

Meat and Food Advisory Committee

Last revised February 20, 2014

Goals

Help communicate to stakeholders what the rules are,
Help to make the rules and information more transparent and clear,
Ensure consistent interpretation of the rules across the system.

Group DOES NOT focus on policy, but could bring forward ideas that MDA or an outside group could take on.

Mission

Help the State of Minnesota to achieve its goals with respect to meat and food safety by serving as a conduit between MDA, MDH, other agencies, and the community/farmers/constituencies in regards to the production, processing, marketing and distribution of local foods*

* Specifically, we are focusing on the sector of the food system that includes foods for direct human consumption that are raised, gathered, or processed by farmers, farmer groups, or non-farm individuals for direct sales to:

- Individual consumers
- Buyers who re-sell the products to individual consumers
- Business entities that act as brokers or distributors, but retain some level of producer identity with the products

About the Committee

The committee is non-adversarial and cooperative.

MDA and MDH are integral to the committee.

MDA and MDH commit to provide staff presence at the meeting, to bring forth issues of importance, and to listen.

Scope of the Advisory Committee

1. Provide a non-adversarial forum that allows all of the constituencies interested in meat, dairy, and

other food processing and local sales to work collaboratively toward a common goal of reducing food-borne illness and fostering a robust local food sector.

2. Provide an opportunity for public discussion of important topics and provide a means for the public to submit comments to the MDA and MDH.
3. Represent the pertinent stakeholders
 - a. Communicate stakeholders' issues to and from the committee.
 - b. Surface questions and concerns from these stakeholders related to production, processing, marketing and distribution
4. Advise on communication strategies and educational materials coming from the MDA and MDH and targeted toward stakeholders
5. Help facilitate outreach and education to stakeholders.
6. Ensure that meeting proceedings are recorded and transmitted outside the group.