



Petition to Clarify the Personal Use Exemption to the FMIA !

January 31, 2023

Dear Members of the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriations Committees,

The undersigned urge you to support [clarifying language to the Federal Meat Inspection Act's personal-use-exemption](#) to confirm state laws that are based on this federal exemption and allow livestock owners to have an agent slaughter their livestock on the farms where the livestock was raised and to access their meat without state or federal meat inspection. Currently, people who rely a part of their business on the personal use exemption, including farmers selling livestock for on-farm slaughter, itinerant slaughterers, and custom processors, are vulnerable when they base their decision on the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to uphold its standing 2018 guidance - given that guidance could be easily changed.

It is time to update outdated language in the FMIA to ensure that standing FSIS guidance is more clearly visible in the written law so that on the ground practitioners have planning security, instead of them continuing to be vulnerable subject to agency discretion.

In the long-standing practice of on-farm slaughter, people across the United States assume the risk of having animals they own slaughtered on the farms where the animals were raised regardless of whether the individuals owned the living animals for years, months, or days prior to slaughter. This practice has not resulted in significant foodborne illness outbreaks nor the commercial sales of uninspected meat. Today, 19 states rely on standing FSIS guidance and discretion for their on-farm slaughter practice, while 8 states (Arizona, Illinois, Montana, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Vermont) have their own on-farm slaughter laws that allow new owners to have their livestock slaughtered on the farm where it was raised. In other words, the majority of states already allow for on-farm slaughter. All of them would benefit from more clarity in the law and guidance by modernizing outdated language in the FMIA.

With the pandemic and current inflation rates, more and more people are seeking affordable access to locally raised meat, including raising livestock themselves or buying shares of live animals. The increased demand for local meat is exacerbating pre-existing processing bottlenecks, making the protection of the personal-use exemption even more vital. USDA-inspected and custom livestock slaughterhouses are unable to meet the needs of current producers and consumers, let alone future producers. This disproportionately affects small farms, independently owned farms, farms in particular geographical locations, and farms raising small ruminants and hogs, because they face the greatest hurdles in accessing slaughterhouse capacity. This in turns hurts consumers who rely upon such farms based upon their particular geographic location, cultural needs (eg. Halal slaughter), or socioeconomic status.

When the personal exemption was first drafted, a large percentage of Americans raised their own livestock. While that is less true today, and fewer people are actively engaged in farming, more and more people today

are concerned about the economic stability of our food system and sufficient access to food for their families. People already have the legal right to “personal-use” of the livestock they own, whether they live on a farm and have raised them themselves or not. This is the law because of standing FSIS guidance (2018) that bases the personal use exemption on ownership. The bundle of rights associated with ownership under common law include the ability to use agents and the ability to assume risks. The goal of this amendment is to clarify the outdated FMIA language that bases the personal use exemption on who raised the animals, by replacing it with language in alignment with the standing FSIS guidance that is grounded on ownership and common law principles.

This amendment proposal also includes language to protect a State’s “equal to” status. Once a State administration has certified that its laws and standards align with the FMIA, the burden of proof to suggest the contrary would shift to the USDA. The USDA would have to provide evidence and written reasons accounting for any accusations leveled at States in relationship to conflicts with their “equal to” status. Under the current law, States bear the burden of proof in their own defense, and the mere threat of USDA withdrawal of this designation, sometimes based on informal policies or an individual official’s opinions, can place state officials in an untenable position of having to either abandon state policy or risk losing approval of the state inspection program.

The proposed amendment thus aims to clarify the law to match standing FSIS guidance that allows livestock owners to access meat from their livestock for personal use. This would not substantially change federal law or pre-empt state law. Rather, it would signal that people's ability to work with their local legislators, farmers, and slaughterers to create scale-appropriate solutions that ensure their food supply and a viable, accessible, local food economy at the state level is honored and encouraged federally as vital to our democracy, food security and resiliency.

Respectfully,

Rural Vermont

National Family Farm Coalition

Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance

Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund

Appendix 1: Signatories (pp. 2-15)

Appendix 2: Signatories Demographic Graph (p.16)

Appendix 3: Testimonials (pp. 17-20)

