Priority 3: Develop new and/or expand existing **LIVESTOCK PROCESSING FACILITIES**

**261 out of 584 respondents (35%) ranked this topic as highest priority. Of those, 203 provided justification as follows:**

* 74 respondents (or 37%) commented that the shortage of inspected facilities creates high wait times for slaughter dates and long drives to and from the facilities as a major barrier to raising and processing livestock in NY.

*“I have to reserve up to a year in advance to get my lambs slaughtered in November. Butchering deer at that time seems to pre-empt my lambs.”*

* 24 respondents (or 12%) commented that economic opportunity and small farm viability would improve if there better options for livestock processing for small farms.

*“Fully inspected USDA facilities are spread so far apart in New York that driving small groups of animals to them is often not economically feasible.”*

* 21 respondents (or 10%) commented that there is a demand from consumers that is not being met because of limited local processing capacity.

*“We can grow the animals. People want to eat the animals. The bottleneck is lack of capacity in NY to handle the flow of livestock.”*

* 8 respondents (or 4%) commented that there is a lack of quality meat cutting facilities to serve premium markets.

*“There aren't enough butchers to handle all of the locally-grown meat in the region. The demand for locally-grown meats continues to expand but there is a logjam at the processing facilities.”*

* 6 respondents (or 3%) commented that mobile slaughter units would increase small farm livestock production.

*“Mobile processing facilities and more inspectors would help meat producing operations.”*

* 6 respondents (or 3%) commented that there is a lack of licensed poultry processing facilities in NY.

*“It is THE limiting factor that keeps us from expanding beyond home-slaughtered pastured poultry.”*

* 5 respondents (or 3%) commented that single species facilities limit what small producers can take to a facility per trip, reducing economies of scale for the farmer.

*“Fewer and fewer slaughter houses are available to the small farmer & their hours are limited to a single species per day each week, further limiting the number of animals that can be processed.”*