Overview of the Ranch to Plate Act
For Ranchers & Custom Exempt Processors
For Today...

- CDA Custom Exempt Processors Act
  - USDA and Federal regulations
- Overview of the R2P Act
- Do’s and don’ts with the R2P Act
- Why this matters
- Funding Opportunities for Processors and Ranchers
- Q and A
CDA Custom Exempt Processors Act

- CDA licenses and inspects Custom Exempt Processors (CEPs):
  - State authority, but still subject to USDA inspection
  - Sanitation, storage, record keeping and environmental sampling

- CEPs must comply with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA):
  - Can only process for the animal owner(s)
  - Must label packages with owner’s name and “NOT FOR SALE”
  - May process animal share agreements:
    - Must record names of **ALL** owners
    - Ownership must be established pre-slaughter
CDA Custom Exempt Processors Act

- Meat may not be sold by a CEP to consumers

- Any meat processed at a CEP may not be sold to retail establishments
  - Poultry is exempt from this restriction. Poultry owners may acquire a CDA license to process and sell up to 20,000 of their own birds to retail establishments and consumers

- Personal Use Exemptions in FMIA
  - Ranchers may process for their own use (family and guests).
  - May NOT use animal share agreements to sell to consumers
Ranch to Plate Act (Do’s and Don’ts)

- R2P sets requirements for ranchers to be exempt from public health inspection
- Does not change CDA and USDA oversight of CEPs
- Ranchers **MAY NOT** use a CEP to process meat and sell to consumers who are not part of an animal share agreement
  - Must still use a USDA-inspected facility
- Ranchers must disclose they are not subject to license by a public health agency to consumer
  - Specific language found in R2P Act
- Meat and meat products from animals processed under the R2P Act cannot enter interstate commerce
Ranch to Plate Act (Do’s and Don’ts)

● Ranchers may establish animal shares as low as 1%:
  ○ Ownership must be established pre-slaughter
  ○ Need to keep records establishing ownership pre-slaughter
    ■ Provide those ownership records to the CEP.
  ○ May use a USDA-inspected facility or CEP for processing

● Does NOT exempt ranchers from the private use restrictions in FMIA:
  ○ May not claim a private use exemption to self process an animal that is part of an animal share agreement.
Why This Matters

Food safety
○ Colorado has critical industry standards to keep consumers from getting sick

Consumer confidence:
○ Colorado meat is high quality and professionally processed.
○ One public outbreak can have a damaging impact for the individual firm and for the industry as a whole

Compliance:
○ Keep ranchers and processors from inadvertently violating federal law, subjecting them to regulatory action
Funding Opportunities for Processors and Ranchers

● State
  ○ Loan program ($7 million in loans for processing, $20 million in loans for farmers/ranchers)
    ■ 4% interest rate
    ■ Start mid-February (Info on CDA website soon)
    ■ Higher tolerance for risk and flexible lending standards

● Federal
  ○ USDA ($1 Billion) (Stay Tuned)
  ○ AMS Award $32 Million (3 Colorado Processors awarded $150K each)
  ○ Farm Service Agency
Additional Resources

- Ranch to Plate Act (SB21-079)
- CDA Custom Meat Website
- CDA Guidance on Ranch to Plate (SB21-079)
  - Includes printable documents
- Table: Type of Sale and Processing Options
- USDA Guidance for Processing Firms and Inspection Requirements of the FMIA

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