

# Farm Fresh Meat

## H.749 and On-Farm Processing

### **What H.749 would do:**

- The bill would allow farmers to contract with customers who want the farmer to raise animals for them.
- The animals would be raised by the farmer, slaughtered on the farm, and processed in a “custom” facility, and the meat would be given to the customer as cuts of meat (not whole or half carcasses).
- The farmer could not sell the meat to anyone else, and the customer could not re-sell the meat to anyone.
- The meat could only be sold through this contract. The customer would have to buy the animal while it is alive.

### **Why Do We Need This Bill?**

- Currently, in order to give customers cuts of meat or “parts and pieces,” a farmer must take an animal to an inspected slaughter facility.
- Some customers do not want an animal slaughtered in a slaughterhouse. The customer’s preference might be for religious reasons, or because they believe it is more humane to kill the animal on the farm. Some farmers do not want to take their animals to a slaughter facility for these same reasons. Some farmers also believe that the quality of the meat is higher if the animal is killed on the farm because it is less stressful for the animal.
- Vermont’s slaughter facilities are often backlogged and the smaller meat producers often have to wait for several weeks before they can get their animals slaughtered. This means they are losing money because they have to continue feeding the animal.
- The cost of slaughtering in a facility is higher than on-farm slaughter. For the small producer, this can be the breaking point between making a profit and losing money.