

Town of Troy

Walworth County
N8870 Briggs Street
East Troy, Wisconsin 53120

LOCAL FOOD AND COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNANCE ORDINANCE

CHAPTER 20 ORDINANCE NO. 2013-1

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWN OF TROY, WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors believes that the right to produce, process, sell, purchase and consume Local Foods promotes self-reliance, the preservation of Family Farms and Local Food traditions;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes that Family Farms, sustainable agricultural practices and food processing by individuals and families offers stability to our rural way of life by enhancing the economic, environmental and social wealth of our community;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes individual rights and responsibilities and we have faith in our citizens' ability to educate themselves and make informed decisions on a local level with respect to their buying habits when dealing with known members of the community engaged in the conduct of Family Farms and local processing facilities, and further find that the transparent and close relationship between patrons and their producers/processors in such a local system naturally initiates a self-regulating system.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Troy does **ORDAIN** as follows:

Section 1. Name.

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance."

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of the Local Food and Community Self-Governing Ordinance is to:

- A. Provide citizens with access to Local Food unimpeded by local regulation.
- B. Enhance the local economy by promoting the production and purchase of local agricultural products.
- C. Protect access to Family Farm based sales and direct producer to patron sales.
- D. Support the economic viability of Local Food producers and processors.
Town of Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin
- E. Preserve local knowledge and traditional food ways.

Section 3. Statement of Principles.

This Ordinance is based on the following premises and principles:

- A. Right to Access and Produce Food.** The Town Board intends for the Town of Troy citizens to possess the right to produce, process, sell, purchase and consume Local Foods of their choosing.
- B. Right to Ownership:** The Town Board intends for Town of Troy citizens to have the right to own livestock animals, in whole or in part, and keep them in accordance with applicable laws.

Section 4. Definitions. As used in this ordinance:

- A. "Family Farm" means a farm located in Troy Town limits which satisfies the following conditions: (1) it consists of one or more adjacent parcels; (2) the farm serves as the primary residence of the owner/operator of the farm; (3) the only sale of food or food products made by the farm is of food or food products grown on the farm, or produced or processed on the farm from food or food products grown on the farm; (4) all food or food products sold from the farm are sold directly to patrons for home consumption; (5) all sales are made on-site directly to patrons (no off-site facilities for sales); (6) the farm uses no motorist oriented sales devices; and, (7) the farm owner/operator engages in no off-site advertisement, media advertisement or advertisement by mailers or similar means, except that nothing herein shall be deemed to prohibit the owner or operator of a family farm from maintaining a website for the purpose of identifying the Family Farm.
- B. "Home consumption" means consumed within a private home or personally by a patron.

- C. "Livestock Boarding" means the housing, feeding, caring for and tending to livestock owned by another person(s), with or without compensation, which person(s) retains the right to receive (not purchase) all or a portion of the livestock's produce (e.g. milk, eggs, wool, manure) for their own personal use and not for resale. The owners of the livestock shall have a direct ownership interest in the animal or animals. Livestock Boarding shall include the packaging and delivery of the products derived from such animals by the person housing such animal to the owner of that animal for the owner's personal consumption or use.
Town of Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin
- D. "Local Foods" means any food or food product that is grown, produced or processed by individuals on a Family Farm within the Town of Troy, which is sold directly to patrons through Family Farm-based sales, private agreement, or private food buying clubs. The point of sale of all Local Foods shall be the family farm where the Local Foods are grown, produced or processed.
- E. "Patron" means an individual who is the person to purchase any Local Food product or preparation directly from an original processor or producer (one who is not reselling the Local Food product) and who does not resell the product or preparation.
- F. "Private Food Buying Club" means an association of patrons who organize to purchase products directly from producers/processors.
- G. "Processor" means an individual residing on a family farm in the Town of Troy, who processes or prepares products of the soil or animals, grown or produced on that Family Farm by the processor, for food or drink, for sale only to patrons for home consumption. To qualify as a Processor, a person must comply with all of the conditions for establishment of a Family Farm.
- H. "Producer" means any farmer or gardener, in the Town of Troy, who grows any plant or animal for food or drink, on a Family Farm within the Town of Troy, for sale only to patrons at the family farm where the Local Foods are grown, produced or processed. To qualify as a Producer, a person must comply with all of the conditions for establishment of a Family Farm.

