



**NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM**

Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program

The 2008 Farm Bill introduced The Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program, an agreement between the USDA- Food Safety Inspection Services (FSIS) and participating state meat inspection programs. The CIS program allows state-inspected meat products to bear the federal mark of inspection, meaning those products are eligible for interstate (across state borders) sales. Without the CIS program, state-inspected products are limited to sales within the state, but the North Dakota Meat and Poultry Inspection Program (NDMPIP) is a participating state program, so ND-inspected facilities could apply for the CIS program and gain access to any account within the U.S.

Application Requirements – The CIS program is available to any ND plant that meets the following requirements:

- The plant has processed inspected products under the NDMPIP for at least 90 days;
- The plant is operating within regulatory compliance and is in good standing with the NDMPIP;
- The plant has fewer than 25 employees that will handle any CIS product; and
- The plant has adequate measures to completely separate CIS-inspected product from any other products and activities within the establishment.

Deselection from the CIS program - Removal from the CIS program resulting in subsequent transition to federal inspection could occur for the following reasons:

- Egregious violation of the federal meat inspection acts or excessive failure to maintain compliance with the regulations
- Exceeding the 25 employee limit, which includes part-time staff, seasonal help and volunteers

** Deselected establishments must transition to become an official federal establishment for a minimum of one year, after which the establishment could return to state inspection. **

For more information about the CIS program, please contact the ND Information Coordinator Nathan Kroh (701-328-4767) or email (nkroh@nd.gov), or Dr. Andrea Grondahl, NDMPIP Director (701-328-4762) or email (agrondah@nd.gov).