



# House File 2470 Report

Update on Artisanal Butchery Curriculum for Community Colleges

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Independent meat lockers and processors in Iowa are currently facing challenges such as workforce shortages, high demand for the products and services they offer, and strained supply chains. The Artisanal Butchery Task Force was created to determine the need for training programs that lockers and processors can utilize to develop and maintain a skilled workforce. During meetings that occurred during the fall of 2021, the Artisanal Butchery Task Force recommended a one-year community college certificate program with the following curriculum framework (modeled off of a program offered at Miles Community College (MCC) in Montana):

## **First Semester (14 credits)**

*Basic Meat Processing (2)*  
*Food Safety and HACCP (2)*  
*Animal Science or Biology course (3)*  
*Workplace Communication course (3)*  
*Internship module 1 (2)*  
*Internship module 2 (2)*

## **Second Semester (14 credits)**

*Advanced Meat Processing (2)*  
*Farm to Table Marketing (2)*  
*Business Management course (3)*  
*Business Math course (3)*  
*Internship module 3 (2)*  
*Internship module 4 (2)*

During the 2021 session of the Iowa General Assembly, House File (HF) 2470 was passed to address challenges facing Iowa's independent meat lockers and processors. This legislation focused on adopting and implementing the recommendations of the Artisanal Butchery Task Force. HF-2470 states that, "no later than December 31, 2022, the department of education, in collaboration with the state board of education, shall establish a framework for a one-year community college certificate program for artisanal butchery that is based on the recommendations of the artisanal butchery task force final report, and the department shall provide the framework to all community colleges under chapter 260C."

A group of faculty members and administrators from the community colleges and consultants from the Iowa Department of Education convened on October 18th, 2022 and November 16th, 2022. This group included the following members:

- Jenny Foster, Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC)
- Matthew Eddy, Iowa Department of Education (IDOE)
- Dave Grunklee, Hawkeye Community College (HCC)
- Heather Meissen, Iowa Department of Education (IDOE)
- Stacy Mentzer, Iowa Central Community College (ICCC)
- Jeremy Pickard, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC)
- Michael Rohlena, Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC)
- Nate Steinback, Iowa Western Community College (IWCC)
- Lindsay Stoaks, Southwestern Community College (SWCC)
- Jennifer Wilson, Indian Hills Community College (IHCC)

During the discussions, the group decided to adopt the curriculum framework proposed by the Artisanal Butchery Task Force as written. Echoing the language in HF-2470, the group proposed that community colleges be able to use this curriculum framework as minimum requirements and modify the curriculum based on the unique circumstances of the specific community college. For example, a community college will be able to adjust the courses in the framework and adjust the structure of the framework (e.g., offer a one-year award with shorter certificates laddered into the award) as necessary. Additionally, because of challenges regarding the need for adequate facilities, issues finding qualified instructors, or requirements imposed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), community colleges will be able to develop a non-credit certificate program from this framework instead of a certificate program or partner with other colleges or industry for education and training.