Appendix 1: Signatories

Total signature count as of 1/31/23, 12:00pm: 613

Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN), Lindsey Berk, Executive Director
Atmospheric Research, Dr. Alan Betts, Owner
BALE - Building A Local Economy, Chris Wood, Organizer
Center for Grassroots Organizing, Henry Harris, Coordinator
Community Alliance for Global Justice, Heather Day, Executive Director
Community Farm Alliance, Martin Richards, Executive Director
Dakota Rural Action, Frank James, Director
Family Farm Defenders, John E. Peck, Executive Director
Farm Women United, Brenda Cochran, President
Farmworker Association of Florida, Antonio Tovar, Political Committee Representative
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, Dania Davy, Director of Land Retention & Advocacy
Food for Maine's Future, Betsy Garrold, Board President
Food Policy Council of San Antonio, Leslie Provence
Green Mountain Self-Advocates, Matthew LeFluer, Advisor
Hanover Co-op Food Stores of VT & NH, Allan Reetz, Director of Public and Government Affairs
Health Freedom Defense Fund, Leslie Manookian, President
Homemade Texas, Kelley Masters, President
Miskell's Conservation Land Consulting LLC, David Leo Miskell, Owner
Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Timothy Gibbons
Muriel's, Laura Jacoby, Director
NOFA-MA, Marty Dagoberto Driggs, Policy Director
NOFA-NH, Xochiquetzal Berry, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
NOFA-NY, Katie Baildon, Policy Coordinator
NOFA-VT, Maddie Kempner, Policy Director
NOFA-VT, Andrew Graham, Direct Markets Coordinator
NOFA-Interstate Council, Steve Gilman, Policy Coordinator
Northern Plains Resource Council, Jean Dahlman, Chair, Ag Task Force
R-CALF USA, Bill Bullard, CEO
Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary, Emily Ruff
Salvation Farms, Inc., Theresa Snow, Executive Director
Soil4Climate, Karl Thidemann
University of Kentucky, A. Lee Meyer Extension Professor, Emeritus
Vermont Farmers Food Center, Emma Hileman, Program Director
Vermont Healthy Soils Coalition, Cat Buxton, Coordinator
Vermont Sheep and Goat Association, Dave Martin, President
Western Organization of Resource Councils, Michael Nelson, Washington DC Representative

Farms

Abundance Endeavors, Josh Hightree, WA
Alger Family Farm, LLC, Tammy Alger, MO
Ascutney Harvest, Lauren Mucha, VT
Back Forty Farm, VT
Barefoot Farm, Will Young, VT

Bella Luna Ranch, Scott Anthony Tuoto, NV
Bending Birch Homestead, LLC, Dwyer Haney, VT
Besa mis burros, Michael Kornfeld, VT
Between the Trees Farm, Hilary Elmer, VT
Bezaleel Israel Eco-Village, Chrys Ostrander, WA
Big Picture Farm, Lucas Farrell, VT
Birdsong Farm, Lucia Tonachel, VT
Bloodroot Farm, Susan Brace, VT
B&B Hashor Dabbery, VT
Bosque Verde Farm, Peter Wright, VT
Boucher Family Farm, Kayleigh Boucher, VT
Brady Family Farm, Holly Brady, TN
Callahan Farm, Mary Helen Dollenmaier, VT
Cedar Circle Farm, Will Allen, VT
Cedar Mountain Farm & Cobb Hill Cheese, Stephen Leslie, VT
Chambeau Family Farm, Lance Chambeau, VT
Chandler Pond Farm, Dahlia Dill, VT
Churchtown Dairy, Michael MacDonald, NY
Chutzpah Hollow , Wendy Rhein, NC
Cleary Family Farm, John Cleary, VT
Cloudland Farm, Cathleen Emmon, VT
Community Farm Alliance KY, Kenya Abraham, KY
Cooperative Creamery , Dani Grover, VT
Cottonwood Creek Farm, Suzy E Crosby, AK
Cross Land Farm, Russell J Fauver, TN
Dancing Bee Gardens, Ross Conrad, VT
Debbie's Farm, SC
Deep Meadow Farm, Jon Cohen, VT
Deep Roots Enterprises, Kemit Spears, MS
Dooley Creek Farm, LLC, Mollie Shipman, CO
Eastman Farm, Joseph Morel, VT
Bread and Butter Farm, Lara Weise, VT
Evernow Gardens, Michael R Beattie, VT
Farms of Camelot, LLC, Jim Cecil, KY
Fenn Farmstead & Gardens, Dr. James M. Corven, VT
Fern River Farm, Christine McCue, VT
Fiction Farm, Pamela Doyle, VT
Fischer Farms, Richard Fischer, CA
Flack Family Farm, Julie Matranga, VT
Flatrock Farm, Deanna L Child, VA
Flatrock Farmstead, Samantha Chapman, SC
Floating Bridge Family Farm, Charlie Taplin, VT
Flying S Land & Livestock, Suzanne E Wright, TN
Follow Me Land & Livestock, Kevin S Cory, AL
Follow Me Land & Livestock, Laura Cory, AL
Four Springs Farm, Jack Vorster, VT

