



## ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

### CHAPTER 14.08

## LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION ACT

### Revised Edition

showing the law as at 31 December 2002

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, No. 9 of 1986

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws—

#### LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION ACT

Act 24 of 1966 ... in force 30th December 1966

Amended by: Act 9 of 1986

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**CHAPTER 14.08**

**LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION ACT**

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**CHAPTER 14.08****LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION ACT**

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PLANTING AND CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE KEEPING AND REARING OF LIVESTOCK; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED OR INCIDENTAL MATTERS.

**Short title.**

1. This Act may be cited as the Local Food Production Act.

**Interpretation.**

2. In this Act—

“arable land” means all land which is suited or which in the opinion of the Chief Agricultural Officer may, by cultivation, be made suited to the growing of vegetables;

“Chief Agricultural Officer” means the officer for the time being in charge of the Agricultural Department of the State of Saint Christopher and Nevis;

“crop year” means the period beginning on the 1st day of January in any year and ending on the 31st day of December in the same year;

“grassland” means all land which sustains as a natural growth flora, grass or other herbaceous or low scrub plants, and includes all land which is normally used for grazing animals, or which may be so used although planted with trees, or otherwise cultivated;

“livestock” means all animals whose carcasses or products are fit for consumption by man, and includes cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry;

“owner” means every person having for the time being possession, charge or control of any plantation, and includes every attorney, manager or agent of an owner as well as tenants;

“plantation” means a holding of not less than ten acres of arable land or grassland or of a combination of both;

“vegetables” includes sweet potatoes, yams, eddoes, corn, cassava, peas, beans, and all other trees, plants, roots, fruits or other agricultural produce which are used or are capable of being used, whether after treatment or otherwise, as food, or as an ingredient in food, for man.

**Returns to be furnished by plantation owners.**

3. (1) Every owner of a plantation shall, within thirty days of the coming into operation of this Act, and thereafter whenever required so to do by Notice issued by the Chief Agricultural Officer, furnish the Chief Agricultural Officer with a return setting out—

- (a) the acreage of his or her plantation;
- (b) the total arable acreage of his or her plantation;
- (c) the total acreage of sugar cane, cotton and coconut cultivation on his or her plantation;
- (d) the total acreage of grassland on his or her plantation;

- (e) the total acreage of forest land on his or her plantation;
- (f) the name (if any), acreage and locality of the fields which, on the date on which the return is made, are planted with any vegetables, and, if there be more than one kind of vegetable, the acreage planted with each kind, and the date or dates on which each kind was planted;
- (g) the kind of livestock kept on the plantation and the number of each kind;
- (h) the total acreage of the plantation under peasant or worker cultivation on the 1st December, 1966; and
- (i) the total acreage of the plantation under peasant or worker cultivation on the date when the return is made.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section or who knowingly submits a return false in any material particular commits an offence against this Act and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

*(Amended by Act 9 of 1986)*

#### **Plantation owner to be required to plant and cultivate vegetables.**

4. (1) Every owner of a plantation, upon being required so to do by notice issued by the Chief Agricultural Officer, shall during the crop year plant, cultivate and harvest or cause to be planted, cultivated and harvested on not less than two and not more than twenty per centum of the total arable acreage of his or her plantation, vegetables of such kind and to such an extent as may be specified in the notice:

Provided that the acreage to be so planted in vegetables shall not include land under peasant or worker cultivation on the 1st December, 1966.

(2) A notice under this section may be served at any time for the planting of vegetables during the part of the crop year specified therein.

#### **Plantation owner to be required to keep livestock.**

5. (1) Every owner of a plantation, upon being required so to do by notice issued by the Chief Agricultural Officer, shall at the times and in the manner required keep or cause to be kept on his or her plantation livestock of such a kind and in such numbers as may be specified in the notice:

Provided that no bull, ram or boar required to be kept shall exceed, in the case of a bull, two years, and in the case of a ram, or a boar, one year, except where such animals are kept solely for breeding purposes.

(2) For the purposes of this section livestock shall not be deemed to be kept on a plantation unless such livestock is wholly owned by the owner of the plantation.

#### **Control of slaughter of livestock.**

6. (1) Except with the written permission of the Chief Agricultural Officer or of an Agricultural Officer authorised by him or her in writing in that behalf, or of a Government Veterinary Officer, no person shall slaughter or sell, offer for sale or deliver for slaughter, and no person shall purchase or receive for slaughter—

- (a) any bull, cow, heifer, sheep, pig or goat which is or which may become fit for breeding; or

- (b) any ox, wether sheep, wether goat or barrow pig, unless—
- (i) the live weight of the same is at the least, in the case of an ox, six hundred pounds, in the case of a wether sheep or wether goat, seventy pounds, and in the case of a barrow pig, ninety pounds;
  - (ii) in the case of any ox, wether sheep or wether goat, the same possesses a minimum of two permanent (broad) teeth; or
  - (iii) the same is injured to such extent that it cannot be expected to thrive.

