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DIY ORGAN TRANSPLANT CLINIC TO OPEN IN UNION

UNION, Maine, April 1, 2026 – A nanobrewery in midcoast Maine is giving their brewing tanks a new job. Starting in July 2026, The Pour Farm brewery in Union will expand operations to include DIY organ transplant services.

Last year, after The Pour Farm reduced its beer production from 80 to about 20 barrels per year, brewery owner Bill Stinson realized that the slower production rate left tanks idle 75% of the time. "We are always looking for new ways to contribute to the community" he said. "It turns out beer tanks are ideal for storage and distribution of donated human organs, so DIY organ transplantation seemed like a good idea," he said. "We're still making beer – just asking our tanks to work a little harder."

Small breweries like The Pour Farm have both "hot-side" and "cold-side" tanks. In the brewing process, the hot-side tanks are used for mashing grain and boiling wort (wort is the sweet malty liquid and hops combination that turns into beer after being cooled and fermented with yeast). In the case of organ transplants, the hot-side tanks will be used for boiling and sanitizing donated organs.

The cold-side tanks are normally used for fermenting and conditioning beer, but in the case of organ transplants, they will be used for soft tissue storage. The Pour Farm has three tanks: Fermenter #1 will be used for kidneys, Fermenter #2 for livers, and the Brite Tank for eyeballs. All the tanks will be maintained at 33 degrees Fahrenheit. Tanks will never be used for beer and human organs at the same time.

"We saw an opportunity to provide a new service without physically expanding the brewery," said The Pour Farm co-owner, Ashley Stinson. She

added that the brewery will function primarily as a hub for storage and distribution, but that they will provide reasonably hygienic tools and high-pressure water hoses for customers who wish to perform their own surgery. “Actual organ transplantation is strictly DIY, but we’ll have volunteer chiropractors, acupuncturists, and energy healers on-site to answer any questions about organ hook-ups.”

Starting in July, customers may drop off human organs in picnic coolers packed with ice. Bill Stinson stressed the importance of cold transport, especially in the summer months, saying “Any organs arriving without proper icing will be forfeited and used for our monthly BBQ-4-Pets parties.”

The brewery’s Tankard Club members will have priority for liver transplants (as there is an acute need). Membership in the club is $50 per year, and also includes free parking on the muddy field.