Four Springs Farm, Campground & Learning Center, Jinny Hardy Cleland, VT
Franklin Farm, LLC, Mary Ellen Franklin, VT
Gail's Cupboard, LLC, Gail Weinberger, PA
Galaxy Farm, Susan Pelican, CA
Garden Ridge Farm, Elle Yeilding, AL
Gator Ridge Farm, Kelly Bowen, IN
Giant Journey Farm LLC, Kendra Dias, VT
Gilead Fiber Farm, Kristen Judkins, VT
Glinnis Hill Farm, Mollie Podmore, VT
Goatsrus , Robin Dodson, VA
Gran- Debra Farms, Deborahlee Adams, VT
Grass Cattle Company LLC, Steven S Schubart, VT
Green & Gold CSA, Paige Wener, VT
Green Heart Farm and Education Center, Cynthia Berg, VT
Green Mountain Grazing & Higley Hill Processing, Hogan Sennett, VT
Green Mountain Spinnery, David Ritchie, VT
Green Wind Farm, Stephen B MacCausland, VT
Green Wind Farm, Julie Wolcott, VT
Greylaine Farm , Michael Kirk, VT
Greywether Farm, Meg Witherbee, VT
Half Wild Farm, Jen Lewis, VT
Harmony Ridge Farm, Jeremy Schenk, NY
Harshman Homestead , Dean Harshman, OH
Health Hero Farm, Joan Falcao, VT
Health Hero Farm , Robert Fireovid, VT
Henneke Farms , Gary Henneke, TX
Hestholl Icelandics , Jill Merkel, VT
HighFields Farm, Frances Rose Subbiondo, VT
Hills Of Kindness Farm, Chris Thomas, KY
Hobby Hill Farm, Erica Walch, VT
Hoof Hearted Farm, Brandon Herndon, VA
Huevos Ranchero, LLC, Jahdene Oviedo, TX
Jako Inc., Daniel King, KS
Joes Brook Farm, Eric Skovsted, VT
Joy of Illinois Farm, Penelope R. Gioja, IL
Karas Farms LLC, Theodore Karas, PA
Keep It Real Organics , Caroline Persson, VT
Kilborn Hill Farm, Thomas Moseley, VT
La Bonne Vie Farm, Robin Christopher Richard, LA
Larson Farm and Creamery, Richard Larson, VT
Larson Farm and Creamery, Cynthia Larson, VT
Larson Farm and Creamery , Mercy Larson, VT
LePage Farm, Lila Humphries-LePage, VT
Lockwood Acres, Denise Lons, CA
Longbottom Farm LLC, Jason Feyerherd, VA
Maple Ridge Farm LLC, Natalie Jaworskyj, PA

Earthwise Farm and Forest, Lisa McCrory, VT
Meadows Bee Farm, Leigh Merinoff, VT
Meadowsweet Farm, Eliot Van Peski, ME
Metta Earth Farm, LLC , Gillian Kapteyn Comstock, VT
Metta Earth Institute and Farm, Russell Wilson Comstock, VT
Midnight Goat Farm, Yves Gonnet, VT
Mighty Oak Farm, VT
Mount Gilead Farm, Robert Russell, NC
Mundy Farm, Daniel Mundy, NJ
Murmuration Farm LLC , Rev. Moretti , VT
Mutual Weirdness Farm, Marcus Weidner, OH
N Theory Farm, Elaine Sims, TN
Naylor Farm, Patti Naylor, IA
New Story Farm, Eric Krasnauskas, VT
NewGrass Farmstead LLC, Neal Harris McNaughten, VT
NewGrass Farmstead, Gwyneth Harris, VT
New Morning Farmstead, LLC, Kimberley Friesenhahn, VT
Next Chapter Farm, Lara Dickson, VT
Nomad Farm, Julia Etter, VT
Oikos Food Buyers Club, FL
Old Gelding Farm, Thomas MacCarty, VT
Onion Bed Farm, Erik Reimanis, VT
Opera House Farm, Amanda Helali, VT
Otter Creek Farm, Elizabeth Collins, NY
PermieMeditation, Clayton High, MI
Pink Elephant Farm, Jenny Vaughn, KY
Poultney Meadows Farm , Guy Warman, VT
Progressive Agriculture Organization , Arden Tewksbury, PA
Prospect Farm, Lane Nevins, VT
Pumpkin Village Foods, Seth Wolcott-MacCausland, VT
Purely Pastured, LLC, Robert Benford , AL
Race Family Farmstead, Nick Race, TN
RambleBramble Farm, Jamie Bianco, VT
Rater Farms, Mike Rater, NY
Rebop Farm, Abraham McClurg, VT
Resilient Veterans, Sam Payne, WA
Riffle Farms LLC, Liz Riffle, WV
Rivendell Farms, Jared Kerst, CO
Rockbottom Dairy, Amy Huyffer, VT
Rocking MB Horses LLC, Mary McDowell, OK
Rocky Hill Farm LLC, Kirsten Tyler , VT
Rockyfjord Ranch, Frank McLaughlin, MO
Round Mountain Acres / Arvin Farms , Donna Isfort, KY
Runamuck Farm, Catherine Peters, VT
Schmidt Family Farms, Susan Schmidt, OH
Scholarly Spin, VT

