



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 31, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. President and Secretary Rollins:

Oklahoma's cattle producers are among the best in the country, and I appreciate your Administration's focus on strengthening the American beef industry, increasing competition, and bringing down prices for American families. As you continue looking for ways to increase the supply of beef available to consumers, I encourage USDA to consider an opportunity that can expand the domestic market while directly supporting American ranchers and processors.

Oklahoma currently has several different inspection structures for meat processors. Custom-exempt facilities process livestock for the owner of the animal, and that meat is not permitted to be sold. State-inspected facilities operate under inspection by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) and may sell their products commercially, but generally only within Oklahoma. Federally inspected facilities, including facilities operating through the Talmadge-Aiken Cooperative Inspection Program, may place federally inspected products into interstate commerce.

This creates a significant market limitation for Oklahoma processors. A state-inspected processor may produce safe, wholesome beef for sale throughout Oklahoma but cannot ordinarily sell that same product to a customer across the state line. Expanding the number of Oklahoma processors capable of entering interstate commerce would create new markets for Oklahoma cattle, increase domestic processing capacity, strengthen competition in the packing industry, and put more American beef into the national marketplace.



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Importantly, this opportunity does not require sacrificing food safety. Oklahoma operates its state meat inspection program pursuant to a cooperative agreement with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), under which the State must maintain inspection requirements at least equal to federal requirements. ODAFF inspectors already conduct daily onsite inspections when inspected products are being produced. Oklahoma therefore has the regulatory and inspection infrastructure necessary to support expanded federal market access.

I ask USDA and FSIS to work with ODAFF to establish an expedited pathway for qualified Oklahoma processors to obtain interstate market access, including by promptly reviewing and approving additional Oklahoma establishments for participation under the Talmadge-Aiken Cooperative Inspection Program. I also ask USDA to work with Oklahoma to determine whether participation in the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program can provide an additional expedited pathway for eligible state-inspected processors.

Increasing the supply of beef available to American consumers does not have to depend solely on increasing foreign imports. We should also remove unnecessary barriers that prevent American ranchers and American processors from supplying American consumers. Oklahoma stands ready to work with your Administration to do exactly that.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued support of America's farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Kevin Stitt".

J. Kevin Stitt
Governor