



RI Department of Health Office of Food Protection

Requirements for the Onsite Sale of Farm Raised Meat (Market Permit)

1. Only farmers that obtain a market license from the Rhode Island Department of Health will be permitted to sell meat at retail.
2. Only meat slaughtered and packaged at USDA regulated facilities will be allowed for retail sale at Rhode Island farms. No processing or packaging of meat products is permitted on the farm.
3. All meat must be raised on the farm where it is sold.
4. Only frozen meat is permitted for sale.
5. An operation plan detailing the process for slaughtering, packaging, transporting, storing, and selling meat products must be submitted with the application for approval.
6. A sample label that contains a product description, product weight, safe cooking instructions, the USDA mark of inspection, and a “keep frozen” statement must be submitted with the market application for approval.
7. A designated area that offers adequate protection and sanitary conditions must be identified for the storage of meat products.
8. Freezers used to store meat shall be used for no other purpose and must be maintained in proper working condition and good repair at all times.

Additional Requirements for the Sale of Farm Stored Meat at Farmer’s Markets (Peddlers Permit)

1. Only individuals that obtain a peddlers license from the Rhode Island Department of Health will be permitted to sell meat at farmers markets.
2. Only meat slaughtered and packaged at USDA regulated facilities will be allowed for retail sale at Rhode Island farms. No processing or packaging of meat products is permitted.
3. All meat must be protected from contamination at all times and:
 - a. Stored in coolers to maintain the product at temperatures below 41F at all times; or
 - b. Stored in mechanical equipment that is capable of maintaining the product frozen at all times.
 - c. Product not stored in mechanical equipment to maintain it frozen at all times must not be refrozen or offered for sale at a later date. This includes product stored in coolers on ice.

Sale of Farm Stored Meat to Restaurants (Wholesale Permit)

Farms wishing to sell product wholesale must meet all of the requirements of a food warehouse and distributor (wholesale permit). Wholesale licenses will be reviewed and granted on a case-by-case basis.