

Tallow Products FAQs

Due to the recent interest in Maine regarding tallow products, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) Maine Meat and Poultry Inspection program (MMPI) has compiled a few FAQs for people interested in making tallow products to sell in Maine. While this FAQ sheet covers the most common questions we receive, please feel free to contact us at (207) 287-7512 for other questions or further assistance.

1. Can I sell tallow derived from meat or poultry animals, to be used for cooking purposes, to individual customers?

Yes! However, you must have appropriate licensure from DACF to make and sell these products to your customers. Meat and poultry products are **NOT** covered under Food Sovereignty ordinances (7 M.R.S.A. §285) and you **must** have DACF licensure to make these products to sell in commerce. Tallow is considered a potentially hazardous food and as such cannot be produced under a home kitchen license. The fat used to make the tallow must bear a State or Federal mark of inspection before rendering. Please contact the Food Inspection Program (FIP) at 207-287-3841 for further information on the requirements and licenses needed to make tallow to be sold to individual customers.

2. Can I sell tallow, to be used for cooking, to retail stores or other businesses that I made myself under my DACF licensure?

No. Cooking tallow to be wholesaled to stores or other businesses for resale, including restaurants, must be rendered, packaged and labelled in a [USDA Food Safety Inspection Service \(FSIS\) inspected facility](#). You can contact USDA-FSIS establishments to see which, if any, USDA-FSIS establishments could make this product for your business. No MMPI inspected facilities make tallow at this time.

3. Can I sell products not intended for cooking, such as cosmetics or lotions, that are made from tallow?

Yes! These products are not considered food, and do not fall under either MMPI or FIP regulations and requirements. Nonedible products made from tallow must be clearly advertised and labelled as “Not For Human Consumption”. These products fall under the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rules and regulations and in general, must not cause harm to users or make false claims. For more information on how these products are regulated, we recommend reviewing [FDA guidelines for cosmetics](#).