Schoolhouse Farm, Brooke Remmers, VT
Serenity Grange, Nef Straub, MI
Seven Springs Farm, Polly Hieser, VA
Sheep Meadow Farm, Jascha Pick, VT
Silver Spring Farm, Karey French, VT
Smokeshire Hilltop Farm, Peter Hudkins, VT
Snow Organic Ag, LLC, Michael Snow, VT
Someday Farm, Scout Palmedo Proft, VT
Sowing Roots Farm, LLC, Aaron L Carroll, VT
Spreadwing Farm, Catherine Suematsu, CA
Spring Creek Farms, Greg Stricker, PA
Springfield Institute for Transformation, Erica Walch, VT
Stargrazer Farm, Anna Bowlen, VT
Stargrazer Farm, Sami Abdelfatah, VT
StoneFen Farm, LLC, Lora Goss, NH
Straits Brothers Farm, Inc., Steven Straits, OH
Sugar Top Farm, LLC, Kristin Plante, VT
Sunday Bell Farm, Kylie Cook, VT
Sunny Acres Farm, Mary Katharine Viles, VT
Sunrise Organic Farm LLC, Chuck Wooster, VT
TabulaRasaFarms, Brenda Smola-Foti, OR
Taft Hill Farm, Robert DuGrenier, VT
Tamarack Hollow Farm, Amanda Andrews, VT
Tell a Tale Farm, Mya Brown, VT
The DayDream Farmer, Aliza Pickering, NY
The Farm Upstream, Spencer Hardy, VT
The Farm Upstream, Jake Kornfeld, VT
The Golden Hoof, Karel Starek, CO
The Rose Colored Forest, Kim Travis, TX
The Thankful Farm, LLC, Reiley Wicken, WA
Thorpe WildAss Acres, Maryann Thorpe, MI
Thousand Hills Grazing, Cassie Seppanen, PA
Tilia Hills, Ethan Kramer, VT
Triple 3 Family Farm, Jason Diven, CA
Triple D Ranch, TX
Udderjoy Farm, Sarah Lyda, VT
Union Brook Farm, Emily Virzi, VT
Uphill Farm, Paula Sternberg Dougherty, VT
Uphill Farm, Kevin Dougherty, VT
UpTunket Farm, Philip Ackerman-Leist, VT
Valley Clayplain Forest Farm, Mark Krawczyk, VT
Vermont Heritage Grazers LLC, Alethea Bahnck, VT
Wayward Goose Farm, Dan Brooks, VT
Wellsmere Farm, Michelle Bates, VT
Wildstone Farm, John A. Primmer, VT
Wildstone Farm, Joy L. Primmer, VT

Will-Ewe Farm, VT
Windfall Farmstead, Nicholas Laskovski, VT
Windswept Grass Farm, Debra Zelov, NJ
Windswept Grass Farms, Randy Zelov, NJ
Windy Meadows Family Farm, Connie Hale, TX
Net Zero Homestead, FL
57 Farm Store, WI

Self-Identifying Farmers (No Farm Name Given)

A Flagle, PA
Agafia Andreyev, VT
Alan Baker, VT
Amanda Adams, VT
Ammy Martinez, VT
Anthony H Lyon, VA
Ava Murphy, VT
Barbara Brow, TX
Billie Fadden, VT
Brad Miller, VA
Brandon Bless, VT
Brian L Zahn, MO
Brian McClarren, OH
Casey Richards, IN
Chad Beckwith, VT
Charity Espindola, IL
Charles Shortman, CO
Charles and Alice Brown, VT
Chris Robbins, KY
Colene Reed, VT
Curt Peterson, VT
Darci Oberly, VA
Darienue Chouinard, VT
Darlene Howard, TX
Deirdre Laviolette, MI
Dean, VT
Douglas Safford, VT
E. Rachel Hochman, VT
Ehrin Lingeman, VT
Eldon Hooley, TX
Eleanor Denison, VT
Elizabeth Hesterberg, IL
Emily Landenberger, VT
Evan Hoyt, VT
Frances Russell, OH
Gabe Rogers, VT
George Paust, WI

