

Processor or Broker

A processor is any person engaged in the business of preparing food from animals, including poultry, derived wholly or in part from livestock or poultry carcasses or parts or products of such carcasses.

A broker is any person engaged in the business of buying, negotiating for purchase of, handling of, or selling of animal meat products in their original containers without changing the products in any way. A broker cannot have any processing equipment in their licensed facility. A broker is able to sell wholesale. A broker license is not required to sell retail meat products from an approved source to households, not business entities. An approved source is the presence on the product of a state (in the shape of Illinois) or federal (circle) mark of inspection.



Processor — Type 1 or Type 2

A Type 1 License* permits establishments to receive live animals and/or meat products for slaughter and processing under inspection by State of Illinois Department of Agriculture personnel. Properly labeled and inspected products are eligible for intrastate sale.

*For interstate sales, meat products must be USDA inspected in a Type 1 establishment.

A Type 2 License permits establishments to receive live animals and/or meat products for slaughter and processing as a service only. Meat products produced in a Type 2 establishment are not produced under inspection and are not eligible for sale in commerce.



However, a live animal can be sold to the consumer and then delivered to the Type 2 processor. The consumer pays the processor for processing of the animal and picks up the finished product from the facility.

Obtaining a License

Processor Licenses

The State Plant Type 1 and Type 2 application is available at the [Illinois Department of Agriculture, Meat and Poultry Inspection - Meat and Poultry License website](#) as well as all the required procedures necessary for obtaining a license besides completing the application. All this must be completed within one year of the date of application.

Meat and/or Poultry Broker License

The Application for Brokerage License form is available online at the [Illinois Department of Agriculture, Meat and Poultry Inspection - Brokers website](#).





Illinois Poultry Raisers Exemption

225 ILCS 650/5

- Consult with local State Meat Inspector
- The request for exemption must be submitted in writing to the Illinois Department of Ag., Meat and Poultry Inspection. If granted, the exemption is good for two years for birds produced on the farm.
- Up to 5,000 birds may be processed under granted exemption.
- The poultry marketed must be labeled as exempted from government inspection.
- Exempted poultry products must be sold or delivered to the consumer on the premise where exemption is given.
- Such slaughter or processing shall be performed in sanitary facilities and subject to periodic inspection by Illinois Department of Agriculture personnel.

Meat Packaging Tips

- Use clear plastic packaging: Consumers want to see the product.
- Use vacuum sealed packaging: It reduces dehydration or freezer burn.
- Label and logo: The product label should have your farm's contact information and the logo. This leads to repeat sales.
- The name of meat product should be clearly visible
- Handling statement – Keep Frozen, Keep Refrigerated

Author

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Sources

Illinois Meat and Poultry Inspection Act
www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1384

Illinois Department of Agriculture, Meat and Poultry Inspection
agr.illinois.gov/animals/meat-inspection.html

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service
www.fsis.usda.gov/

USDA, FSIS — Small (Meat Processing) Plants Resources
www.fsis.usda.gov/inspection/compliance-guidance/small-very-small-plant-guidance

Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms
go.illinois.edu/SmallFarms

225 ILCS 650/5
www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=022506500K5

Iowa Dept of Agriculture: Direct to Consumer Toolkit for Meat Production
publications.iowa.gov/43783/

Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network
www.nichemeatprocessing.org/

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