A custom farm slaughterer may slaughter an animal only on the premises of the present or first preceding owner of such animal, except as follows:

(1) An animal injured to such extent that immediate slaughter at the place of injury is necessary for humane reasons.

(2) Animals purchased for custom slaughter at any 4-H and FFA market stock sales and open class carcass contests where ownership of the carcass is retained by the entrant may be slaughtered by a custom farm slaughterer on any premise. The premises must be approved in advance by the local health district/department and the department [of Agriculture]. The fair representative must request approval for each operator they plan on using by submitting an application for special slaughter conditions to the department at least thirty days before any such slaughter is to be done.

If you have any questions regarding the special slaughter permit or the license status of a proposed slaughterer, please contact the WSDA Food Safety Program:

WSDA Food Safety Program
PO Box 42560
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia WA 98504
http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal

Special Slaughter Permits:
360-902-1876

Consumer Complaint Hotline:
1-800-843-7890

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Inquiries regarding the availability of this publication in alternate formats should be directed to the WSDA receptionist at (360) 902-1976 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (360) 902-1996.
What is a special slaughter permit?
The intent of the special slaughter permit is for purchasers of animals that live in urban areas and have no property upon which to slaughter the animal, or when an animal is injured to such an extent that it needs to be put down for humane reasons. It is primarily used for sites where 4-H and FFA market stock sales and open class carcass contests are occurring, such as the fairgrounds.

What are the permit’s limitations?
- Special slaughter permits are only for slaughtering cattle, sheep, swine and goats.
- Slaughter of non-event animals is not permitted under the special slaughter permit.

What are the site requirements?
When WSDA inspects the site and slaughter truck we look primarily for:
- Drainage, location and cleanliness of site.
- Sufficient potable water and waste disposal.
- The slaughter location matches the site listed on the application.
- The site is screened or otherwise obscured from the public view so as not to alarm the sensitivities of the general public.

What are the steps to getting a permit?
1) The fair representative completes the fair and custom slaughterer portions of the form.
2) The application is then forwarded to the county health department in the county where the slaughter is taking place.
3) Once the site has been inspected and approved by the local county health department and signed by the inspector, the form is returned to the WSDA.
4) A WSDA inspector will then inspect the site and, if deemed suitable, will sign the application and return it to the WSDA office in Olympia for final approval.
5) A fully signed copy of the Special Slaughter Permit will then be sent to the fair manager or designee for posting at the site during slaughter operations.

To avoid any application processing delay, all portions of the form must be completed in full.

It is the responsibility of the fair or livestock show designees to complete and return the special slaughter permit application at least thirty (30) days prior to the event.