

Vermont Slaughter Law Change Proposed

Pork producer seeks chance to sell to more people

01/02/2008

© Linda Doane

Finding and Working with a Meat Processor

For an indepth article--offering step-by-step information on processing your livestock read Hobby Farm's "How to Process Livestock" by Matt John.

Click to ContinueIf you find yourself tempted to begin adding edible animals to your rural enclave or farm, you'll be interested in a Times Argus (Vermont) article about a Vermont pork producer's efforts to change the state's slaughter laws and laws related to inspecting meat.

Peter Harvey, who describes himself as a backyard farmer, has raised pigs on his property, using some as meat for his family and selling some locally. The trouble is the Vermont slaughter laws only allow him to process meat for his own family; selling meat to others is illegal, unless it's slaughtered at a government-sanctioned facility.

Harvey and others find the slaughter laws cumbersome and impractical for people who don't live on a farm; if a potential customer is interested in eating the locally raised pork, he or she would have to buy the pig to be slaughtered and processed on their own.

Harvey and his supporters say more people want to buy from people they know; in addition to the growing demand, allowing small producers to slaughter and sell the livestock they raise is a way for farmers to get a fair price, they say.

In drawing attention to the issue, they've gained the support of a local legislator, who's working on a bill to permit CSAs to raise and slaughter hoofed animals for the local production of meat. Read the Times Argus article