



# Meat Processing Grants

Departments of Agriculture and Environment and Natural Resources

## Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$5,000,000 in one-time funding to support a meat processing grant program to assist South Dakota meat processors in responding to market and workforce disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Program Description

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) has developed a Meat Processing Grant Program to assist South Dakota meat processors responding to market and workforce disruptions due to COVID-19. The program provides processors with funds to make immediate impacts on the state's capacity to process or store South Dakota raised protein, including beef, pork, poultry, and lamb. Eligible expenses are included, but not limited to, coolers/freezers, contractor costs, temporary cold storage, portion cutters, processing equipment, slaughter equipment, equipment or facilities to hold animals in a humane manner, facility expansion, upgrades, or wastewater treatment improvements. General operating expenses, such as salary, fringe, and supplies are not eligible.

Meat processors located in South Dakota who fit into one of the following categories can apply:

- State inspected "equal to" slaughter and/or processing plants
- Licensed custom-exempt slaughter plants
- Small and very small federally inspected plants

## Funding

The program appropriates one-time funding to eligible meat processors who are in good standing with the South Dakota Animal Industry Board and the State of South Dakota. Applicants may be reimbursed for projects that have or will directly impact the state's capacity to process protein. The program will reimburse processors a portion of expenses dependent on the total amount of funds available and the number of eligible applications received and approved. DANR will reach out directly to eligible applicants with additional information following program approval.