

# Information and Resources for the Processing and Sale of Rabbit Meat



This document provides useful information to individuals interested in processing and selling rabbits for meat. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Food and Drug Protection Division (FDPD) helps rabbit processors comply with food safety laws and produce safe products for sale.

## **Why is rabbit processing now regulated by the NCDA&CS FDPD?**

Traditionally, rabbit processing has been regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture and NCDA&CS Meat and Poultry Inspection Division (MPID). In 2009, regulatory authority for rabbits as food shifted to the FDA and NCDA&CS FDPD. The exemptions and licensing previously required by NCDA&CS MPID did not carryover; specifically 1,000 head inspection exemption and possession of a meat handler's license are no longer applicable or required.

## **What are the requirements under NCDA&CS FDPD to process rabbits?**

- Annual inspections verifying compliance with Code of Federal Regulations (21 CFR 110) also known as Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs)
- Compliance with Code of Federal Regulations (21 CFR 101) also known as Food Labeling
- Compliance with North Carolina Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act

## **What are the recommendations for rabbit processors?**

- Complete the Rabbit HACCP course offered by NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division personnel (if not offered prior to inspection, attendance requested after production begins)

## **How can I sell my product to a restaurant?**

- Restaurants are subject to North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Environmental Health Services regulation
- If your product originates from a NCDA&CS FDPD inspected facility and operation, you are currently considered an "approved source" able to sell to restaurants

## **Where can I get help in marketing my product?**

The NCDA&CS Marketing Division can provide marketing assistance. For more information, visit the Marketing Division website at [www.ncagr.gov/markets/agbizmarketing.htm](http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/agbizmarketing.htm). The Marketing Division can help home processors build a web presence for their business through the NCDA&CS General Store, a directory of North Carolina agricultural goods and services.

General questions about rabbit processing can be e-mailed to [janna.spruill@ncagr.gov](mailto:janna.spruill@ncagr.gov). If you do not use e-mail or for more specific inquiries, contact a member of the Food and Drug Protection Division Compliance staff at (919) 733-7366.