

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
[[Ch. 332 Rabbit Processing](#) [Ch. 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. initial review, followed by periodic review of facility and operations by QA&R field inspectors
- d. product labeled according to Chapter 343: Food Processing and Manufacturing
- e. the rabbit processor must submit an application for Commercial Food Processor, proof of approved wastewater disposal, water test for nitrates and coliforms, and associated fees [Food and Fuel License Application \(DOC 238KB\)](#)

B. Option Two:

This is usually specifically requested because the seller of the meat wants the Maine State Mark of Wholesomeness on the package for marketing reasons

- a. State Voluntary Inspection is needed and would result in the product being marked with an official State of Maine mark of WHOLESOMENESS
- b. Maine meat inspector must be present during slaughter and processing
- c. There is a charge for inspection
- d. Maine labels are approved according to 9CFR 354
- e. Contact Maine Meat and Poultry Inspection (MMPI) to find a Maine slaughter establishment that offers Voluntary Inspection of Rabbits 207-287-3841

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 WHOLESOMENESS
- 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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