

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
LOCAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ORDINANCE**

We, the People of the Town of Ashland, Aroostook County, Maine, have the right to produce, process, sell, purchase and consume local foods thus promoting self-reliance, the preservation of family farms, and local food traditions. We recognize that family farms, sustainable agricultural practices, and food processing by individuals, families and non-corporate entities offer stability to our rural way of life by enhancing the economic, environmental and social wealth of our community. As such, our right to a local food system requires us to assert our inherent right to self-government. We recognize the authority to protect that right as belonging to the Town of Ashland.

We have faith in our citizens' ability to educate themselves and make informed decisions. We support food that fundamentally respects human dignity and health, nourishes individuals and the community, and sustains producers, processors and the environment. We are therefore duty bound under the Constitution of the State of Maine to protect and promote unimpeded access to local foods.

SECTION 1: TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Town of Ashland Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance" (the "ordinance")."

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Town of Ashland Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance is to:

1. Provide citizens with improved access to local food.
2. Enhance the local economy by promoting the production and purchase of local agricultural products.
3. Protect access to roadside stands, farm-based sales and other direct producer-to-consumer sales.
4. Support the economic viability of local food producers and processors.
5. Preserve local knowledge and traditional food ways.

SECTION 3: AUTHORITY

This Ordinance is adopted and enacted pursuant to the inherent, inalienable, and fundamental right of the citizens of the Town of Ashland to self-government, and under the authority recognized as belonging to the people of the Town by all relevant state and federal laws including, but not limited to the following:

1. The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, which declares that governments are instituted to secure peoples' rights, and that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed.

2. Article I, §2 of the Constitution of Maine, which declares: “all power is inherent in the people; all free governments are founded in their authority and instituted for their benefit, [and that] they have therefore an unalienable and indefeasible right to institute government, and to alter, reform, or totally change the same, when their safety and happiness require it.”
3. The Constitution of Maine, Article VIII, Part Second “Municipal Home Rule”
4. Title 30-A section 3001 of the Maine Revised Statutes, which grants municipalities all powers necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Ashland.
5. §283 of Title 7 of the Maine Revised Statutes, which states: “it is the policy of the State to encourage food self-sufficiency for its citizens.”

SECTION 4: STATEMENTS OF LAW

4.1. Licensure/Inspection Exemptions

Except as provided herein, any food or food products grown, produced or processed in the Town of Ashland for a direct producer-to-consumer transaction are exempt from licensure and inspection.

4.2. Ordinance Limitations

Meat and poultry products shall be subject to licensing and inspection as provided by Title 22, chapter 562-A and the rules adopted thereunder.

Any individual who grows, produces, processes or prepares food or food products for purposes other than direct producer-to-consumer transactions shall grow, produce, process or prepare the food or food products in compliance with all applicable state and federal food safety laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 5: STATEMENT OF LAW IMPLEMENTATION

The following restrictions and provisions serve to implement the preceding statements of law.

Consumer Liability Protection

This ordinance does not impair or effect the ability of consumers purchasing food for home consumption to enter into private agreements with those producers or processors of local foods to waive any liability for the consumption of that food. The Town of Ashland makes no assurances, promises or recommendation regarding any private waiver of liability agreements. These are private transactions, and the town does not

make any assertion or assurance of food safety, purity, accuracy pertaining to food contents and method of production or processing.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its enactment.

SECTION 7: SEVERABILITY

To the extent any provision of this Ordinance is deemed invalid, illegal or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision will be ineffective, and the balance of the Ordinance shall remain valid, legal and enforceable.

SECTION 8: DEFINITIONS

As used in this Ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated:

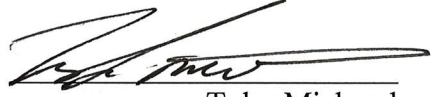
1. **Direct producer-to-consumer transaction.** "Direct producer-to-consumer transaction" means an exchange of food or food products directly between a food producer and a consumer by barter, trade or purchase on the property or premises owned, leased or rented by the food producer; at roadside stands, fundraisers, farmers' markets and community social events; or through buying clubs, deliveries or community-supported agriculture programs, herd-share agreements and other private arrangements.
2. **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, eggs, grain or grain products, herbs, seasonings or spices, 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, canned fruits or vegetables, honey, nuts, maple products or condiments or any combination of those items, such as baked goods, sandwiches or other meals, and that are provided in a direct producer-to-consumer transaction
3. **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 the individual's family.
4. **Food producer.** "Food producer" means a person that provides directly to a consumer food or food products that the person:
 - A. Grows, raises or produces; or

B. Grows, raises, produces or acquires from another source and then processes or prepares in a kitchen.

For the purposes of this subsection, "kitchen" means a room, area, site or location where food or food products are produced, processed or prepared for a direct producer-to-consumer transaction.


The Ashland Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance Adopted by Residents on March 17, 2026


Town Council:


Tyler Michaud

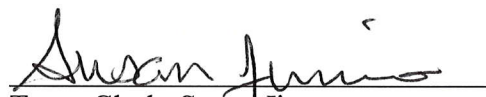

Sherri Calhoun


Christopher Bessey


James Risner


Gerard Raymond

A true copy of an ordinance entitled "Ashland Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance" as certified to me by the municipal officers of The Town of Ashland on the 4 day of Mar, 2026.


Town Clerk, Susan Jimmo