



Minnesota

MEAT MINUTE

Volume 10, Issue 8
September 2023



Inside this issue

Page 1

Licensing Liaison Joins the MDA Dairy and Meat Inspection Division

Chronic Wasting Disease Management in Minnesota

Page 2

Iowa State Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Workshop This Fall

AGRI Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grant

Technical Assistance Available for USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Licensing Liaison Joins the MDA Dairy and Meat Inspection Division

In the 2023 legislative session, many stakeholder groups, in cooperation with the MDA, successfully advocated for a new licensing liaison position with a meat processing focus. This position was created to assist new and prospective meat processing plants in navigating the licensing and food safety regulatory requirements to become a licensed and inspected business. In addition, the licensing liaison will assist meat processors in making connections to sources of funding and will help them work through infrastructure requirements.



Welcome, Megan!

In August, Megan Jansa joined DMID as our licensing liaison and is going through training now to learn more about Minnesota’s meat and poultry inspection program. Megan brings over a decade of experience working with meat processors to the role, and we are excited to have her on board. She shared the following information about herself:

I live in Wisconsin with my husband, our two children, and our two dogs. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a degree in Animal Science. For the past 15 years I worked with the Bureau of Meat and Poultry Businesses in Wisconsin, and the last 10 years working in the role of a Meat Safety Supervisor. My kids keep me busy with school and 4-H activities, and in my free time I really enjoy crafting and gardening. My family and I like to travel and spend time outdoors together. I am excited about my new role with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and look forward to working with meat and poultry processors around the state.

Chronic Wasting Disease Management in Minnesota

As deer hunting season approaches, meat plants preparing to accept deer for custom wild game processing should be aware of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management activities in the state and how it may affect their operations. CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer and other species in the cervid family – elk, moose, reindeer, and caribou. It is relatively rare in Minnesota but a concern as there is no known cure.

In previous years, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designated three types of CWD “zones” for areas of the state where CWD had been detected or where monitoring was taking place: management, control, and surveillance zones. The zone determines the nature of any disease management measures that must be

Chronic Wasting Disease Management *(continued from side 1)*

followed in that area. In the last year, the DNR has removed the control zone category, leaving two types of CWD zones: management and surveillance. Management zones have more restrictive measures in place, while surveillance zones have some precautionary management measures in place.

If a deer is harvested in one of these zones, the carcass may be subject to DNR testing, movement, and/or disposal requirements. Learn more about the specifics of CWD zones through the DNR's webpage on Chronic Wasting Disease Management (www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/index.html).

Iowa State Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Workshop This Fall

Iowa State University will host a HACCP Workshop at the Quality Inn & Suites Conference Center in Ames, IA on October 3-5, 2023. The fee for the course is \$550 if registering before September 12, when the fee will increase to \$600 until registration closes on September 22. Read more about the course and register online at www.meatscience.ag.iastate.edu/shortcourse/haccp-workshop-fall.

Meat Inspector Calendar - No Inspection Dates

November 10 – Veterans Day
November 23-24 – Thanksgiving holiday
December 25 – Christmas Day
January 1 – New Year's Day

AGRI Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grant

The MDA Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing (MPEM) Grant application period is now open. **Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Thursday, October 12, 2023.** The purpose of this grant is to facilitate the startup, modernization, or expansion of meat, poultry, egg, and milk processing businesses in Minnesota.

In the past, many processors have benefited from the AGRI Value-Added Grant Program. The Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grant Program is very similar to the value-added grant but is only open to these types of processors. The fiscal year 2024 AGRI MPEM and Value-Added grants are being run as a single program with two application tracks. You may apply through only one of the programs. Meat, poultry, egg, and milk processors are encouraged to use the MPEM application as it is tailored to these types of businesses.

For more information, including the request for proposals, eligibility requirements, and instructions on how to apply, visit the grant program webpage at www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/agri-mpem-processing or contact Courtney VanderMey at 651-201-6135 or Courtney.VanderMey@state.mn.us.

Technical Assistance Available for USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is requesting applications for the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP). This program is designed to expand processing options and provide more processing capacity. Grant funds can be used for a variety of expenses, such as building or modernizing facilities, developing, and installing new equipment, offsetting costs associated with becoming an inspected facility, and many others. **Applications are due November 22, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. eastern time zone (10:59 p.m. central time).** Read more about the MPPEP grants at www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/meat-and-poultry-processing-expansion-program.

Interested applicants can also find guidance applying. There are various Technical Assistance Providers in the USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity - Technical Assistance (MPPTA) network, including the Minnesota-based Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI). AURI and other Technical Assistance Providers can assist in most aspects of navigating the federal grant application process, including determining applicant and project eligibility, offering referrals to grant writers and business plan writers, and providing commentary and project narrative review before application submission. Learn more online at www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/mppta.

Meat, Poultry, and Egg Inspection Staff

Nikki Neeser, DVM	651-201-6225	Josie Bakeberg	763-710-0447	Justin Jarocki	651-285-8327
Levi Muhl	651-201-6216	Katie Brigan	320-385-0034	Myrrh-Anna Kienitz	651-802-2789
Jennifer Stephe	651-248-2566	Kodi Bundermann	320-424-8000	Rayon King	651-285-8495
Andy Siira	320-295-2066	Sarah Current	320-874-0926	Carol Konkol	320-492-4151
Alex Brandt	651-201-6308	Jessica Evanson, DVM	651-485-3152	Raeanna Lanzrath	320-424-2848
Nicole Droher	651-231-5457	Sue Gorman	507-456-4570	Grace Martin	651-707-7751
Michaela Gadiant	651-201-6630	Ashley Hassler	320-221-6507	Corrie McQuillan	320-296-1981
Heidi Varberg	651-201-6009	Jennifer Hede	651-338-7145	Shawn Neumann	218-296-2035
Lisa Wetzel	651-201-6191	Cullan Hewitt	320-304-4624	Eileen Schmidt	507-469-5951
Nicole Wilson	651-201-6024	Jennifer Hofer	612-396-4941	Dave Seipel	651-285-8321
Catrina Andree	507-440-5861	Megan Jansa	651-396-9176		