

Meat Inspection Regulation Amendment

Slaughter waste as bait for hunting and trapping

What you need to know

Background

Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development completed a review of the Meat Inspection Regulation (Regulation) in July 2020 that enabled an additional slaughter option – Uninspected Slaughter Operations licensed as On-Farm Slaughter Operations (OFSOs). This amendment to the Regulation focused on increasing economic opportunities for producers and to allow consumers increased access to local meat directly from producers.

Feedback from stakeholders resulted in additional amendments to the Regulation in December 2021.

What has changed

The amended Regulation:

- enables uninspected slaughter operations to gift or sell uninspected slaughter waste consisting of butcher scraps and by-products (e.g. trimmings, organs such as liver, heart, lungs, etc.) as bait in hunting and trapping.
- requires that uninspected slaughter waste used for bait to be labelled as “UNINSPECTED - FOR USE AS BAIT, ONLY”.

As per Section 31.7 (3) (a) (b) (c) the uninspected slaughter waste cannot contain specified risk material (SRM) or condemned product that is not suitable for animal consumption, to prevent the spread of animal diseases.

What this means for on-farm slaughter operations

The operators of an uninspected slaughter operation, known as an OFSO, can sell or otherwise provide their slaughter waste as bait for hunting and trapping.

As per Section 31.7 (4), the slaughter waste is uninspected and all portions used for bait must be labelled as “UNINSPECTED - FOR USE AS BAIT, ONLY”.

Slaughter waste is uninspected and not for gifting or sale for human consumption at commercial food establishments (retail, wholesale and restaurants), to other individuals or at Farmers’ Markets.

What this means for inspected meat facilities

This amendment does not impact inspected meat facilities. The rules for inspected meat facilities are the same as stated previously in the *Meat Inspection Act* and Regulation.

What this means for Albertans

The amendment creates opportunities for outfitters and hunters/trappers to obtain uninspected slaughter waste from OFSOs to be used for the purposes of bait when hunting or trapping.

The use of slaughter waste for hunting and trapping provides additional economic value from each carcass.

Meat Inspection Regulation

According to Section 31.7, (1) Except as provided in this section, the operator of an uninspected slaughter operation shall dispose of any carcass or portion of a carcass that is not provided to a producer in accordance with the Disposal of *Dead Animals Regulation* (AR 132/2014).

(2) The operator of an uninspected slaughter operation may, in accordance with this section, dispose of portions of a carcass that are not provided to a producer by offering them for sale, selling them or otherwise providing them for use as bait in accordance with this section.

(3) The following portions of a carcass may not be offered for sale, sold or otherwise provided for use as bait:

- (a) the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, palatine tonsils, spinal cord or dorsal root ganglia of cattle aged 30 months or older;
- (b) the distal ileum of cattle of all ages;
- (c) material coming from an animal that is known or suspected to have a disease that is reportable under the Animal Health Act or the Health of Animals Act (Canada) or both.

(4) The operator of an uninspected slaughter operation shall identify all portions of a carcass offered for sale or sold or otherwise provided for use as bait by affixing tags on them stating "UNINSPECTED — FOR USE AS BAIT, ONLY".

For more information, contact:

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