



S T A T E O F C O N N E C T I C U T

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Office of Steven K. Reviczky  
Commissioner*



**Raised Bill No. 239, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PROPANE NOISEMAKERS TO REPEL WILDLIFE**

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture supports the spirit of Raised Bill No. 239, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PROPANE NOISEMAKERS TO REPEL WILDLIFE to study the effectiveness of propane cannons and similar noisemaking devices used in an attempt to reduce damage to agricultural crops by birds and other wildlife.

Wildlife can cause significant damage to crops, resulting in severe economic loss by the farmer. It is no wonder that farmers try every legal means of reducing this damage, including automatic noisemakers such as propane cannons.

The noise levels of these canons are often in the same range as that of a thunderclap. Unlike thunder, the noise may continue at regular intervals for up to 12 hours on end. While the scientific effectiveness of such noisemakers on crop damage is undocumented, what is known is that these devices often create a real and serious annoyance to nearby property owners and strain relationships between farmers and their neighbors.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture supports study of the effectiveness of these noisemakers as well as that of alternative wildlife damage control methods such as falconry, visual and olfactory deterrents, netting/fencing, etc., to determine the benefits and disadvantages of each. This way farmers can use scientific data to make appropriate and cost-effective decisions that best protect both the viability of the farming operation as well as its mutually beneficial relationship with the surrounding community.