Summary of Poultry Processing Regulations
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Poultry Processing Options

1) 1000-bird exemption (On-farm Processing)
   • Appropriate for: anyone processing fewer than 1000 of their own birds on-farm in a calendar year
   • Sales allowed: direct-to-consumer only
   • Parts and Pieces: allowed
   • Facility: unlicensed and uninspected, but must still follow good food and environmental safety practices!
   • For more info: On-Farm Processing Guide is a good ‘best practices’ manual (available from smallfarms.cornell.edu)

2) 5-A Producer/Grower Exemption
   • Appropriate for: producers doing on-farm processing of 1001 - 20,000 birds/year - THEIR OWN birds only
   • Sales: can be sold direct-to-consumer OR to wholesale customers like HRI (hotels, restaurants, institutions)
   • Parts and Pieces: allowed
   • Facility: licensed and inspected by NYSDAM (1x/year)
   • For more info: Circ 925 from NYS Ag and Markets

3) 5-A Small Enterprise
   • Appropriate for: people looking to process birds on behalf of other producers, or people who don’t want to process their own birds*
   • Sales: same as 5-A Producer/Grower
   • Facility: licensed and inspected by NYSDAM (1x/year)
   • NOTE: can be difficult to find someone willing to do waterfowl
   • For more info: Circ 925 from NYS Ag and Markets

*Technically, a 5-A Small Enterprise facility buys live birds from producers, processes them, and sells them back to the producer.

4) USDA Slaughterhouse
   • Appropriate for: Any producer wanting to sell their poultry to any market, and to have their product cross state lines
   • BUT there are no USDA plants in NY that will do poultry for outside customers
   • Nearest USDA plant willing to do poultry is in NJ
   • 3 plants in NY have tried being inspected for USDA poultry but all 3 have gone back – automation requirements were too much

Labeling Requirements
NYS has adopted the USDA FSIS Mandatory Labeling req.
For 1000-bird exemption, label must include:
   • Product Name
   • Exempted -- P.L. 90-492 (denoting processing in an uninspected facility)
   • Net weight (must use certified scale) and price
   • Farm Name and Address
   • Safe handling instructions, including “Exempt P.L. 90-492”
   • Nutrition facts – required ONLY if you make a nutritional claim on your label

NYS Dept of Ag and Markets (NYSDAM)
   • To apply for a 5-A license, or if you have questions not answered here about poultry processing regulations, contact:
     Cory Skier
     Head of FSIS Division at NYSDAM
     (518)457-5457
     Cory.Skier@agriculture.ny.gov

For More Information
   • Direct Marketing Guide to Livestock and Poultry
     - more complete description of regulations, best downloaded and viewed as a PDF
     http://www.nebeginningfarmers.org/resources/guides
   • Guide to Farming in NY
     http://www.nebeginningfarmers.org/resources/guides/farming-guide/
   • Slaughterhouse Map for NY:
     http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/livestock/slaughterhouse-map/