



MAINE SMALL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

# Food Licensing & Maine Food Sovereignty

Presented By:

Chris Cole



Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration

# Housekeeping

- This is being recorded if you prefer to have your camera off.
- It will be emailed to you within a week after the presentation.
- Please have audio on mute.
- Submit any questions in the chat.



# What does the Maine SBDC do?

Provides no-cost and confidential business advising to current and aspiring Maine business owners!

- Business Planning and Startups
- Business Transitions and Exits
- Assistance with Credit and Financing
- Financial Analysis
- Marketing and Sales
- Operations Management
- Much More!





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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE  
CONSERVATION  
& FORESTRY**

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**Co – Host and Speaker  
Ben Metcalf**

*Ben Metcalf, REHS, CP-FS*

Inspection Program Manager,  
Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations

(207) 287-4979 Office

(207) 592-3649 Cell



# Overview

- Food Sovereignty Bill LD 725 2017
- Constitutional Amendment
- How it works
- What municipalities have Food Sovereignty
- Maine Department of Agriculture , Quality Assurance Division
- Food Licensing process
- Questions and Answers





# Food Sovereignty Bill

- On June 16th, 2017, Governor LePage signed a new food sovereignty bill into law. LD 725, An Act to Recognize Local Control Regarding Food Systems. The law will take effect 90 days after the 128th Legislature adjourns and will impact towns that have already declared food sovereignty. In those towns, local ordinances will supersede state food safety regulations.
- [Maine Food Sovereignty Act](#)



# Local Control

- Local food system. "Local food system" means a community food system within a municipality that integrates food production, processing, consumption, direct producer-to-consumer exchanges and other traditional foodways to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health and well-being of the municipality and its residents.
- A municipal government may regulate by ordinance local food systems, and the State shall recognize such ordinances. An ordinance adopted by a municipality pursuant to this section must apply only to food or food products that are grown, produced or processed by individuals within that municipality who sell directly to consumers.

# Maine Leads the Nation

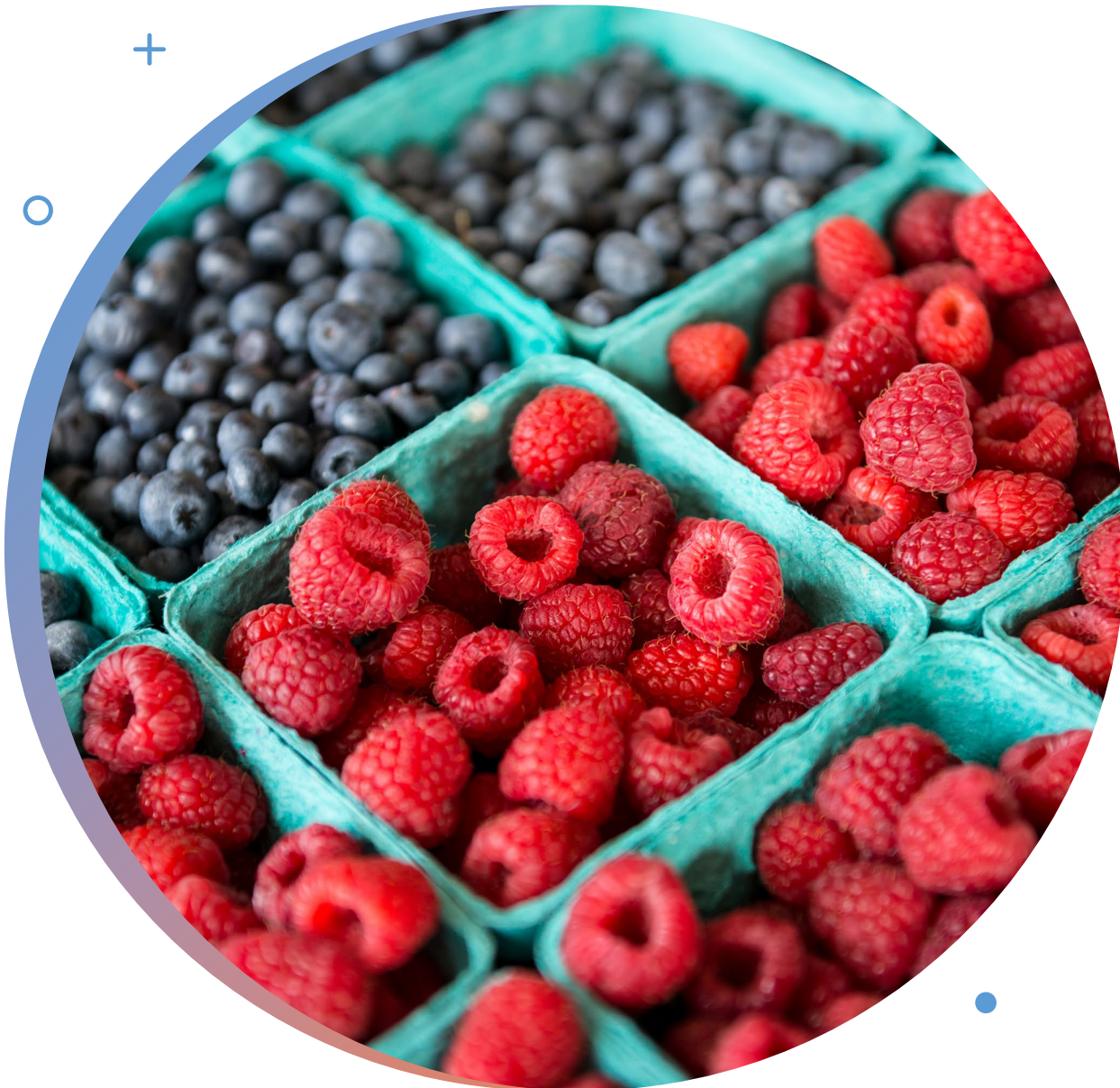
- *“Maine becomes the first US state to recognize the Right to Food in a Constitutional amendment”*
- All individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to save and exchange seeds and the right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being...

