MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING ACT

Act 381 of 1998

AN ACT to define certain fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing uses and practices; to provide for circumstances under which a processing operation is not considered to be a public or private nuisance; to provide for certain powers and duties for certain state agencies and departments; and to provide for certain remedies for certain persons.

History: 1998, Act 381, Imd. Eff. Oct. 23, 1998 ;-- Am. 2005, Act 282, Imd. Eff. Dec. 19, 2005

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

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289.821 Short title.

Sec. 1.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Michigan agricultural processing act".

History: 1998, Act 381, Imd. Eff. Oct. 23, 1998

289.822 Definitions.

Sec. 2.

As used in this act:

(a) "Dairy product" means all of the following:

(i) Dairy product as that term is defined in section 12 of the manufacturing milk law of 2001, 2001 PA 267, MCL 288.572.

(ii) Milk product as that term is defined in section 4 of the grade A milk law of 2001, 2001 PA 266, MCL 288.474.

(b) "Fruit and vegetable product" means those plant items used by human beings for human food consumption including, but not limited to, field crops, root crops, berries, herbs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, tree products, mushrooms, and other similar products, or any other fruit and vegetable product processed for human consumption as determined by the Michigan commission of agriculture.

(c) "Generally accepted fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing practices" means those practices as defined by the Michigan commission of agriculture. The Michigan commission of agriculture shall give due consideration to available Michigan department of agriculture information and written recommendations from the Michigan state university college of agriculture and natural resources extension and the agricultural experiment station in cooperation with the United States department of agriculture, the United States food and drug administration, the Michigan department of environmental quality, and other professional and industry organizations.

(d) "Grain" means dry edible beans, soy beans, small grains, cereal grains, corn, grass seeds, hay, and legume seeds in a raw or natural state.

(e) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, limited liability company, or other legal entity.

(f) "Processing" means the commercial processing or handling of fruit, vegetable, dairy, meat, and grain products for human food consumption and animal feed including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) The generation of noise, odors, waste water, dust, fumes, and other associated conditions.

(ii) The operation of machinery and equipment necessary for a processing operation including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage systems and pumps and the movement of vehicles, machinery, equipment, and fruit and vegetable products, dairy products, meat, and grain products and associated inputs necessary for fruit and vegetable, dairy, and grain, food, meat, or feed processing operations on the roadway as authorized by the

Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923.

(iii) The management, storage, transport, utilization, and land application of fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing by-products consistent with generally accepted agricultural and management practices as established under the Michigan right to farm act, 1981 PA 93, MCL 286.471 to 286.474.

(iv) The conversion from 1 processing operation activity to another processing operation activity.

(v) The employment and use of labor engaged in a processing operation.

(g) "Processing operation" means the operation and management of a business engaged in processing.

History: 1998, Act 381, Imd. Eff. Oct. 23, 1998 ;-- Am. 2005, Act 282, Imd. Eff. Dec. 19, 2005

289.823 Processing operation as public or private nuisance.

Sec. 3.

(1) A processing operation shall not be found to be a public or private nuisance if the processing operation alleged to be a nuisance conforms to generally accepted fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing practices as determined by the Michigan commission of agriculture. The Michigan commission of agriculture shall annually review and revise, as determined necessary, the generally accepted fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing practices.

(2) Until the Michigan commission of agriculture establishes the generally accepted fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing practices, a processing operation shall not be found to be a public or private nuisance in an action brought in a court of competent jurisdiction if the director of the department of agriculture has determined that the processing operation is in compliance with this act as described in section 4(3).

(3) A processing operation shall not be found to be a public or private nuisance if the processing operation existed before a change in the use or occupancy of land within 1 mile of the boundaries of the land upon which the processing operation is located and, before that change in use or occupancy of land, the processing operation would not have been found to be a nuisance. The determination of the circumstances described in this subsection or subsection (1) or (2) is considered to be a finding as a matter of law and creates a rebuttable presumption that the processing operation is operating under generally accepted practices or that the processing operation is not a public or private nuisance.

