

MARQUETTE COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 59
AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLES

**THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARQUETTE COUNTY,
WISCONSIN DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1: AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

1.01 Authority. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the powers granted to the County under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 59 and specific authorizations found in Chapter 83 to regulate public health, safety, and welfare.

1.02 Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to:

- (a) Ensure the safety of all travelers on Marquette County highways by providing a means of identifying animal-drawn vehicles;
- (b) Facilitate the enforcement of traffic laws and safety regulations applicable to such vehicles; and
- (c) To prevent damage to Marquette County highways by animals, animal-drawn vehicles, and animal-drawn implements.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

2.01 “Animal-Drawn Vehicle” means any vehicle designed to be drawn by one or more animals (including, but not limited to, horses, mules, or oxen) and used primarily for the transportation of persons or property upon public highways.

2.02 “Owner” means a person who holds ownership and responsibility of an animal-drawn vehicle.

2.03 “Implement of Husbandry” shall have the meaning defined in s. 340.01(24), Wis. Stats., and includes vehicles used exclusively in the conduct of agricultural operations.

2.04 “Cleated Animal Shoes” means any metal or synthetic cleat, spike, projection, or other protrusion attached to the bottom of an animal’s hoof or foot covering, including but not limited to horseshoes, mule shoes, oxen shoes, or any traction devices, intended to improve grip on slippery surfaces.

2.05 “Flat-Soled Animal Shoes” means shoes or coverings attached to an animal’s hoof or foot that have either a smooth, non-protruding surface or a protrusion of less than one-half inch and are designed to minimize wear or damage to paved surfaces.

2.06 “County Highways” means any road or thoroughfare in the geographic boundaries of Marquette County, including all town roads, state highways, and interstate roads within the county’s jurisdiction.

SECTION 3: IDENTIFICATION

3.01 Requirement. An Owner should provide means of identifying an animal-drawn vehicle that operates upon any roadway within Marquette County and display an identifying tag to ensure safety and provide a means of identifying animal-drawn vehicles. The identifying tag should consist of a card, measuring no less than five by seven inches, clearly displaying the owner’s name and address in English.

3.02 Visibility. The identifying tag should be kept inside the front interior of the animal-drawn vehicle.

3.03 Lighting and Reflectivity. The Owner of the animal-drawn vehicle has the obligation to comply with all state requirements regarding Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblems and lighting equipment under ss. 347.24(2) and 347.245, Wis. Stats.

SECTION 4: DAMAGE TO COUNTY ROADS

4.01 Animal Shoes. Only animal shoes with flat soles are permitted on County highways during the months of May 1 through October 31 of each year. Cleated animal shoes are only permitted for use on County highways during the months of November 1 through April 30 of each year. Protrusions on cleated animal shoes shall be no more than three-fourths inch.

SECTION 5: PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

5.01 Forfeiture. Any person who violates any mandatory provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00, plus applicable court costs.

5.02 Separate Offense. Each day a vehicle is operated in violation of this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect on April 21, 2026, allowing a 60-day grace period for compliance with cleated shoe requirements following adoption.