# FOOD SOVEREIGNTY MUNICIPALITIES

- <https://www.localfoodrules.org/mapping-food-sovereignty/>
- All Maine counties are represented (not every town)
- 97 Municipalities and growing
- 254,271 Mainers enjoy the benefits of food sovereignty

# How to implement Food Sovereignty Ordinance

- Reach out to other community members you know to see if there is interest, and need for you in your community.
- Check to see if your community has an FSO in place.
- As applicable, reach out to your city/town counselors or select people to gain their support, and/or educate them on why you or your group feel an FSO is a valuable addition to your community.
- Reach out to the municipal staff in your community to ask about the process for implementing, or changing ordinances in your community
- Resources and Templates
- [Local Food Rules](#)
- [Food Sovereignty Ordinance template designed by the Maine Municipal Association](#)
- [Food Sovereignty Ordinance template designed by Local Food Rules](#)



# Maine Cooperative Extension

- <https://extension.umaine.edu/programs/>
- [Farm Food Safety](#) (*Jumpstart to Farm Food Safety with Extension*)
- [Food Preservation](#)
- [Food Safety](#)
- [Maple Syrup Production](#)
- [Nutrition](#)





## Compliance with food safety regulations

- Any food or food products grown, produced or processed in the municipality intended for wholesale or retail distribution outside of the State of Maine, produced or processed in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations

# Summary

## Allowed

- Home grown and produced
- Sold directly to consumer
- Produce
- Prepared goods
- Seafood
- Retailing outside of local municipality

## Licensing Required

- Wholesale production
- Meat
- Poultry
- No “double dipping”

# Contact Information

- **Mailing Address**
- Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
Quality Assurance & Regulations  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333
- **Augusta Office: (207) 287-3841**
- [Celeste Poulin, Director](#)
- [Ben Metcalf, Inspection Program Manager](#) (207) 287-4979
- [Michelle Newbegin, Inspection Process Analyst Coordinator](#)
- **Presque Isle Office: (207) 764-2100**
- [Joe Brooker, Inspection Process Analyst Coordinator](#) (207) 764-2115

# Program Specialist

Program	Contact Name	Phone Number
<a href="#">Dairy</a>	Linda Stahlnecker	(207) 287-7623
<a href="#">Eggs</a>	Julie Berry	(207) 287-6319
<a href="#">Fed/State Inspection</a>	Tim Lynds	(207) 764-2100
<a href="#">Retail Food/Home and Commercial Kitchens</a>	Michelle Newbegin	(207) 287-3841
<a href="#">Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)</a>	Lindsay Werner	(207) 592-2687
<a href="#">Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP)</a>	Tim Lynds	(207) 764-2100
<a href="#">Maine Meat and Poultry Inspection Program (MMPI)</a>	Jennifer Eberly	(207) 287-7512
<a href="#">Weights &amp; Measures</a>	Brad Bachelder (Technical)	(207) 287-7587
	Michelle Newbegin (Licensing)	(207) 287-3841

# Need Help – Contact Us:

## Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC)

Phone: 780-4952

Email: [christine.cole@maine.edu](mailto:christine.cole@maine.edu)

Website: [www.mainesbdc.org](http://www.mainesbdc.org)

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**Questions?**

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