

# 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](http://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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