

---

# Alberta's slaughter licences

A summary of the types of slaughter licences issued by the Government of Alberta

## Overview

Slaughter and meat processing is a diverse industry in Alberta and there are a number of ways you can licence your business. The licence that you need for your operation is dependent on the disposition of the final product.

To sell meat in Alberta, a series of inspections is required. An approved inspector must do an ante-mortem inspection on the live animal to monitor the general health of the animal. The inspector must do a post-mortem inspection after the evisceration of the animal to monitor the internal organs for disease. If the inspections are passed and the inspector deems the meat fit for human consumption, it may be processed in an inspected facility and sold.

## Abattoir licence

Under this licence, animals are slaughtered in a building that meets the regulatory requirements; processing of the resulting meat may be included in the licence's scope. This is the only slaughter licence offered by the government of Alberta that provides inspection services, which means it is the only one that enables the sale of the resulting meat products.

Inspected carcasses can be processed or sold whole through retail, wholesale, foodservice or custom orders throughout Alberta, but cannot be sold outside of Alberta.

## Mobile butcher licence

This licence enables you to conduct custom uninspected slaughter for another person who owns both the animal and the land where it is slaughtered.

The meat resulting from the carcasses is uninspected and is only for consumption by the household of the producer who owned the live animal.

## Mobile butcher facility licence

This license is for a processing facility owned or operated by a licensed mobile butcher. Processing of uninspected meat is permitted from mobile butcher services, on-farm slaughter operation, wild game or purchased inspected meat. Regulatory inspections are conducted on a risk-based frequency to ensure that the premise and processing activities meet regulatory requirements.

Meat processed from animals slaughtered without inspection cannot be distributed beyond the household of the owner of the live animal. Inspected meat that is purchased for processing at a mobile butcher facility may be sold through retail, wholesale, foodservice or custom orders within Alberta.

## On-farm slaughter operation licence

This licence allows you, or someone you designate, to slaughter animals on land that you own, lease or otherwise control. You may process the carcass on the same land as the slaughter site if you have the skill and equipment to ensure the safety of the product. The slaughter must occur outdoors and cannot be done inside a building. Your customers can buy a live animal from you, or bring a live animal sourced elsewhere, for your slaughter and/or processing services.

The meat from the carcasses is uninspected and is for consumption by the household(s) of the owner(s) of the live animal only. The slaughter is not inspected and no inspected meat can be processed at the facility.

## Comparison of the activities enabled by each licence

### This chart compares the scope of the various licences

To determine which licence is appropriate for your business, ensure that the licence that you have or are planning to apply for supports the activities that you wish to conduct. Please note that you can have more than one licence and this might be necessary in order for you to meet the objectives of your business plan.

**NOTE:** A producer who slaughters **their** animals **themselves**, on **their** land, for consumption by **their** household, does not need a licence.

Licence type	Slaughter is inspected	Processing facility is inspected	Processing of inspected meat is allowed	Processing of uninspected meat is allowed (including wild game)	Meat from the slaughter can be sold	The processed inspected meat can be sold	The meat can be sold at farmers markets or farm gates	A carcass can be shared by more than one owner
<b>Abattoir licence</b>	Yes	Yes  Processing is optional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes  The meat can be shared by unlimited customers
<b>Mobile butcher licence</b>	No	N/A  This is not a processing licence	N/A  This is not a processing licence	N/A  This is not a processing licence	No	N/A  This is not a processing licence	No	No
<b>Mobile butcher facility licence</b>	N/A  This is not a slaughter licence	Yes	Yes  Inspected meat can be purchased, processed, and sold	Yes	Yes and No  Only meat from an inspected slaughter can be sold	Yes  If the slaughter was inspected	Yes  If the slaughter was inspected	Yes and No  Only inspected meat or a large animal from an OFSO can be shared
<b>On-farm slaughter operation licence</b>	No	No	No	Yes	No	No  Inspected meat cannot be purchased or processed under this licence	No	Yes  A carcass (>227 kg live weight) can be shared by up to four owners' households