

*Harvest Moon Local Food Initiative*  
*"Who's Your Farmer"*



[www.harvestmoonfood.ca](http://www.harvestmoonfood.ca)

## *General Standards*

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### ***Harvest Moon Local Food Initiative Mission Statement:***

**"We, the Farmers of HM Foods are intent on developing a local food system based on a foundation of trust, integrity and sustainability. We are a group of rural families who care about our land, our neighbours and the people that eat our food."**

### ***Harvest Moon Food Initiative Objectives:***

- Having a positive impact on participating farm families and increase farming opportunities for the next generation.
- Increasing eater and farmer knowledge of the nature and importance of sustainable agriculture and local foods.
- Be a prototype for other communities.

## **Harvest Moon Local Food Initiatives (HMLFI) Standards**

The farmers that supply food to Harvest Moon Local Food Initiative meet and exceed Canada and Manitoba Food Safety regulations. HMLFI standards were developed to provide guidance to its farmers and processors on production practices that:

- Encourage farmers to use sustainable farming practises that reduce or eliminate synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
- Ensure animal health and well being through humane care of all livestock.

HMLFI farmers are committed to continuing and strengthening their sustainable farm management practices through educational opportunities such as Environmental Farm Planning, Holistic Management Training, Low Stress Livestock Handling, training in Organic Agriculture Permaculture, Homeopathy and other training that supports our commitment to sustainable farming.

These standards will provide farmers with flexibility in choice of farming practices. Individual farm practises must be fully disclosed. The standards were developed by the farmers of HMLFI and members of the Harvest Moon Society and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

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## **Livestock Care Protocol**

The Animal Care Protocol applies to all animals raised by Harvest Moon Local Food Initiative farmers.

1. Members of the HMLFI are Local family farmers
2. Animals sold through HMLFI will be free of antibiotics, added growth hormones, synthetic de-wormers, and sub therapeutic medications throughout their entire lives.
3. Harvest Moon Farmers meet annually for peer review and inspection to ensure compliance with Animal Care Protocol.
4. Harvest Moon farmers disclose their individual farming practices through the Harvest Moon website ([www.harvestmoonfood.ca](http://www.harvestmoonfood.ca))
5. Whenever possible HMLFI animals to be fed Manitoba grown grains and forages.
6. All feed used must be free of animal by-products.
7. Any animals treated with antibiotics for humane reasons (illness, disease) do not enter the HMLFI food system.
8. HMLFI farmers will actively pursue alternatives for animal healthcare such as homeopathy and other chemical free animal health treatments.
9. “Grass-fed Beef” and “Grass-fed Lamb” raised on forage and non cereal supplement only.
10. All animals sold through HMLFI must meet all Animal Care Protocols at their point of birth.

### **HMLFI Poultry Protocols:**

11. No HMLFI poultry will be de-beaked.
12. Laying hens will be kept in free run/ outdoor/ non confined housing.
13. Meat birds will be free run/ or pastured only. No permanent confinement.
14. Chicks will only be fed non-medicated starter.

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## **HMLFI Fruit, Vegetable and Grain Production Protocols:**

15. All Fruit, Vegetable and Grain products are Manitoba grown.
16. No use of synthetic pesticides, fungicides, herbicides and fertilizer in crop production.
17. No GMO seed used
18. No synthetic seed treatment used
19. Use of green manure and composted animal manure for nutrient replenishment is encouraged
20. Use of crop rotation to help in the control of diseases, weeds and pests is encouraged
21. Organic Materials Review Institute listed products as management tools are encouraged

## **HMLFI Beekeeping Protocols:**

22. Beekeepers should be registered with the Province of Manitoba
23. Use of integrated pest management techniques.
  - a. no prophylactic use of medications/acaricides/antibiotics. Use treatments only in the presence of disease/pests.
  - b. Use routine testing of hives to determine what pests/diseases are present.
  - c. Formic acid and oxalic acid are preferred treatments for mite control.
  - d. Beekeepers should always give preference to least powerful treatments, following all label directions/provincial recommendations for dosage and lead time for removal of treatments prior to addition of honey supers. No treatments should be in use while honey supers are present on the hive.
24. Bees must be overwintered, indoors or outdoors.
25. Local sources of bees for replacing colony losses are preferred when available.
26. When honey is processed, minimal heat should be applied (honey should not be heated beyond 50C/120F), for the shortest amount of time possible to allow for straining/settling.
27. Moisture level of honey must be tested prior to bottling to ensure moisture content is less than 18%.
28. Honey extracting equipment should be free of lead based solder and extracting facilities must meet minimum provincial health standards.

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## **HMLFI Processing Protocols :**

29. HMLFI food processing will be done in a LOCAL Manitoba inspected and licensed kitchen or facility. In accordance with Manitoba Health and Safety Regulations.