing equipment is washed hands-on in hot water, natural soap and hand rinsed

Producer/consumer relationship

Rich taste

Conventional Dairy

**Applies to nearly all "certified organic" dairy*

Vaccinations (immuno suppressant)

Synthetic hormone – *bovine production hormone rBHG to increase production; hormone imbalance*
Synthetic vitamin/minerals – force-fed

Routine medications and veterinarian visits *due to cow selection for maximum production which is always - detrimental to overall health and reproduction*

* Outdoor liquid manure storage pits - *collects rainwater and cause liquid manure overflow in times of heavy precipitation; pollution of streams*

Petroleum based chemical fertilizers and liquified manure; *caustic to soil biology*

* Grain feeding – *erosive, ecologically unsound, involves genetically modified grain in most cases*

* Ecologically destructive *each bushel of corn costs two bushels of soil*

* Modern dairy breeds selected for maximum production

Short productive life of cows, *an industry average of less than four years*

* Pasteurized – *vitamins, proteins, and enzymes altered and/or destroyed*

* Homogenized – *reduces milk fat to microscopic levels causing fat oxidation, is blamed for causing heart disease*

* Partial fat or fat free (skim milk) – *milk and cream are separated at the processing plant and some cream is added back in to create one, two, or three percent milk*

Additives – *synthetic vitamin D and powdered skim milk*

Milking and processing equipment is machine washed with chemical detergent and acid rinse; residues

* Producer/consumer alienation

* Bland taste