LIVESTOCK

Donations Guide

Slaughter

Donated livestock must be slaughtered in a USDA-inspected slaughter facility. If the donation is small (consisting of four or fewer animals), then a mobile USDA slaughter facility may be an option. Consult a list of USDA-inspected slaughter facilities in Washington, which includes mobile facilities: fsis.usda.gov/mpidirectory.

Processing

After slaughter, the meat must be cut and wrapped at a USDA-inspected meat facility. Alternatively, if the meat is properly transported between slaughter and processing, the meat may be cut and wrapped by a meat processor in a retail food establishment inspected by a local health jurisdiction. For example, a USDA-inspected mobile facility can slaughter an animal and transport the meat to a grocery store with a licensed meat cutter who has volunteered to cut and wrap.

Labeling

The wrapped meat must include, at a minimum: Product name (goat, sheep, etc.); processor’s name; processor’s address; any and all allergen information; and the following statement:

This product was prepared from inspected and passed meat. Some food products may contain bacteria that could cause illness if the product is mishandled or cooked improperly.

Handling

For your protection, follow these safe handling instructions:
- Keep refrigerated or frozen.
- Thaw in refrigerator or microwave.
• Keep raw meat separate from other foods.
• Wash working surfaces (including cutting boards), utensils and hands after touching raw meat.
• Cook thoroughly.
• Keep hot foods hot.
• Refrigerate leftovers immediately or discard.

**Transportation/Storage**

Meat must be transported in a frozen or chilled container at a temperature of 35°F or lower. All meat must remain refrigerated or frozen. Refrigerated meat should be distributed or used within 3-5 days, frozen meat may be kept in the freezer between 4-12 months.

**Retail**

An approved retail establishment can donate product to an EFO as long as it has been properly inspected and labeled.

**Private Citizen**

An EFO must not accept meat from a private citizen because the EFO cannot sufficiently verify proper handling of this high-risk food (even if the donor is known to the EFO as a decent and reliable person).

**A Note About the Good Samaritan Donation Act**

RCW 69.80.031 offers food donors protection from criminal and civil liability. The act, however, is not a “get-out-of-jail-free” card relieving donors and EFOs of the duty of acting responsibly. The act requires that the donated food be “apparently wholesome.” Animal products can look just fine but still carry E. coli, salmonella or other disease. Therefore, verifying whether animal products are, in fact, “apparently wholesome” requires knowing whether the food has been handled in accordance with suitable food safety standards.