

STATES WITH POULTRY EXEMPTIONS

*As of April 2025



What is a Poultry Exemption?

“Exemption” means exempt from the requirement that an inspector be present when slaughtering and processing is taking place; it does not mean being exempt from any regulation.

Background

In 1968, Congress passed Public [Law 90-492](#), which allowed poultry producer/growers to sell uninspected poultry that has been slaughtered and processed on a farm. This means a poultry inspector does not have to be present during slaughtering and processing of poultry.

In April 2006, USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) published the [Guidance for Determining Whether a Poultry Slaughter or Processing Operation is Exempt from Inspection Requirements of the Poultry Products Inspection Act](#) . This guidance document outlines the eligibility criteria for each type of poultry exemption.

Why is this important?

Understanding poultry exemptions allows for a Tribe to explore opportunities for self-sustaining food production, economic development and cultural preservation by processing poultry locally without the need for USDA inspection. Being aware of state exemptions helps for Tribes to comply with regulations while potentially reducing costs and increasing autonomy in their food systems and agricultural practices. A Tribe might be interested in working with the state that they are in to utilize these exemptions instead of going through the federal inspection process with the Food Safety Inspection Service.

Adopted only 1,000 Bird Exemption

“The producer slaughters and processes, on their own premises, no more than 1,000 birds of their own raising in a calendar year for distribution as human food.”

Georgia	Texas	Montana	Wisconsin
Louisiana	Washington	Oregon	Wyoming

Adopted 1,000 and 20,000 Bird Exemption

“The producer slaughters and processes, on their own premises, no more than 20,000 poultry of their own raising in a calendar year for distribution as human food.”

Alabama	Kansas	Nevada	Connecticut	Mississippi	West Virginia
Alaska	Kentucky	North Carolina	Delaware	Iowa	Virginia
Arizona	Maine	North Dakota	Florida	Missouri	Vermont
Arkansas	Maryland	Ohio	Hawaii	Nebraska	Utah
California	Michigan	Pennsylvania	Idaho	New Hampshire	Tennessee
Colorado	Minnesota	Rhode Island	Indiana	New Jersey	South Dakota
New Mexico	New York	South Carolina			

Modified Exemptions

Illinois – 5,000	Oklahoma – 1,000 and 10,000
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