(4) A processing operation that is in conformance with subsection (1) or (2) shall not be found to be a public or private nuisance as a result of any of the following:

(a) A change in ownership or size.

(b) Temporary cessation or interruption of processing.

(c) Adoption of new technology.

(d) A change in type of fruit, vegetable, dairy, meat, or grain product being processed.

History: 1998, Act 381, Imd. Eff. Oct. 23, 1998 ;-- Am. 2005, Act 282, Imd. Eff. Dec. 19, 2005

289.824 Nuisance complaints; exhaustion of administrative remedies; investigation; memorandum of understanding with department of environmental quality; resolution; notice of finding; determination; costs; "unverified nuisance complaint" defined.

Sec. 4.

(1) The Michigan commission of agriculture shall request the director of the Michigan department of agriculture or his or her designee to investigate all nuisance complaints under this act involving a processing operation. If a person is granted a determination by the director of the department of agriculture under this act, the person is considered to have exhausted his or her administrative remedies with regard to that matter. A court shall not proceed with an action for nuisance brought against a processing operation until it finds that the complainant exhausted all administrative remedies.

(2) The Michigan commission of agriculture and the director of the Michigan department of agriculture may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Michigan department of environmental quality. The

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investigation and resolution of nuisance complaints shall be conducted pursuant to the memorandum of understanding. In the case where no generally accepted fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing practices have been established, any nuisance complaint received by either the department of environmental quality or the department of agriculture shall be resolved under section 3 in the following manner:

(a) The department of environmental quality shall assess compliance of an operation or practice with the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.101 to 324.90106, and shall conduct an inspection within 10 working days of receipt of the complaint.

(b) The department of agriculture shall assess the processing operation or practice under federal good manufacturing practices as adopted under the food law of 2000, 2000 PA 92, MCL 289.1101 to 289.8111, and shall conduct an inspection within 10 working days of receipt of the complaint.

(3) Based upon the determinations made in subsection (2), the department of agriculture shall make a finding as to whether a processing operation is in compliance with this act.

(4) If the director of the Michigan department of agriculture or his or her designee finds upon investigation that the person responsible for the processing operation is using generally accepted fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing practices or otherwise in compliance with law as described in section 3(2), the director of the Michigan department of agriculture or his or her designee shall notify that person and the complainant of this finding in writing. If the director of the Michigan department of agriculture or his or her designee identifies the source or potential sources of the problem caused by the use of other than generally accepted fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing practices or other than compliance with law as described in section 3(2), the director of the Michigan department of agriculture or his or her designee shall advise the person responsible for the processing operation that necessary changes should be made to resolve or abate the problem and to conform with generally accepted fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing practices or with applicable law as described in section 3(2). The director of the Michigan department of agriculture or his or her designee shall determine if those changes are implemented and shall notify the person responsible for the processing operation and the complainant of this determination in writing.

(5) A complainant who brings more than 3 unverified nuisance complaints against the same processing operation within 3 years may be ordered by the director of the Michigan department of agriculture to pay to the Michigan department of agriculture the full costs of investigation of any fourth or subsequent unverified nuisance complaint against the same processing operation. As used in this subsection, "unverified nuisance complaint" means a nuisance complaint in which the director of the department of agriculture or his or her designee determines that the processing operation is using generally accepted fruit, vegetable, dairy product, meat, and grain processing practices.

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History: 1998, Act 381, Imd. Eff. Oct. 23, 1998 ;-- Am. 2005, Act 283, Imd. Eff. Dec. 19, 2005

289.825 Applicability of state and federal statutes.

Sec. 5.

(1) This act does not affect the application of state statutes and federal statutes.

(2) For purposes of this section, "state statutes" includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

(a) The county zoning act, 1943 PA 183, MCL 125.201 to 125.240.

(b) The township zoning act, 1943 PA 184, MCL 125.271 to 125.310.

(c) The city and village zoning act, 1921 PA 207, MCL 125.581 to 125.600.

(d) The natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.101 to 324.90106.

History: 1998, Act 381, Imd. Eff. Oct. 23, 1998