Henry Harris, VT
Indigo Woods, VT
J Cadman, TX
Jana Scott, KY
Janice L Blake, NY
Jean Harrah, CA
Jean P Lariviere, VT
Jeannie Bartlett, VT
Jeffrey Gould, MO
Jessica Eaton , VT
Jill Wilson, OH
Johanna Rosen, MA
Jolene Benne, MO
Joshua McIntyre, CO
Karen Wiseman, VT
Karis Tressel, PA
Kevin Gish, VT
Laura Davidson , VT
Liz Lackey, VT
Mark Vahling, IL
Mike DiMarco, VT
Paula Porter, OK
Petra Zinniker, WI
Phillip Coblentz, MT
Phillip Coblentz, MT
Phoebe Gunther-Mohr, VT
Rachel Gray, VT
Samantha Bazil, FL
Sandii Hare, TX
Steve Hayes, VT
Susan Buckholz, VT
Suzanne Pelletier, VT
Thomas Wiedmaier, OR
Tim Freed, MO
WG Hadyk, NH
William Benziger , TN
William Langdon, VT

Homesteaders

Aaron Settles , VT
Abigail Holden, VT
Aimee Daniel, VT
Amy Stender, VT
Amos Kornfeld, VT
Andrea Lalumiere, VT
Angela Cottrill, VT

Ann Vanneman, VT
Anna Slack, VT
Ariela Friedman, NC
Benjamin Hewitt, VT
Bianca Caputo, VT
Brian K Krafczyk, GA
Bryan Dunbar, VT
Caitlin Roseen , VT
Charles Leighton, VT
Cheryl Chalfant, VA
Collin, VT
Connie Gunther, VT
Courtney Forti, VT
Cynthia Cox, DE
Danne Elbers VT
Darlene Dobbs, GA
David Tucker , VT
Debra Roach, TX
Dorian Yates, VT
Elizabeth Coelho, VT
Ellen Stone , VT
Erik Carruth, FL
Faye Lederman, NJ
Frank Kelley, VT
Frederick Beihold, MA
Haylea Wilson, UT
Helen Kozuhowski , PA
Helena Wu, VT
Henry O'Donnell, VA
Hillary Cady, OR
HL Owens, TX
James J Cook, MI
Janet Zampieri, AZ
Jennifer Patterson, VT
Jordi Loaeza, VT
Kali Spacek, NC
Karen Zea, UT
Karen Winstead , VA
Kelsey Crelin, VT
leslie haynes, VT
Linda Meuth, TX
Lisa Uchima, VT
Luise Graf, VT
Marilyn Trapeni , VT
Mary Louise Pierson, VT
Mary-Ellen Lovinsky, VT

Meg Riege, VT
Megan Estep, TX
Melissa Wender, VA
Michael Scot Zens, VT
Molly Davies, VT
Molly Hakopian, VT
Monica, AL
Nancy Morley, VT
Nicholas Voreas, VT
Olivia St Pierre, VT
Ollie Cultrara, VT
Pamela Steiner, MA
Rachel Lopez, FL
Rachael Master, VT
Rae Bartlett, GA
Renee Ancel, VT
Robert, OH
Ruah Swennerfelt, VT
Sally OBoyle, KY
Samantha Hills, VT
Sara Eickhoff, KY
Shelby Brimmer, VT
Susan Abdullah, MS
Susan Hayes, VT
Susan Smiley, VT
Tabitha Murphy, KY
Trevor Hubbard, NY
Vanessa Rule, VT
Virginia Dawnsuir, VA
Whitney Kittredge, VT
Wichie Artu, VT

Individual Supporters and Consumers

A.C. McGarry, MI
Aaron Collier, TX
Adena Bright, VT
Adi Shakti, CA
Aime Nuar, VA
Ali Berlow, VT
Alyssa Burrows, VA
Amanda Carlson, VT
Amelia King, FL
Amelia Williams , VA
Anita Rapone, VT
Anna Sokolski, NJ
Anne Peyton, VT

