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Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 4:23:31 PM

To: AGR - Meat Inspection <AGR.MeatInspection@vermont.gov>

Subject: On Farm Slaughter Exemption

Happy New Year!

You are receiving this email because you have registered in the past with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets as a farmer who raises and sells livestock for slaughter under the On Farm Slaughter exemption. In response to questions received by the Agency, the following is a review of the requirements for farmers who wish to participate in selling live livestock and offering an area or space for slaughter activities.

In May of 2020, the Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (AAFM) invited all registered on-farm slaughter participants for a virtual forum to answer questions about the regulations covering the “on-farm slaughter exemption”. A [recording](#) is on the Agency’s website along with a power-point presentation explaining the legal pathways for a farmer to sell live livestock, and to allow the new owner(s) to slaughter the livestock on the farm without licensing or daily inspection requirements.

1. A farmer in Vermont who raises animals exclusively for use by themselves, and members of their household, non-paying guests and employees may use the Personal Use Exemption. The farmer will not be required to have a license or receive inspection as long as they meet the following requirements:

- The livestock is owned wholly by the individual farmer
- The livestock was raised by the farmer on their own farm
- The act of slaughter occurs on the farm where the livestock was raised
- The farmer performs the act of slaughter him or herself under sanitary conditions or hires an itinerant slaughterer
- The slaughter process is undertaken in accordance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and Vermont Humane Handling Regulations

2. Farmers in Vermont are allowed to sell live livestock to a new owner(s) to be slaughtered on the farmer’s property without an approved facility, and will not be required to have a license or receive inspection if the slaughter of that livestock meets the following requirements:

- The livestock is sold as a live animal by the farmer to a person or persons.
- The livestock in question was raised by the farmer on his/her property.

- The act of slaughter occurs on the farm where the livestock was raised with approval from the selling farmer **BUT** the farmer who sold the livestock may not assist in the slaughter.
- The slaughter is done under sanitary conditions
- The livestock is slaughtered according to a humane method, as that term is defined in subdivision 6 V.S.A. 3131(6)
- The new owner(s) of the livestock performs the act of slaughtering on the farmer's property **OR** hires an itinerant slaughterer to perform the slaughter on the farmer's property.
 - Itinerant slaughterer is a person who provides slaughter services to livestock owners on-farm without an inspected or approved slaughter facility.
 - In order to perform slaughter services of multiple livestock for multiple owners on the same farm at the same time, the itinerant slaughterer must be hired by the livestock owners individually, and all of the livestock must have been raised and purchased on the farm in question.
 - **USDA has reinforced the requirements in all states, including Vermont, that in order to qualify for the personal exemption, the owner(s) of the animal has to conduct the slaughter and/or be present if they hire an itinerant slaughterer.**
 - The new owner(s) of the livestock arranges for appropriate transportation of the carcass home (if processing him or herself) or to a licensed processing facility.
 - The slaughtered livestock may be halved or quartered by the individual or individuals who purchased the livestock, but solely for the purpose of transport from the farm.
 - If using a licensed custom facility, all owners (single or multiple) must sign a certificate of ownership form. All meat is marked "Not for Sale". Meat cannot be sold or bartered.
 - The transport vehicle is clean and free of contaminants and carcass and parts are properly wrapped in food grade plastic to protect from road dust and dirt.
 - The carcass is transported in a timely manner.
- All farmers intending to sell live livestock for slaughter by the new owner(s) on their property must [register](#) annually with the VAAFMM before allowing slaughter activities.
 - The current annual limit for a farmer selling livestock for slaughter by a new owner(s) is:
 - No more than 10 cattle, or 30 swine, or 80 sheep/goats, or a total of 12,000 lbs. (based on live weight) if there is any combination of different species.

- This new limit took place on July 1, 2021.
- All farmers intending to sell live livestock for slaughter by the new owner(s) on their property are required to send [records](#) of the slaughter to the VAAFM quarterly.
 - Records do not have to be submitted if no livestock was slaughtered in the previous quarter.
- Farmers who sell livestock (live animal(s)) to new owners may receive compliance visits to determine compliance with the above applicable rules.

Questions? Please visit our website <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/> or <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/food-safety/vermont-meat-poultry-inspection/livestock-exemptions-inspection/farm-personal-use> or give us a call at the Agency at (802) 828-2426, we are happy to assist.

Stay safe and take care,

Sincerely,

Julie Boisvert

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