Section 5. Licensure/Inspection Exemption.

The Town of Troy shall not adopt any ordinance, resolution or regulation providing for licensing or inspection of the growing, production and processing of Local Foods on Family Farms in the Town of Troy. The growing, production and processing of Local Foods on Family Farms in the Town of Troy are exempt from any existing Town licensing and inspection requirements, provided that the Family Farms meet the definition contained in Section 4 of this ordinance, and subject to the following. This exemption from licensing and inspection applies only to the activity of growing, producing and processing Local Foods. It is not intended to exempt the property on which it is conducted from generalized permitting or inspection requirements such as building permits, nor is it intended to exempt activities conducted on the property other than growing, producing or processing Local Foods from any regulation of the Ordinance code of the Town of Troy. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Ordinance, the growing, production and processing of Local Foods on Family Farms shall be subject to all of the provisions of: Chapter 26 (Business Taxes, Town of Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin Licenses and Regulations); Chapter 6 (Animals); Chapter 74 (Zoning), of the Ordinance Code of the County of Walworth and any other applicable ordinance, statute, regulation or lawfully issued order of the County of Walworth, the State of Wisconsin, and/or federal government. Nothing in this Ordinance shall prevent a duly authorized official of the County of Walworth and/or the State of Wisconsin and/or the federal government from exercising their lawful authority. The exemption described in this section does not apply to licensing or permitting that the Town conducts pursuant to applicable state or federal laws, including, but not limited to, alcohol beverage licensing pursuant to Chapter 125, Wisconsin Statutes.

Section 6. No Prohibition on Livestock Boarding.

The Town of Troy shall not adopt any ordinance, resolution or regulation prohibiting the practice of Livestock Boarding in the Town of Troy. This exemption from licensing and inspection applies only to the activity of Livestock Boarding. It is not intended to exempt the property on which it is conducted from generalized permitting or inspection requirements such as building permits, nor is it intended to exempt activities conducted on the property other than Livestock Boarding from any regulation of the Ordinances of the Town of Troy. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Ordinance, Livestock Boarding shall be subject to all of the provisions of: Chapter 26 (Business Taxes, Licenses and Regulations); Chapter 6 (Animals); Chapter 74 (Zoning), of the Ordinance Code of the County of Walworth and any other applicable ordinance, statute, regulation or lawfully issued order of the County of Walworth, the State of Wisconsin, and/or federal government.

Section 7. Relationship to State.

The Board of Supervisors expresses its strong desire that Local Food Producers and Processors be allowed to conduct their activities without licensure or inspection by state agencies. The Town may oppose, through lobbying and other lawful means, the adoption of state legislation or regulations which impose licensing or inspection requirements upon Local Food Producers or Processors in the Town of Troy. The Town may, in appropriate cases, seek to litigate the validity of such legislation or regulations. However, it is not the intent of this Ordinance to attempt to abrogate or negate the effectiveness of federal, state or Walworth County ordinances, statutes, regulations or other laws or lawful orders in the Town of Troy. This Ordinance shall not apply to any ordinance, resolution or regulation adopted for the purpose of complying with federal or state law. Nor shall this Ordinance be interpreted to interfere with the performance by any Town, county, state or federal official of duties and responsibilities delegated to him or her under federal or state law. Town of Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin

Section 8. Civil Enforcement.

The Town of Troy may enforce the provisions of this Ordinance through seeking equitable relief from a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 9. Effect.


This Ordinance shall be effective upon posting.

Section 10. Severability Clause. To the extent any provision of this Ordinance is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision will be removed from the Ordinance, and the balance of the Ordinance shall remain valid.

Adopted this 12th day of June, 2013.

By the Town Board of the Town of Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin:


John Kendall, Town Chairperson

Attest: 
Michele Stute, Clerk/Treasurer

Published and/or posted this 14th day of June, 2013