April Purvis , TX
April Snyder, CA
Arcadia Bentley, NY
Ashley Brickman, PA
Barbara Bills, CA
Barbara Bruno, VT
Barbara Martin, MA
Barbara Nolfi, VT
Becky Dees-McMahon, IL
Bill Crowley, CA
Bill McCachren, NC
Brenda Pettus, KS
Brennan Gallagher, VT
Brian Anderson,VT
Brian Havermann, FL
Brian Jaeger, NJ
Bridget Cole, VT
Bruce Higgins, OR
Bryan Fox, VT
Carol, WI
Caroline Fritzing, VT
Carolyn McAleavy, VT
Cathy Kingery, NH
Charen Fegard, VT
Charles Giannoni, VT
Chrisman Kearn, VT
Christina Ellis, VT
Christine Lewis, VA
Christine Malnati, MA
Chuck Malone, NV
Cindy Symington, TX
Clare Kelsey, VT
Connie Helms, VT
Corinne Monk, OH
Cristopher Peck, VT
Cynthia Krznarich NJ
David Brandau, VT
David Gorman, VA
Dawn Houston, VT
dawn Kenyon, NY
Debbie Freedman, NJ
Debbie Tenenbaum, CA
Debbie Zink, VT
Debra Johnston, AE
Debra L Diegoli, VT
Debra Tuoto, CA

Denise Bartlett , TX
Dianne D Copley, VT
Dione Del Monico, FL
Don Faulkner, VT
Douglas Reaves, VT
Douglas Reaves , VT
Dr. D. Elise Brown, TN
Duncan Gamble, VT
Eddie W Lawless, TX
Elaine Fredrick, MN
Elizabeth M Champagne, VT
Elizabeth Small, VT
Emily Wasem, VT
Emma Marks, VT
Eric Schluntz, VT
Erika Marsh, MD
Erika Metzger, TX
Erin Hudecek, VT
Gail Holmes, VT
Gennifer Love, VA
George Allen Swartz, VT
Gerhard Bedding, NH
Glenn Kithcart, NJ
Grant Silvestri, VA
Gwendolyn Forbes , VT
Gwyn Cattell, VT
Hector Perez, VA
Honz Zondorgh, AZ
Isabel Calingaert, NC
Jacklynn Kouzougian , VT
James Wood, IN
Jane Boisvert, VT
Janet Deacon, CA
Janice Foti, VA
Jean Boy, VT
Jeffrey Lent, VT
Jen Miller, VT
Jennifer Brassler, MD
Jeremy Hershberger, ID
Jerian Pahs, VA
Jerry Hickson, VT
Jessica Hesse, TN
Jessie, VT
Jill Cryder , IL
JL Garner, TN
Jody Taparuskas , VT

John Oliver, IL
Joseph Kiefer, VT
Josh Donabedian, VT
Josh Turka, VT
Julie Anderson, MI
K Handschuh, CT
Kaitlin Christie, VT
Karla Todd, VT
Kathleen Hupfer, CO
Kathleen Kesson, VT
Kathryn Schloff VT
Kathy Bardoel , IL
Kathy Ruopp IL
Kay Schaser, CA
Kelsie Meehan, VT
Kendrick Bryan, KY
Kevin Schanzmeyer, TX
Kip Lindsay, VT
Kris Percival, NY
Kristin Ziegler , AZ
Lauren Weston, VT
Laurie Sponza, NY
Leslie Leslie, VT
Leslie Ritchie-Dunham , MA
Lisa Lord, VT
Lisa Wissner, FL
Lynn Cosmos, WA
Madeleine Schmidt , NH
Madeline Murray, VT
Maged Fattah, NJ
Margaret E. Morris, OH
Marian Neevel, WA
Marie Davis, VT
Marilyn Siddiqi, MI
Marilyse de Boissezon, NH
Marina M Switzer, VA
Marion, VT
Marjory Basso, IL
Mark Johnson-Lewis, MN
Marty Scanlon, VT
Mary Jensen, CO
Mary Johnson, FL
Mary MacGill Stokes, NC
MaryDiane Baker, VT
Matthew Lawrence LeFluer , VT
Matthew LeFluer , VT

Megan Browning, VT
Melissa Frishkoff , NY
Melissa Luce, VA
Melissa MacDonald, VT
Michael Scepaniak, MD
Michael Wilke, AZ
Michelle McCue, MO
Natalie R Caldwell, CA
Nathanael Lewis, VT
Nicholas Craig, KY
Pam Knights, VT
Parker Tringas, FL
Patricia Groves, NC
Patricia Smith, VT
Patrick Wood, VT
Paul Marks, VT
Paula Anderson, TX
Peter Nakashian, NJ
Rachel Cook, CA
Randy Murbach, MD
Raymond Barkau, IL
Rebecca Brown, NY
Rebecca Dalgin, VT
Rebecca Frye, NY
Richard M Roderick, VT
River Yeo, PA
Robert Earnest , MI
Rose Bohmann, WI
Rosemarie Watkins, WA
Ruthy Taubb, OR
Sally Eagan, NV
Sandra Hedman, VT
Sara Diaz , VT
Sara Farley, VT
Sarah Havens, VT
Sarah Lam, VA
Sarah Lincoln, VT
Scott Fitzstephens, VT
Shari Bell, VT
Shary B, WA
Sheila Cook, IL
Shelley Lane, CA
Sherrill Wamsley , IN
Stephanie Story, VA
Steve & Nancy Wardwell, SC
Steven Mainord, TN

