

Proposed for Public Hearing on Monday, February 23, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Municipal Office All Purposed Room

Municipality of Stetson Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance

Sec. 1 Short Title

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance.”

Sec. 2. Authority and Purpose.

This Ordinance is intended to provide residents increased access to local food, to support the ability of residents to produce, sell, purchase and consume locally produced foods, and to reduce governmental regulation of local foods to the extent permitted by and pursuant to Title 7 (Agriculture and Animals), Chapter 8-F: MAINE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ACT 7 M.R.S. § 281 - § 286.

Sec. 3. Definitions

As used in this ordinance, the following words have the meanings stated below:

Consumer. “Consumer” means an individual who acquires food or food products directly from a food producer of the individual’s choosing solely for consumption by the individual or individual’s family.

Direct producer-to-consumer transaction. “Direct producer-to-consumer transaction” means an exchange of food or food products directly between a food producer and a consumer by barter, trade, or purchase on property or premises owned, leased, or rented by the food producer at roadside stands, fundraisers, farmers’ markets, and community social events, or through buying clubs, deliveries or community -supported agriculture programs, herd-share agreements and other private arrangements.

Food or food products. “Food or food products” means food or food products that are grown, produced, processed or prepared for human consumption, including, but not limited to, vegetables, fruit, milk or milk products, meat or meat products, poultry or poultry products, fish or fish products, seafood or seafood products, cider or juice, acidified foods or canned fruits or vegetables.

Food producer. “Food producer” means a person that provides directly to a consumer food or food products that the person: (1) grows, raises, or produces; or (2) grows, raises, produces or acquires from another source and processes in a kitchen.

State food law and Town food Law. Any provision of Title 7 or Title 22 of the Maine Revised Statutes or rules adopted thereto, or provision of the Town of Stetson Land Use Ordinance that regulates direct producer-to-consumer transactions.

Site of production. “Site of production” means the premises where food or food product is grown, raised, processed or produced such as a farm, home kitchen, farm-based kitchen or similar location controlled by the producer, grower or processor. The term does not include a farmers’ market, community social event, or other venue unless the market, social event or venue is itself the site of production of the food or food product.

Sec. 4. License and Inspection Exemptions

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the ordinances of this municipality to the contrary, producers, growers, and processors of food or food products in the municipality are exempt from State and Town food law licensure and inspection requirements with respect to their direct producer-to consumer transactions as defined herein.

B. Pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 285, the exemption provided in section 4(A) above does not apply to any transactions involving meat, meat products, poultry or poultry products, as those terms are defined in 22 M.R.S. § 2511. All such transactions remain subject to state inspection and licensing pursuant to Chapter 562-A of Title 22 of the Maine Revised Statutes and the rules adopted thereunder.

5. Severability.

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this ordinance.

6. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.