

Chairman Roy, Chariman Meyer, and members of the Environment Committee.

Eleanore Provencal, Woodstock, Treasurer Connecticut Poultry Association

Raised Bill # 6402

An Act concerning the requisite number of poultry for certain approved food sources under the public health code

CPA is in **support** of the bill with suggestions to modify it.

This is a step in the right direction

- realistic number of birds for the farming operation, this is a **business not a hobby farm**, reduce inspection number of birds to 300, those below 300 will need to produce evidence that they are following the protocol for safe eggs prepared by the DoAg. This protocol is currently in place.
- in light of the current state budget situation, and the load on the commodity inspector(s) expecting farm visits to operations with less than 300 birds is unrealistic
- Currently well over 100 producers raise less than 500 hens for eggs. These are potential providers to the food service industry. Hundred of producers are home producers of laying hens.
- encourage the committee to **work with the DoAg to find the # of birds** that will work within the current limitations
- CPA supports safety for the consumer. Consumers are demanding locally grown product. This demand can help sustain farmers.

Restaurants owners have indicated the naming of the farmer on menu when they can develop a relationships with a producer. The 3.5 billion dollar industry in our state can increase with this added commodity being available.

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Gary Proctor, Bolton, Vice President, Connecticut Poultry Association

- there is a demand for local eggs to be made available to the food service establishments, retail outlets, and institutions. Food service establishments mean the restaurant trade. In addition, consider **institutions, retail establishments, retail food establishments and business operations making prepared foods**, consider adding these to the bill, **spell out where eggs from small flocks can be sold**
- of concern is the **inconsistency of our local health departments**, some permit local retail establishments to sell eggs to customers, others have demanded that they be removed from shelves
- **define more specifically grading**