Rabbit Processing Options in Maine

In Maine, any food offered for sale – has to be from an “Approved Source”
There are three options to produce rabbit meat product as an “Approved Source”

A. Option One:
Set up your own licensed facility to process rabbits for yourself (and others) according to Chapter 332-Rabbit Processing + Chapter 343- Food Processing and Manufacturing

a. slaughter and processing must be performed in a licensed facility that meets the requirements of Chapter 332 and Chapter 343
b. inspector does not need be present during slaughter and processing

C. Option Three:
This is usually specifically requested because the seller of the meat wants the USDA Mark of Wholesomeness on the package for marketing reasons

a. USDA Voluntary Inspection is needed and would result in the product being marked with an official USDA mark of WHOLESALENESS
b. USDA meat inspector must be present during slaughter and processing
c. There is a charge for inspection
d. USDA labels are approved according to 9CFR 354
e. Contact FSIS, USDA Philadelphia District to find a USDA slaughter establishment that offers Voluntary Inspection of Rabbits 215-597-4219
NOTE: In the State of Maine, sellers of the product must hold a license for any or all of the following:

- **Retail Food Establishment** (sales from farm, farm stand or store)
- **Meat Sales** (sell directly to consumers)
- **Mobile Vendor** (sell at Farmers’ Markets, door-to-door, etc)
- **Wholesale Distributor of Meat & Poultry Products** (sell to retail stores for resale; hotels, restaurants, institutions, schools, etc.)

Use this link to the application for these licenses: [Food and Fuel License Application (DOC 238KB)](#)

If the seller wants to sell rabbit meat in a different State, the seller would have to contact that State to obtain licenses, permits, registration that might be required by that State.

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