**Overview of Meat Eligibility and Regulations**

**SNAP Meat Eligibility**

* As long as meat is safe (and intended) for **human consumption**, most meat is SNAP eligible (some exceptions)
* Fresh, frozen, dried, or canned meat are eligible
	+ Game that is caught when hunting is not
* No pet food or animal feed
* No live animals **EXCEPT**
	+ Shellfish
	+ Fish may be purchased live at the point-of-sale as long as they are removed from the water prior to removal from the premises of the seller
	+ Other animals (including birds) that are live at the point-of-sale if they are slaughtered prior to removal from the premises of the seller

**USDA & FDACS Regulations**

* [To sell meat at a farmers market](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN316) in Florida, the product must be slaughtered and prepared into retail-ready pieces (steaks, chops, packages of ground beef, etc.) under all federal inspection (check for state, county, and city regulations)
	+ Amenable species (cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, or equine) are federally regulated so you have to apply for a USDA permit for processing and packaging meat if you plan to process the animals yourself OR bring the animal(s) to a USDA approved facility to be slaughtered
		- [USDA FSIS Food Inspection Requirements](https://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media_file/2021-02/Fed-Food-Inspect-Requirements.pdf)
	+ FDACS requires [Food Establishment Permit](https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food-Establishments)– this website can help figure out what you need
		- Most likely a [Retail Food Establishment Permit](https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Food-Establishments/Retail-Food-Establishment-Permit)
	+ To sell packaged meat products at a booth at a farmers market in FL, you also need a [mobile food permit](https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food-Establishments/Mobile-Food-Vendors)
		- Must have a [commissary letter of agreement](https://forms.fdacs.gov/14223.pdf) with an approved commissary facility that provides support services
* To sell poultry and/or eggs at a farmers market, you need a [Limited Poultry and Egg Permit](https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Food-Establishments/Limited-Poultry-and-Egg-Farms)
	+ Can only sell dressed poultry and whole egg with this permit (no additional processing of the product is allowed)
	+ 20,000-bird per year limit (384 dressed poultry per week/ 30 dozen shell eggs per week); can own 1,000 laying hens annually
	+ Anything over is not exempt and must be conducted under USDA-FSIS inspection
* Any questions or need help navigating the regulations, contact FDACS FoodSafety@FDACS.gov or 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) 8am-5pm

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