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 (cont’d)
   • 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/