



Minnesota

MEAT

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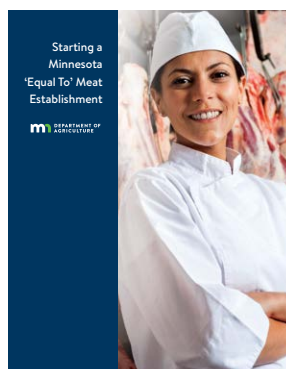
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In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity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



Starting a Minnesota 'Equal To' Meat Establishment

Have you wondered what the requirements are to become an 'Equal To' (E2) meat processor? The [Starting a Minnesota 'Equal To' Meat Establishment](#) is now available online. This manual provides basic information and general guidance for individuals interested in starting an E2 slaughter and/or processing operation. It covers key factors to consider before starting your business, the regulatory requirements, inspection process, and other

topics relevant to prospective processors.

Retail Exemptions Adjusted Dollar Limitations

The Food Safety and Inspection Service released the dollar limitations on the amount of meat, poultry, and meat and poultry food products that a retail store can sell to hotels, restaurants, and similar institutions without disqualifying itself for exemption from inspection requirements. Effective April 10, 2025, the value for the dollar limitations on sales to hotels, restaurants, and institutions increased to \$103,600 for meat and meat food products and increased to \$74,800 for poultry and poultry products for the calendar year 2025. [View the Rule Docket online.](#)

MDA License Surcharges for Custom Exempt and Retail Licenses

License renewals will be sent to establishments in May for the Custom Exempt and Retail Food Handler licenses that expire on June 30. As a reminder, in 2024, the Minnesota Legislature passed [MINN. STAT. 17.033](#), which adds a line for the MDA License Surcharge for **all** new license applications and renewals. This required surcharge is 5% of the license or \$5 if the license fee is \$100 or less. The money from this surcharge fee will be used for information technology (IT) improvement activities that are needed to create electronic systems for conducting licensing and permitting transactions and to modernize the MDA's inspection and customer management systems. Be sure you review your license renewals closely and include all required fees, including the surcharge when you renew.

AGRI Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grant

The MDA’s [Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation \(AGRI\) Value-Added Grant](#) and [Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing \(MPEM\) Grant](#) programs application period is now open. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, 2025. The purpose of these grants is to help value-added businesses and livestock product processors seeking to start-up, modernize, or expand their operations and increase their sales of Minnesota agricultural products, invest in equipment and physical improvements that support processing, capacity, market diversification, and market access.

For more information, including the request for proposals, eligibility requirements, and instructions on how to apply, visit the [Value-Added Grant](#) and [MPEM Grant](#) program webpages.

Meat Inspector Calendar – No Inspection Dates

- May 26, 2025 – Memorial Day
- June 19, 2025 – Juneteenth
- July 4, 2025 – Independence Day
- September 1, 2025 – Labor Day
- November 11, 2025 – Veterans Day
- November 27-28, 2025 – Thanksgiving Day and Day after Thanksgiving
- December 25, 2025 – Christmas Day

Filing a Program Delivery Discrimination Complaint

The MN Meat and Poultry Inspection Program (MPIP) is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, religious creed, sex, political beliefs, age, disability, national origin, or limited English proficiency. If you feel you have been discriminated against during or as part of the delivery of MN MPIP services, you may file a complaint directly with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

To file a complaint with the MDA, write a letter that includes the following:

- Your name, address, and telephone number as well as the name, address, and the telephone number of your attorney/authorized representative, if you are represented.
- The basis of your complaint. This is what you believe to be the motivating factor for the discrimination (e.g., race, color, religious creed, sex, political beliefs, age, disability, national origin, limited English proficiency).
- The date(s) that the incident(s) you are reporting occurred. A complaint must be filed within 180 days of the incident. If the discrimination occurred more than 180 days prior to filing your complaint, you may request a waiver of this filing requirement.
- The name of the individual(s) or entity you believe discriminated against you and the agency or recipient that employs that/those individual(s).

- The issue(s) of your complaint. Describe what happened, or the action that was taken by the individual(s) or agency that discriminated against you, resulting in some harm. Explain the context in which it happened and how you were discriminated against. Include how other persons were treated differently from you, if applicable. Provide a copy of any documents supporting the events you are reporting (e.g., denial letter if you were denied a benefit or service).

Mail your letter to:
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Dairy & Meat Inspection Division Director
625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55155

After the MDA receives your complaint, you will be notified and informed of the next steps based on what you submitted. At a minimum, you can expect the MDA to contact you within two weeks after it receives the complaint. Reprisal (retaliation) is prohibited. Intimidation, threats, harassment, coercion, discrimination, or any other kind of retaliation is not allowed against anyone who has filed a complaint or anyone who participates in any manner in the investigation of the complaint. For more information, contact the MDA Dairy & Meat Inspection Division at 651-201-6300 or MDA.MeatPoultryEgg@state.mn.us.

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Questions? Call the Dairy and Meat Inspection Division at 651-201-6300