

MILK IN VERMONT SCHOOLS:
A DECISION-MAKERS' GUIDE TO MILK
SERVICE

Bulk Milk



-OR-

Milk Container



5 THINGS TO CONSIDER

when deciding between bulk milk and milk
containers in a school setting:

\$ BUDGET AND FUNDING

 **WASTE**

 **FOOD SERVICE VIABILITY**

 **CHILD NUTRITION STANDARDS**

 **LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION**

For more information about milk cooler sponsorship opportunities, visit: www.agriculture.vermont.gov

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Bulk Milk if Your School...



- Can afford upfront costs for equipment and is interested in long-term cost savings
- Is interested in trash and liquid milk waste reduction
- Can commit 15-30 min. additional food service staff time each day
- Is able to wash students' reusable cups/purchase compostable cups
- Has adequate cafeteria space to fit a bulk milk cooler
- Is best able to meet Federal Child Nutrition program standards with bulk milk dispenser
- Has conducted a thorough analysis of bulk milk service, including budget, timeline, and communication strategy



Milk Containers if Your School...



- Can afford to pay higher costs per ounce of milk for short-term cost savings on milk program infrastructure
- Is interested in water use reduction
- Prioritizes reducing food service staff time
- Does not have a dishwasher
- Does not have extra cafeteria space
- Is best able to meet Federal Child Nutrition program standards with individual milk containers
- Is not able at this time to conduct a thorough analysis of change to the milk program

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A CLOSER LOOK AT COST AND WASTE...

Bulk Milk



- 8 oz. Milk: approx. \$0.25-0.33
- Bulk Milk Dispenser/Cooler: \$3,000
- Waste Removal: compostable or disposable cups
- Waste water: reusable cups
- Cost of Cups
- Milk Waste: approx 0.4 gallons per student per year

Milk Containers



- 8 oz. Milk: approx. \$0.35-0.38
- Milk Cooler: \$2,000
- Waste Removal: \$2.50-4.50 per student per year for containers
- Milk Waste: approx. 3 gallons per student per year

*Cost and waste analysis based on data from 3 VT schools (2 carton, 1 dispenser).

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Vermont Agency of Agriculture offers sponsorship for bulk milk coolers and individual milk container coolers. Schools are encouraged to apply for the funding that best meets their milk program needs.

Milk Cooler Program Timeline

- ✓ Research local milk producers and distributors for availability of product and equipment. In some cases, milk coolers may be available for loan or rent. Possible providers: Booth Bros., Hood, Thomas, Monument - and ask your local dairy processor or distributor!
- ✓ For help purchasing a milk cooler, apply for funding through Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Milk Cooler Program.
- ✓ Organize communication strategy in your school around the milk program. Outreach: food service staff leaders, student groups.
- ✓ Acquire milk cooler and necessary equipment (e.g. cups, trays, wash racks).
- ✓ Begin milk service!

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