



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

Gary W. Black  
Commissioner

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Consider Amendments to Rules relating to the Georgia Meat Inspection Act

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, O.C.G.A. §§ 50-13-4, 26-2-80 and 26-2-202, notice is hereby given that the Georgia Department of Agriculture will be considering amendments to Departmental Rules 40-10-1-.02 and 40-10-1-.04 relating to meat inspection and processing. Written comments will be accepted from September 22, 2014, to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on October 23, 2014.

**SYNOPSIS, MAIN FEATURES, AND DIFFERENCES:**

The Georgia Department of Agriculture's Meat Inspection Section operates under a cooperative agreement with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (hereinafter "FSIS") of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As part of the cooperative agreement, the Department must enforce rules and regulations that are at least equal to those imposed under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. §§ 601, *et seq.*

Current Georgia Department of Agriculture Rule 40-10-1-.02 provides a definition for the term "Livestock," which includes swine; however, the Rule does not differentiate between domestic swine and feral swine. Accordingly, the Georgia Department of Agriculture is proposing to amend Rule 40-10-1-.02 by providing a definition for the term "Feral Swine," which shall mean nondomestic descendants of domestic swine that have either escaped or were released and subsequently developed survival skills necessary to thrive in the wild. Some are out-crossed with "Russian Boar". Proposed Rule 40-10-1-.02 would be renumbered to accommodate the addition of the term "Feral Swine."

Additionally, current Georgia Department of Agriculture Rule 40-10-1-.04 provides certain exemptions from the requirements of the Georgia Meat Inspection Act and the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. Accordingly, the Georgia Department of Agriculture is proposing to amend Rule 40-10-1-.04 by adding an exemption for facilities which further process hunter-killed feral swine, so long as said facilities adhere to certain delineated requirements. Proposed Rule 40-10-1-.04 would be renumbered to accommodate the addition of said exemption.

**COMMENT PERIOD AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Department will be accepting written comments from September 22, 2014, to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on October 23, 2014. Comments will be considered on October 24, 2014. Please submit written comments to:

Dr. Robert Cobb, Director  
Animal Industry Division  
Georgia Department of Agriculture  
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Room 106  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Telephone: (404) 656-3671  
FAX: (404) 657-1357

You may download a copy of the synopsis and the proposed rules from the Georgia Department of Agriculture website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

This notice is given in accordance with the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act, O.C.G.A. 50-13-4.