Susan M Buckholz, VT
Susan Fite, IN
Susan MacGregor, WA
Susan Randall, MI
Susan Reit de Salas, VT
Susanne Hesse & Doug Dyer, FL
Sylvie Desautels, VT
Terrie, WY
Thomas Bock, VT
Thomas F. Gordon, VT
Thomas Marrinson, VT
Thomas Morgan, VT
Valerie F, VT
Victoria DeWind, VT
W Liepmann, VT
Warren Woodward, AZ
Wayne Kuske, WI
Wendy Ebersberger, VA
Wil Morin, VT
William Roberson, NY
Yvette Golo, NY

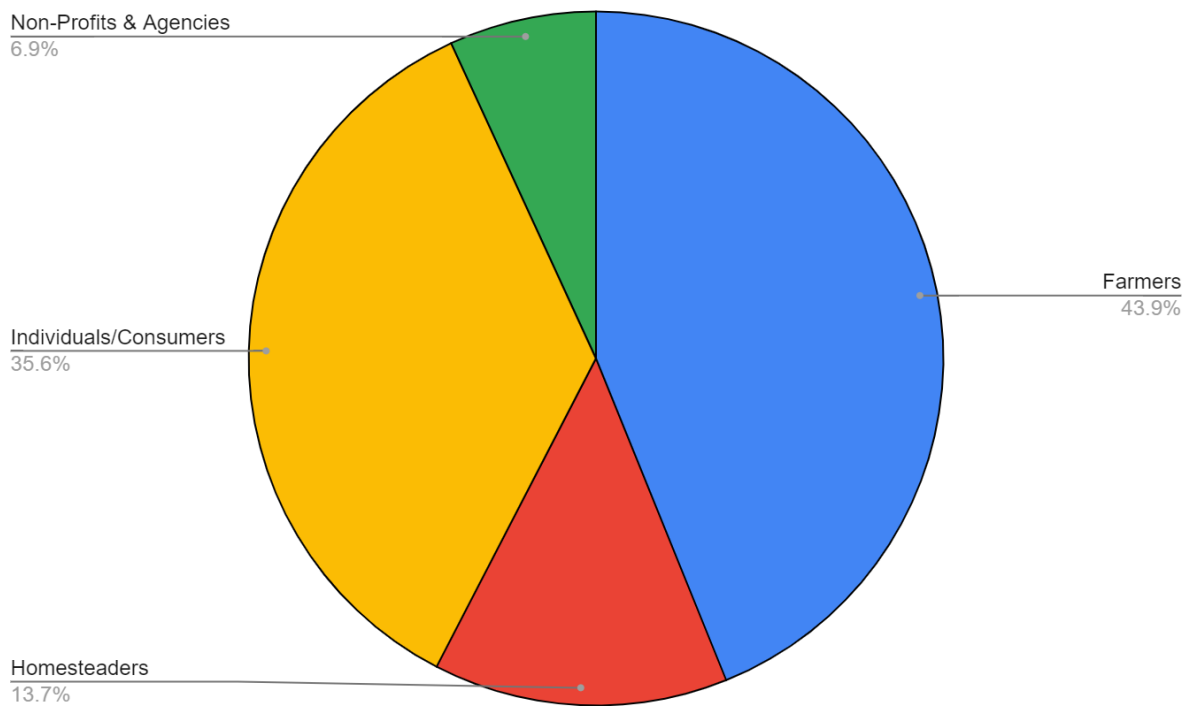
Appendix 2: Signatories Demographic Graph

Percentage of Self-Identified Petition Respondents as of January 31, 2023

Total count: 613

Total states represented: 47

(AE, AK, AL, AB, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NY, NC, NV, NH, NJ, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY)



Appendix 3: Testimonials

A selection from over 112 supportive testimonials submitted alongside the Petition to Clarify the Personal Use Exemption in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) in November 2022. These selections have been approved for use with identifying credentials.

This is a critically important issue for our organization. Thank you for spearheading this vital effort.

Brenda Cochran, President Farm Women United, Pennsylvania

Peasants have a long tradition of farming, raising, and processing their own food for themselves, families, friends, and neighbors. Clarifying and allowing small producers and conscious consumers to process, trade and consume local livestock is not just in benefit of farmers, but also workers, and the community economy. Moreover, small local ranchers are real stewards of their land and thus their environment. Finally, it is important that USDA has clear and transparent process that are not change by discretion of the administration in turn.

