

32 Meat Inspection Resource Kit for Nova Scotia Farmers

All meat sold in retail shops in Nova Scotia must be slaughtered at an inspected abattoir. There are two types of inspection: provincial and federal. Provincially-inspected meat can be sold within Nova Scotia. However, any meat produced in Nova Scotia but sold outside of the province must be slaughtered at a federally-inspected abattoir.

Provincial inspection is provided to abattoirs free-of-charge. Meat inspection regulations ensure that meat products sold to Nova Scotia consumers are safe without being onerous for small-scale abattoirs. This has allowed many farms to develop their own on-farm meat slaughter and meat processing facilities. There are now a variety of meat brands available in Nova Scotia through direct sale outlets or farm markets that differentiate themselves as locally produced, grass-fed, free-range, or organic.

Most abattoirs in the province are willing to work with backyard livestock producers and small-scale farmers. You can have meat custom-cut to your specifications, depending on your market requirements. To find an abattoir near you, contact your [Agricultural Resource Coordinator](#).

If you are interested in opening your own on-farm abattoir, you will need a Meat Slaughtering and Processing License issued by the Food Safety Section of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. If you process meat into bacon, sausages or other products, you will also need this license, even if you do not slaughter the animals yourself. Your first steps should be to familiarize yourself with the Meat Inspection Act and talk to the Senior Meat Inspector. For more information on the Meat Inspection Act, visit: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/statutes/meatinsp.htm>. To contact the Senior Meat Inspector, call 902-893-6303 or email feltmawj@gov.ns.ca.

To learn more about obtaining a Meat Slaughtering and Processing License, visit: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/paal/agric/paal011.asp>

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