(2) No person shall, except by the written permission of the Chief Agricultural Officer or of an Agricultural Officer authorised by him or her in writing in that behalf or of a Government Veterinary Officer, render barren by operation any bull, cow, pig, sheep or goat whose age is greater than three months.

(3) If the death of any bull, ox or heifer, which shall have died otherwise than by slaughter permitted by the Chief Agricultural Officer or an Agricultural Officer authorised by him or her in writing in that behalf or a Government Veterinary Officer under the provisions of this section, shall have been due to injury wilfully inflicted by the owner thereof or by any person, acting for him or her, or to the neglect of such owner or person, or to starvation or malnutrition, then the owner of such bull, ox or heifer, and any person acting for him or her in charge of such bull, ox or heifer, commits an offence against this Act.

(4) Any person who infringes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this section commits an offence against this Act and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars.

*(Amended by Act 9 of 1986)*

#### **Notices.**

7. (1) Every owner on whom any Notice under this Act is served shall comply with the requirements of such Notice within the time specified in such Notice, and if he or she fails so to do he or she, unless he or she shall prove that such failure was not due to his or her own negligence or wilful default, commits an offence against this Act and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months; and for a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding eight thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding nine months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

*(Amended by Act 9 of 1986)*

(2) The notice may be served on an owner either personally or by being sent through the post and shall in the latter case be deemed to have been served not later than the sixth day succeeding the day when posted, and for proof of such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter containing the Notice was properly addressed and posted.

#### **Power to inspect plantation.**

8. (1) Inspectors authorised by the Chief Agricultural Officer in writing in that behalf may enter and inspect any plantation at any time between the hours of six o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening with a view to seeing whether the requirements of this Act or any Notice issued in pursuance to the provisions of this Act are being or have been obeyed.

(2) Any person who hinders, obstructs or molests, or attempts to hinder, obstruct or molest, or causes to be hindered, obstructed or molested any Inspector duly authorised by the Chief Agricultural Officer while in the performance of his or her duties under this Act commits an offence against this Act and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

*(Amended by Acts 9 of 1986)*

**Forms.**

9. The Forms set out in the Schedule to this Act, or forms to the like effect, may be used in the cases to which they refer, with such variations as circumstances may require.

**SCHEDULE**

*(Section 9)*

FORM No. 1

*(Section 3)*

The Local Food Production Act, Cap. 14.08

**Notice To Submit Return Of Vegetable Cultivation And Livestock**

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of the abovementioned Act you are required within fourteen days of the date of the service of this notice to furnish the Chief Agricultural Officer with a return in the form hereto attached setting out the particulars required under the said section in respect of the plantation known as ..... Estate in the Island of ..... for the 20 ..... crop year.

Date .....

*Chief Agricultural Officer.*

FORM No. 2

*(Section 3)*

The Local Food Production Act, Cap. 14.08

**Return of vegetable cultivation and livestock**

Name of Estate .....

Address .....

- (a) Total acreage of plantation .....
- (b) Total acreage of forest land .....
- (c) Total acreage of arable land .....
- (d) Total acreage of sugar cane cultivation .....
- (e) Total acreage of cotton cultivation .....
- (f) Total acreage of coconut cultivation .....

(g) Total acreage under peasant or worker cultivation .....

(h) Vegetables .....

Kind	Field in which planted

Total acreage planted in vegetables .....

(i) Livestock

Kind	Number of head owned by owner of plantation

I hereby certify that the above facts and figures are a true return.

Date .....

*Owner.*

FORM No. 3

*(Section 4)*

The Local Food Production Act, Cap. 14.08

**Notice to plant vegetables**

To.....

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of the abovementioned

Act you are hereby required to plant and cultivate on the plantation known as ..... Estate in the Island of ...the vegetable specified hereunder during the ..... current crop year in a total of at least ..... per centum of the total arable acreage of your plantation (such acreage to be in addition to any lands under peasant or worker cultivation on the said plantation).

2. The vegetables to be grown and the percentage to be grown of each are as follows:

Vegetable	Percentage	Acreage

I hereby certify that the above facts and figures are a true return.

Date

.....

*Chief Agricultural Officer.*

FORM No. 4

*(Section 5)*

The Local Food Production Act, Cap. 14.08

**Notice to plant vegetables**

To.....

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of section 5 of the abovementioned Act you are hereby required, not later than the ..... 20

....., to keep on the plantation known as .....  
Estate in the Island of ..... not  
less than the following numbers and kinds of livestock (such livestock to be in  
addition to any livestock owned or kept by labourers or others on the said plantation):

- (a) one ox or one bull or one cow or one heifer to every  
..... acres of your total plantation; and
- (b) one sheep or one pig or one ram sheep or one ewe sheep or one boar  
pig or one sow pig to every acre of your plantation.

2. With the exception of livestock used or intended for breeding purposes, the ages of  
the cattle mentioned in subparagraph (a) of the first paragraph of this notice must not  
exceed two years.

Date.....

*Chief Agricultural Officer.*

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