



**Steven W. Troxler**  
Commissioner

## North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

April 8, 2020

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Grocery Retail Stores

**FROM:** Steven W. Troxler, Commissioner   
NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS)

**SUBJECT:** Purchase limits and distribution of fluid milk products

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about significant changes to the daily lives of North Carolinians. To flatten the curve and reduce the spread of the virus, consumers have altered their daily routines and retailers have implemented new policies as they conduct business during this unprecedented time. As an essential business, I thank you for all that you do to continue to serve the citizens of North Carolina, ensuring they have the products they need.

Last month, our grocery stores encountered challenging times as they worked to keep their stores adequately stocked for the demand of an uneasy customer base. During this time, many retailers instituted purchase limits on many high-demand products, including milk. Now, as we move away from the dramatic increase in milk sales in March, the milk supply is much higher than demand. With the social distancing measures in place, including the closing of restaurants and schools, many dairies are being forced to dump their product. With the supply outweighing the demand, purchase limits on fluid milk is no longer necessary and such limits should no longer be placed on the fluid milk products in stores.

If you are having issues getting milk to your store due to transportation issues, our Department can assist by putting you in touch with food services suppliers who have trucks available to transport these products. If you would like this assistance, please contact G.W. Stanley at 919-218-5387, or by email at [G.W.Stanley@ncagr.gov](mailto:G.W.Stanley@ncagr.gov).

Thank you again for what you are doing to ensure our citizens have the grocery and household items they need during this uncertain time. I know you are doing all you can to keep business going while keeping your employees and customers safe, and I ask that you include these measures to help move our dairy products as well.