

FACEBOOK SWAP SHOP POSTER MESSAGE

Susana Vega - As the Facebook coordinator for the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, I have been asked to pass along this message to you because of a post you placed on the Paw Paw Area Online Garage Sales Facebook group titled "selling authentic homemade tamales" on March 22, 2018 at 1:48pm. This is a violation of Michigan's Food Law as this item does not appear to have been processed or sold in accordance with state and federal laws. We have also asked the Administrator of this Facebook group to delete your post.

We are asking you to discontinue all sales until we can verify that you are complying with state and federal regulations. This type of operation where the food is offered for swap is considered a sales transaction and anyone offering the food for swap is required to be licensed and meet all food safety requirements as required by the Food Law. The Food Law requirements for this type of sale are the same requirements that any retail food establishment, soup kitchen, food pantry, etc., must meet, regardless of how the food is sold, or if it is given away, shared, or otherwise provided to the public.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's responsibility in all of these transactions is to assure that food in commerce is safe, wholesome and unadulterated. Food safety requirements, in addition to being sold from a licensed and inspected facility include: • appropriate temperature control of food products at all times • segregation from animals and pets as appropriate • segregation from foods for the home kitchen (e.g., not stored in a home refrigerator or pantry) • appropriate records to document source of food products sold/swapped at retail • appropriate hygiene on food safety and personal care (hand washing, etc.) • appropriate control of the food to assure that cross contamination of products does not happen, leaking meat juices on ready-to-eat products etc. Licensed retail food operations are routinely inspected to assure they meet the requirements of Michigan's food regulations. This is not the case for unlicensed facilities, including private homes. If you have questions about this message, please contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at 800-292-3939.

We would appreciate you acknowledging the receipt of this message and your assurance you will comply with these regulations moving forward.

SAMPLE FACEBOOK GROUP ADMIN MESSAGE

Kaitlin Jaqua - As the Facebook coordinator for the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, I have been asked to pass along this message to you as the Admin for Paw Paw Area Online Garage Sales Facebook Group: A posting to the Paw Paw Area Online Garage Sales Facebook group titled "selling authentic homemade tamales" posted on March 22, 2018 at 1:48pm by Susana Vega is a violation of Michigan's Food Law as this item does not appear to have been processed or sold in accordance with state and federal laws.

We have asked this individual to discontinue all sales until we have verified that they are complying with state and federal regulations. We are therefore also asking you, as the Group Administrator, to remove this posting. This type of operation where the food is offered for swap is considered a sales transaction. The person offering the food for swap is required to be licensed and meet all food safety requirements as required by the Food Law. Those who operate Facebook swap pages are operating a marketplace for sales transactions. By allowing people to sell products illegally through these swap pages (in this case, food products from an unlicensed source) they could be opening themselves up to potential liability. The Food Law requirements for this type of sale are the same requirements that any retail food establishment, soup kitchen, food pantry, etc., must meet, regardless of how the food is sold, or if it is given away, shared, or otherwise provided to the public.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's responsibility in all of these transactions is to assure that food in commerce is safe, wholesome and unadulterated. Food safety requirements, in addition to being sold from a licensed and inspected facility include: • appropriate temperature control of food products at all times • segregation from animals and pets as appropriate • segregation from foods for the home kitchen (e.g., not stored in a home refrigerator or pantry) • appropriate records to document source of food products sold/swapped at retail • appropriate hygiene on food safety and personal care (hand washing, etc.) • appropriate control of the food to assure that cross contamination of products does not happen, leaking meat juices on ready-to-eat products etc. Licensed retail food operations are routinely inspected to assure they meet the requirements of Michigan's food regulations. This is not the case for unlicensed facilities, including private homes. Buyers need to be aware of illegal food sales activities. To protect your health and safety, and the health and safety of your family and others who share your food, NEVER purchase foods from an unlicensed facility. Ask to see a copy of the seller's food license and report any suspicious sales activities to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at 800-292-3939.

We would appreciate you acknowledging the receipt of this message and your assurance you will comply with these regulations moving forward.