

**The Agricultural Viability Act of 2007 was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor on May 21, 2007.**

**The new law includes a provision that allows Vermont farmers to process poultry on-farm and sell the birds at farmers' markets and directly to restaurants!!**

**Your farm's poultry will be exempt from inspection if:**

- The farm slaughters fewer than 1000 birds annually, *and*
- No birds are offered for sale or transportation in interstate commerce (i.e., across state lines), *and*
- The farmer sells only birds raised on his/her own farm, *and*
- The poultry products are sold as whole birds only, from the farm, at a farmers' market, or to a food restaurant licensed by the commissioner of health.

**When selling the poultry at a farmers' market, you must label the poultry properly (see other side of this sheet) AND:**

- Keep records of how many birds you process each day, and how many you are selling at each market. It is also a good idea to keep records of how many you sell at your farm.
- Keep these records organized at your farm, so you have them at hand if the Agency of Agriculture asks for them.
- Keep your farm-processed poultry separate from any other products you are selling at a farmers' market. It must be in a separate cooler, and the poultry should be kept at 40° F or lower.
- Make sure you chill your birds to 40° F or lower, immediately after processing, and keep them properly chilled during storage and transport. Keep them at 40° F or lower until they are sold. Do not chill birds before evisceration – finish each bird, then chill immediately.

**Some additional information:**

- You do not need to register your label for sale at a farmers' market with the Agency of Agriculture. However, if you would like the Agency to review it to make sure it is in compliance with the requirements, they are willing to do that. They have the right to inspect your labels at the farmers' market, and if the labels are not in compliance, they can fine you, up to \$1000/violation per day (so for each bad label, you can get a separate fine), up to a \$25,000 cap.
- The Agency of Agriculture has the right to inspect your farm to make sure that you are not exceeding the 1000 birds/year limit. Your best practice in this instance is to have very accurate records of how many birds you have processed and sold.