

Selling Meat and Poultry Products in Virginia



Virginia Department
of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
(VDACS)

Office of Meat and Poultry
Services



What meat and poultry products are required to be inspected by the VDACS Office of Meat and Poultry Services or USDA?

- ▶ All “amenable” species
 - ▶ Cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and poultry (including ratites) slaughtered and offered for sale must be inspected.
*Ratites include ostrich, emu, and rheas.
- ▶ Processed meat products containing at least 3% raw or 2% cooked meat or poultry offered for wholesale.

What meat and poultry product do not require inspection by VDACS Office of Meat and Poultry Services or USDA?

- ▶ Nonamenable species (such as bison, farm raised deer, or rabbits) do not require inspection under OMPS or USDA laws to sell the meat.
- ▶ Inspected meat or poultry further processed in a retail store or prepared in a restaurant.
- ▶ Meat or poultry products sold directly to the retail consumer.
 - ▶ Meat and poultry used in these products must come from OMPS or USDA inspected source.



Can poultry be sold without inspection?

- There are specific exemptions to the Poultry Products Inspection Act that allow for individuals or firms to sell their poultry without undergoing inspection.
- A person or business may only operate under one exemption per calendar year.
- While certain poultry operations may be conducted without inspection, you must meet requirements such as sanitation, labeling, and recordkeeping.
- Exempt poultry cannot be sold across state lines.



What are the different poultry inspection exemptions ?

- ▶ Personal use exemption
 - ▶ Slaughter/processing for own use
 - ▶ Slaughter/processing for use of the owner (a service)
- ▶ Producer/Grower 1,000 bird limit
- ▶ Producer/Grower 20,000 bird limit
- ▶ Producer Grower or Other Person (PGOP) 20,000 bird limit
- ▶ Small Enterprises 20,000 bird limit

- ▶ For more information on the poultry exemptions, please contact OMPS at 804.786.4569.





Who can sell meat or poultry to restaurants, or to retail stores?

- ▶ Anyone who has had their products processed at a USDA/FSIS or VDACS/OMPS inspected facility or has applied and received a grant of inspection from USDA/FSIS or VDACS/OMPS.
- ▶ Persons claiming one of the poultry exemptions may sell their products based on the type of exemption. It is important for poultry producers to check with the farmers' market, local department of health, or VDACS Office of Dairy & Foods to see if they allow for the sale of exempt product at or to these facilities.

What are the requirements for selling meat and poultry at farmer's markets?

- First, check with the individual market for their requirements.
- Meat and poultry must have been inspected by OMPS or USDA. Poultry may be processed under the poultry exemption.
- Meat or poultry products sold directly to retail customers must be inspected by the Office of Dairy & Foods or the Virginia Department of Health.



How can I tell if products have been inspected?

- ▶ Only meat and poultry products produced under a Federal or State Grant of Inspection will have labels with inspection legends that indicate the product was inspected.



Do I need to have inspection to sell rabbit meat?

- Yes and no. While OMPS and USDA regulations do not require inspection for rabbits to sell the meat, other inspections offices may require that the rabbits be inspected.
- There are two types of inspection available in Virginia for rabbit producers.
 1. Apply to OMPS for a Voluntary Grant of Inspection. This inspection service charges processors an hourly fee.
 2. Apply for the VA Rabbit Program. For program requirements and application, contact VDACS Office of Dairy and Food 804.786.3520. Applicants are charged an annual fee.





Can I sell meat harvested from hunting?

- ▶ Wild harvested game birds and animals cannot be sold for food.
- ▶ Only meat from domestically raised game birds and animals may be sold.

Questions?

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