Antonio Tovar, Farmworker Association of Florida, Florida

A resilient food system actually depends on small, direct-to-consumer farms outside of commodity agriculture, and those farms need a level playing field that can only be served by the protection and preservation of exempt market niches like the personal use exemption for on farm slaughter.

Karel Starek, The Golden Hoof, Colorado

Consumers of local meat are not as ignorant as the government would like everyone to believe. In fact, as a consumer of farm raised meats of my own and others, I do everything I can to be informed of what I eat unlike those purchasing from the grocery store who most of the time could not get to know the farmer who raised their meat if they tried.

Robin Christopher Richard, La Bonne Vie Farm, Louisiana

Thank you for supporting small farmers & butchers to make it easier to provide nutritious local foods at a cost that isn't prohibitive to them or their consumers, as well as less burdensome regulations from the large-scale farms!

Gennifer Love, Virginia

On-farm slaughter remains a key component of food security and economic well-being for a number of Americans, especially in rural areas. Furthermore, it helps foster the most foundational elements of agricultural literacy--a basic understanding of farming realities, agricultural know-how, and traditional foodways that are fading all too quickly. Finally, in most cases, livestock are best served by the safety and comfort of completing the circle of life where it began.

Philip Ackerman-Leist, UpTunket Farm, Vermont

We could not get an appointment for at a usda slaughter house and the bull was becoming dangerous to handle. We found on farm slaughter to be a great alternative in this situation.

Dan Brooks, Waywardgoosefarm, Vermont

The backbone of society is local food sovereignty. On-farm slaughter provides valuable income to farmers and higher quality meat to customers while knitting the community tighter. Farmers and customers lose when the federal regulations are not just or clear.

Charen Fegard, former representative from Corinth, Vermont

On Farm slaughter is essential to our small farms and is demanded more and more by eaters. It is the most ethical treatment for slaughtered animals and must be supported and affirmed by law.

Michael MacDonald, Churchtown Dairy, New York

As someone who works regularly with farmers in Vermont, I support people's ability to work with their local legislators, farmers, and slaughterers to create scale-appropriate solutions that ensure their food supply and a viable, accessible, local food economy.

Lauren Weston, Service Provider, Vermont

As a beginning farmer and careful meat consumer, I care where meat comes from. This action is important to me because I want to keep viable business avenues open around how my animals are produced, purchased, and humanely slaughtered. As a meat consumer and purchaser of current on-farm slaughter exemption animals, I want to rest easy knowing how they were dispatched and by whom. Transparency is key for me as a consumer of meat and without that transparency and local connection to my community of farmers, itinerant slaughterers, and butchers - I will likely cease to consume and purchase meat all together. Please take our communities' ask seriously and listen to our demands in earnest. Thank you.

Ehrin Lingeman, Vermont

Ensuring that on-farm slaughter is maintained on our farms is essential to our way of life. Please ensure that the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) is altered to protect the personal use exemption and ensure that we will be able to continue to conduct on-farm slaughter of our animals.

Michel Scot Zens, Homesteader, Vermont

This is a growing need among sheep breeders in the state.

David Rithie, co-owner Green Mountain Spinnery, Vermont

Small scale on-farm slaughter is a key to local, sustainable food sovereignty. Having experienced a pandemic, how can we deny the importance of communities able to feed themselves, rather than rely on distant industrial production?

Jen Lewis, Half Wind Farm, Vermont

This law is very important to our business in NY and to all consumers. We are all looking for more food freedom. When an animal gets slaughtered on our farm....I am the inspector. I have raised these animals and hold a high standard for their life including the last, worst day being stress free and with dignity and respect. There is not a USDA employee that could hold more regard for this act than the farmer.

Anonymous farmer, New York

For the future of rural farms and towns it is critical that we clarify on farm slaughter regulations in a way which is size appropriate and protects the small farmer, relieves the bottleneck in Americas slaughterhouses and helps ensure that the farmer is within his rights to slaughter on farm.

Leigh Merinoff, Meadows Bee Farm, Vermont

Our support for this effort has nothing to do with our retail business -- a business that sources the full range of meat proteins from across New England. We stand with this needed change because we understand its benefits to livestock and poultry producers AND consumers across the region. Food security is locally grown. The pandemic proved that. Strengthening food security and the food economy happens with this effort. The nation's food supply will be better for it WITHOUT sacrificing safety. The time has come.

Allan Reetz, Hanover Co-op Food Store, Director of Public and Government Affairs, Vermont