



# Acts Affecting Animals and Agriculture

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Revised

## Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (Public Acts) affecting animals and agriculture enacted during the 2017 regular session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Environment, are, or soon will be, available on OLR's website:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/actsaffecting.asp>.

Each summary indicates the Public Act (PA) number and effective date. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden.

Complete summaries of Public Acts are, or will soon be, available on OLR's website:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/olrsums.asp>. Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the Connecticut State Library, House Clerk's Office, or General Assembly's website: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>.

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## **Agricultural Impacts of Proposed Energy Projects**

A new law requires the energy and environmental protection commissioner and the Connecticut Siting Council to consider the impact of certain proposed energy-related projects, including solar projects, on the environment, prime farmland or forest land, or agriculture, before allowing them to proceed ([PA 17-218](#), §§ 1-4, effective July 1, 2017).

## **Anaerobic Digestion**

Under a new law, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority must authorize additional funds for agricultural customer hosts using an anaerobic digestion renewable energy source as a virtual net metering facility ([PA 17-218](#), § 5, effective July 1, 2017).

## **Animal Shelter Registration**

A new law requires operators of animal shelters in Connecticut to register with the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner and comply with DoAg regulations concerning sanitation, disease, humane treatment of animals, and public safety protection. The new law establishes registration fees and fines for noncompliance ([PA 17-167](#), effective October 1, 2017).

## **Bee Registration and Inspection**

A new law requires beekeepers to register their bee hives with the state entomologist when they acquire bees and annually by October 1. It also allows the entomologist to examine, quarantine, treat, or destroy apiaries that are diseased or harboring insects, mites, or parasitic organisms that cause harm to bees, crops, or other plants. It increases the fines for violations ([PA 17-21](#), effective on passage).

## **Commission Sales Stables**

The legislature revised the law governing the places where livestock animals are sold at auction (i.e., commission sales stables). The new law (1) requires all dairy and breeding animals at a commission sales stable to be identified by ear tag or breed registration number and (2) establishes a 72-hour deadline for slaughtering animals sold at auction. It also requires a commission sales stable to maintain records on animals bought or sold at the facility and make them available to DoAg for inspection ([PA 17-133](#), effective October 1, 2017).

## **Farm Brewery and Distillery Permits**

The legislature passed new laws establishing two new liquor permits: a farm brewery manufacturer permit and a farm distillery manufacturer permit. These allow permittees to, among other things, manufacture, distribute at wholesale, and sell “Connecticut Craft Beer” or spirits they manufacture on their farms. Permittees must use certain amounts of Connecticut-grown products (e.g., malt or fruit) when making their alcohol ([PA 17-160](#), effective on passage, and [PA 17-232](#), effective October 1, 2017).

## **Farmers’ Market Beer Sales**

A new law increases, from five to seven liters, the amount a farmers' market beer sales permittee may sell to a person per day at a farmers' market ([PA 17-160](#), § 7, effective on passage).

## **Farmers’ Market Egg Sales**

A new law prohibits farmers who sell eggs at farmers’ markets from selling falsely labeled or adulterated eggs ([PA 17-184](#), § 4, effective on passage).

## **Kelp Oil**

The legislature passed a new law that authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation with DoAg, to help businesses apply to the federal Environmental Protection Agency for approval of kelp oil as a feedstock for heating oil ([PA 17-218](#), § 6, effective on passage).

## **Poultry Flock Registration**

A new law allows poultry flock owners to register their flocks with DoAg. Registration enables the owner to participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan program, which seeks to prevent and contain avian diseases ([PA 17-184](#), most provisions effective October 1, 2017).

## **Produce Safety Rule Enforcement**

A new law allows DoAg to enforce the federal Food Safety Modernization Act produce safety rule, which sets standards for growing, harvesting, and packing produce intended for human consumption ([PA 17-208](#), effective July 1, 2017).

## **Reporting Deadline Extended**

A new law delays, from January 1 to February 15, the annual deadline by which the agriculture and children and families (DCF) commissioners must report to the Committee on Children on the number of written reports of animal neglect or cruelty they receive from animal control officers and DCF employees, respectively ([PA 17-19](#), effective July 1, 2017).

## **Special Mobile Equipment Liens**

Subject to certain procedures, existing law allows bailees (e.g., repair shops) to sell at auction personal property left in their custody if the owner has not reclaimed it and satisfied the lien. A new law creates a specific process that bailees must follow if the property is “special mobile equipment” (including, among other things, various types of heavy construction equipment, tractors, and earth moving equipment) ([PA 17-104](#), effective October 1, 2017).

## **Veterans’ Agriculture Motor Vehicle Plates**

A new law requires the motor vehicles commissioner to issue a special registration certificate and set of number plates to a veteran whose motor vehicles are used exclusively for farming ([PA 17-148](#), effective July 1, 2017).

## **Veterinarian Complaints**

Under a new law, the owners of an animal that is the subject of a Department of Public Health investigation against a veterinarian may have access to the investigation records ([PA 17-168](#), effective October 1, 2017).

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