

**Aroostook County**  
**UNORGANIZED TERRITORIES**  
**LOCAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ORDINANCE**

**Sec. 1 Short Title**

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Aroostook County Unorganized Territories 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 7 M.R.S.A § 281-286. This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to 7 M.R.S.A. § 284 and the home rule authority granted to the County Commissioners by 30-A M.R.S.A. § 7505.

**Sec. 3. Definitions**

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

**Direct producer-to-consumer transaction.** "Direct produce-to-consumer transaction" means a face-to-face transaction involving food or food products at the site of production of those food or food products.

**Community Social Event.** An event where people gather as part of a community for the benefit of those gathering or for the community, including, but not limited to, a church or religious social, school event, potluck, neighborhood gathering, library meeting, traveling food sale, fundraiser, craft fair, farmers' market, agricultural fair, and other public events.

**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, fresh produce, cider or juice, acidified foods or canned fruits or vegetables.

**State food law.** "State food law" means any provision of Title 7 or Title 22 of the Maine Revised Statutes that regulates direct producer-to-consumer transactions.

**Site of production.** "Site of production" means the premises where a 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 farmer's 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 County to the contrary, producers, growers, and processors of food or food products in the unorganized territories are exempt from licensure and inspection requirements contained in State food law (as defined above) with respect to their direct producer-to-consumer transactions conducted exclusively at the site of production of those food products.
- B. Pursuant to 7 M.R.S.A. § 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.A. § 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.

**Sec. 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.

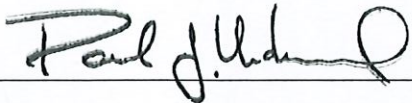
**Section 6. Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall become effective on December 20, 2023 or upon its adoption, whichever is later.

So Ordered,

**Revised on February 19, 2025.**

Aroostook County Commissioners



Paul J. Underwood, Chairman

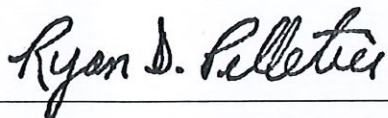


William T. Dobbins



Daniel V. Deveau

Attest:



Ryan D. Pelletier, County Clerk