

SECTION 16.1 GENERAL STANDARDS FOR SLAUGHTERHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Subdivision 1: Purpose and Intent

The purpose of the provisions on Slaughterhouse activities is to:

1. Recognize that food, in its various forms, is essential to the health and well being of Sherburne County, and that the unregulated operation of slaughter houses may create health hazards, or otherwise jeopardize the public health and welfare of the residents of Sherburne County.
2. It is the intent of Sherburne County to attempt to frame this Ordinance consistently with the definitions and regulations already in place in State Statute so as to provide for the consistent and convenient regulation of slaughterhouses.
3. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a slaughterhouse or custom processing facility for the butchering of animals in Sherburne County except in conformance with this Ordinance.

Subdivision 2: Definitions. The definitions set forth herein are based upon those definitions contained in Minnesota Statutes Section 31.51, 28A.03 and any amended or successor statutes.

To the extent that these definitions may be inconsistent with other definitions within the Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance, for the purposes of Section 16.1, these definitions apply. These definitions do not apply to other sections of the Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance.

Animal or Animals. “Animal” or “animals” shall mean all living, non-human beings, including but not be limited to, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, farmed cervidae, horses, bison, mules, or other equines, llamas, poultry and/or ratitae.

Custom Processing. “Custom processing” means slaughtering, eviscerating, dressing, or processing an animal or processing meat products for the owner of the animal or of the meat products, if the meat products derived from the custom

operation are returned to the owner of the animal. No person may sell, offer for sale, or possess with intent to sell meat derived from custom processing except in conformance with this Ordinance.

Custom Processor. “Custom processor” means a person who slaughters animals or processes non-inspected meat (*not under continuous inspections by either the MN Dept. of Agriculture or US Dept. of Agriculture for slaughter house activities*) for the owner of the animals, and returns the majority of the meat products derived from the slaughter or processing to the owner. “Custom processor” does not include a person who slaughters animals or processes meat for the owner of the animals on the farm or premises of the owner of the animals.

Meat Food Product. “Meat food product” means a product usable as human food, animal foods, or fertilizer and made wholly or in part from meat or a portion of the carcass of animals.

Place of Business. “Place of business” means every location where food or food items are manufactured, processed, sold, stored, or handled, including buildings, sites, permanent or portable structures, carnivals, circuses, fairs, or any other permanent or temporary location.

Sell or Sale. “Sell” or “sale” includes the keeping, offering or exposing for sale, use, transportation, transferring, negotiating, soliciting, or exchange of meat or meat food products, or the having in possession with intent to sell, use, transport, negotiate, solicit or exchange the same and the storing or carrying thereof in aid of traffic therein, whether done or permitted in person or through others.

Slaughter House. “Slaughter house” means any land, building, place or establishment in which animals are slaughtered, eviscerated, or dressed.

Subdivision 3: Regulations.

1. No person may, with respect to any animal or meat food product, slaughter any animal or prepare an article that is usable as human food, at any establishment or place of business within Sherburne County except in compliance with this Ordinance. Additionally, no person may operate any slaughterhouse or custom processing activity except in compliance with this Ordinance.
2. The operation of a slaughterhouse or custom processing activity is allowed as an interim use only in the Heavy Industrial, Industrial, and Commercial Zoning Districts. All such uses must, however, be in strict conformance with all Federal and State laws for the operation of such facilities. The following

are conditions to govern slaughterhouse and custom processing activities in Sherburne County.

- a. Slaughter of animals shall take place inside a closed building in a confined area to prevent the transmission of sound associated with the slaughter to the outside.
- b. The transport of animals and by-products from the slaughter or to support the business shall be pursuant to the conditions set forth in the Interim Use Permit issued by Sherburne County.
- c. Off street parking sufficient to handle all customers, employees, trucks or transport vehicles shall be provided. Parking for all traffic utilizing the business shall be provided for on-site and off public roads, and other easements.
- d. The applicant shall provide a traffic impact analysis.
- e. The main entrance to the facility must be located on a state highway, county road, or township road. Access shall not be permitted through a residential area.
- f. The site must be served by an approved On-Site Sewage Treatment System. Disposal of waste shall be in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. This is meant to include, but is not limited to, all sewage, processed and unprocessed animal parts, manure, entrails, blood, hides and bones.
- g. The facility must have all necessary federal, state and county licenses and approvals, and comply with all state and federal health and safety regulations.
- h. The maximum area (indoor, outdoor or combination thereof) for the keeping or slaughtering of animals shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the individual lot or parcel site. The Interim Use Permit will limit the number of animals for the keeping or slaughtering.
- i. The facility hours of operations shall be pursuant to those set forth in the Interim Use Permit issued by Sherburne County.
- j. Exterior storage areas, including animal storage areas, and vehicle and trailer storage, shall be fenced and screened from adjacent property and public rights of way. Fencing shall be sufficient to provide adequate screening and contain animals securely on the owner's property at all times.

- k. Animals shall be enclosed in gated enclosures with a minimum height of six (6) feet.
 - 1. Manufactured steel pipe panels shall have a minimum pipe diameter of two (2) inches and shall have a minimum of six (6) horizontal pipes.
- l. Live animals may be held on the site for no more than twenty-four (24) hours.
- m. Waste slaughter byproducts shall be disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. At a minimum, waste shall be disposed of within forty-eight (48) hours of being produced. Waste shall be stored in airtight containers and shall be confined in fully enclosed structures. Manure from holding areas shall be removed from the site daily or stored in a manner to control odor as approved by Sherburne County.
- n. The permit shall be subject to a facility management plan, waste handling plan, site plan, and noise and odor control plan approved in writing by the Sherburne County Zoning Department.
- o. All exterior structures and improvements or fences for the keeping or confinement of animals shall meet all setbacks as defined by the Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance.
- p. All loading and unloading areas shall be screened from view from adjacent properties and public streets.

Subdivision 4: Permitted Uses

- 1. Said provisions of Subdivision 3 will not apply in the following cases unless such activity is of a level, nature or scope that a permit, license, or other approval from federal state, or local unit of government is needed. In the event that such approval is warranted, then the provisions of Subdivision 3 shall apply and a Conditional Use Permit shall be required:
 - a. On parcels of land at least 40 acres in size located in the County's Agricultural District, and or in the General Rural Zoning District, the following may be undertaken as a permitted use:
 - 1. The processing by a person of the person's own animals and the owner's preparation and transportation in intrastate

commerce of the carcasses, parts of carcasses, meat, and meat food products of those animals exclusively for use by the owner and members of the owner's household, non-paying guests, and employees, or to the custom processing by a person of animals delivered by the owner for processing. (Reference Minnesota Statutes Section 31A.15, Subd. 1(1) and (2).)

- b. The butchering, slaughtering or processing of any wild game taken by permit issued by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, or on Private Game Farms, is a permitted accessory use in all zoning districts of the County.

Subdivision 5. State and Federal Licenses or Permits. No person shall operate a slaughterhouse or custom processing facility unless that person has first obtained any required State or Federal licenses or permits.

Subdivision 6. If any portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Subdivision 7. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication according to law.

