



# **Fresno County Sheriff's Department**

**Richard Pierce, Sheriff**                      **August, 16<sup>th</sup> 2005**  
**News Release**

Fresno County Sheriff Ag Task Force  
Office (559)898-0667 Fax (559)898-0673  
AgTaskForceSheriff@fresnosheriff.org

## **UNLAWFUL SALES OF UN-PASTEURIZED MILK TO PUBLIC**

On Sunday, August 14, 2005 the Fresno County Sheriff Department Ag Task Force unit concluded a lengthy investigation involving the illegal sales of raw, un-pasteurized milk and cheese products at 5696 S. Reed, Reedley. Previously, CDFA (California Department of Food and Agriculture) received a tip from a neighbor that this type of activity was occurring every Sunday. It was reported that alcohol was being mixed with raw milk from cows on the property and sold for profit. The drink, referred to as "Pajeretes" is a mixture of chocolate (sometimes coffee), alcohol and raw milk, directly from the cow. The health risks from the un-pasteurized milk are substantial and can lead to severe illness.

At 0730 hours, members of the VICE Unit assisted the AG Task Force Unit in an undercover capacity where an illegal transaction was completed confirming the alleged claim. Pablo Meza and Eugenia Meza (Husband & Wife) were cited on multiple counts of Food and Ag Codes related to illegal sales of raw milk and cheese. They were also cited for violations due to the sales of alcohol.

During the investigation, 21 cows were seized for lack of documentation (Proof of Ownership). The cows were transported the Fresno Livestock Yard where a hold was placed on them by the Bureau of Livestock until ownership could be proven.

This was a multi Agency event involving CDFA, County Health Department, and The Bureau of Livestock Identification.