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## Food & Drug Protection Division

### Food Program

#### I want to start my own food business. Now what?

##### Determine which agency regulates the type of business you want to start:

- Restaurants, including catering operations, are regulated by [county health departments](#).
- Meat and meat-containing products are regulated by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' [Meat and Poultry Inspection Service](#).
- Packaged foods other than meat products are regulated by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division. Some can be produced in a home setting. No license required, but inspections can be made.
- Seafood is regulated by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division. Wholesale seafood dealers must fulfill training requirements.
- Dairy products, including milk, frozen dessert, cheese and butter, are regulated by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division. Licensing is required.
- Wineries are regulated by several agencies, including the Federal Tax and Trade Bureau. Consult the [Starting a Commercial Winery](#) guide for more information.
- Farmers do/do not need a business license to sell commodities grown on their farm.

##### Food and Drug Protection Division links

###### My business will be:

- [Commercial Business](#) (product will be manufactured in a processing plant)
- [Home Processor](#) (product will be produced in your home kitchen)
- [Pet Food or Treats](#)

##### Other resources

- [N.C. Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act](#).
- [FDA Good Manufacturing Practice Guidelines](#)
- [NCSU Entrepreneur Assistance Program](#)
- [Business ServiCenter by the N.C. Department of Commerce](#)
- [Office of Business & Entrepreneurial Services](#)
- [NCDA&CS' Marketing Division Agribusiness Development Office](#)
- [NCDA&CS General Store](#)- Create a free website for your company!
- [Blue Ridge Food Ventures](#) - a full-scale commercial kitchen operation for value-added food production in western North Carolina.

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