

**Policy statement**

Leduc County encourages agribusiness and local food initiatives through the promotion and support of the development of agricultural networks and businesses and raising grower and consumer awareness of local food.

**Definitions**

*Council* means the duly elected Council of Leduc County.

*Administration* means the Local Food coordinator and Agricultural Services staff.

*Local food* means food that is produced within the region where it is consumed and accompanied by a community social structure and supply chain.

**Policy authority**

*Legislative implications:*

- *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

The Local Food program aligns with Leduc County strategic plan priorities in relation to agricultural innovation and support for local food.

**Policy standards**

1. Develop networks, partnerships and business-to-business relationships to enhance local food activities in the region.
2. Be a resource as support to residents to develop and strengthen their capacities as local food producers and in the development of new business and other opportunities.
3. Promote community involvement in the development of a collaborative group to provide community-led direction for opportunities such as community gardens, local food events.

**Policy responsibilities**

*Council responsibilities:*

Council will,

- Approve the Local Food policy.

*Administration responsibilities:*

Administration will,

- Ensure compliance with all current legislated requirements and municipal policies.
- Ensure that the Local Food program requirements are budgeted for annually.
- Provide training and support for the Local Food coordinator.
- Deliver services to Leduc County residents and businesses in relation to local food, including:
  - Presentation of workshops and information sessions on a range of topics including, but not limited to: non-traditional agriculture opportunities, local food initiatives, market opportunities.
  - Participation as a member of the organizing committee for the annual Farm to Market to Table conference.

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- Engagement of residents, businesses, and organizations in the development of strong networks and partnerships to create a greater awareness of resources available to local producers and agriculture businesses.

**Monitoring and updating**

- This policy will be posted on Leduc County's website.
- This policy will be reviewed at least once every four (4) years.

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