

If your equine business includes boarding, breeding, or training, certain state statutes may apply to you.

However, it is important to remember that you are an ambassador for the industry. You also have a responsibility to be a good neighbor.

- Obey all zoning regulations.
- Maintain your fences and buildings.
- Properly manage your manure.  
(Please see the CHC “Scoop about Manure” brochure).
- Use good pasture management.
- Be respectful and polite to neighbors.

In recent years, many towns in Connecticut have had discussions about their regulations regarding horses and livestock. It is important to be involved with your town and attend public meetings. You should also become familiar with state laws specific to your activities. Your participation in public hearings and town meetings is crucial, as often elected officials are unfamiliar with horses and livestock. Also, usually any change to regulations concerning “livestock” directly includes horses.

If your town is considering changes to regulations relative to agriculture or livestock, please notify CHC.

### Additional Information

Please note that this information is meant for general purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice.

For more details, please contact the Connecticut Horse Council  
[www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)

Other useful resources include:

Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
[www.ct.gov/doag](http://www.ct.gov/doag) (860)-713-2500

University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension  
[www.canr.uconn.edu/ces](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ces)

University of Connecticut Equine Extension Specialist  
[www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/extension/index.html](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/extension/index.html) (860) 486-4471

**\*\*Laws and Regulations are frequently changed and updated. We encourage you to review Connecticut state statutes, and your town zoning regulations to ensure that you have the most current information available.**

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc:  
Protecting your rights as equestrians.

*\*\*Membership dues made this brochure possible. Please consider joining CHC so that we may continue to serve the industry.*

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## Horses & Agriculture

### THE CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

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United in Leadership, Service and  
Education since 1971

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860-482-9500

### **Connecticut Definition of Agriculture:**

The state of Connecticut has a definition of Agriculture which includes horses. Title 1, Chapter 1 of the General Statutes reads as follows:

Sec 1-1(q) "Except as otherwise specifically defined, the words "agriculture" and "farming" shall include cultivation of the soil, dairying, forestry, raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training and management of livestock, including horses, bees, poultry, fur-bearing animals and wildlife, and the raising or harvesting of oysters, clams, mussels, other molluscan shellfish or fish; the operation, management, conservation, improvement or maintenance of a farm and its buildings, tools and equipment, or salvaging timber or cleared land of brush or other debris left by a storm, as an incident to such farming operations; the production or harvesting of maple syrup or maple sugar, or any agricultural commodity, including lumber, as an incident to ordinary farming operations or the harvesting of mushrooms, the hatching of poultry, or the construction, operation or maintenance of ditches, canals, reservoirs or waterways used exclusively for farming purposes; handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, grading, storing or delivering to storage or to market, or to a carrier for transportation to market, or for direct sale any agricultural or horticultural commodity as an incident to ordinary farming operations, or, in the case of fruits and vegetables, as an incident to the preparation of such fruits or vegetables for market or for direct sale. The term "farm" includes farm buildings, and accessory buildings thereto, nurseries, orchards, ranges, greenhouses, hoophouses and other temporary structures or other structures used primarily for the raising and, as an incident to ordinary

farming operations, the sale of agricultural or horticultural commodities. The term "aquaculture" means the farming of the waters of the state and tidal wetlands and the production of protein food, including fish, oysters, clams, mussels and other molluscan shellfish, on leased, franchised and public underwater farm lands. Nothing herein shall restrict the power of a local zoning authority under chapter 124."

### **Connecticut "Right to Farm Law"**

Connecticut also has a Right to Farm Law. This means that those businesses which have been engaged in farming and following industry accepted practices and standards cannot be harassed if there is no negligence or willful misconduct taking place.

CT General Statute Title 19a, Chapter 368m, Sec 19a-341 reads as follows:

"Agricultural or farming operation not deemed a nuisance; exceptions. Spring or well water collection operation not deemed a nuisance. (a) Notwithstanding any general statute or municipal ordinance or regulation pertaining to nuisances to the contrary, no agricultural or farming operation, place, establishment or facility, or any of its appurtenances, or the operation thereof, shall be deemed to constitute a nuisance, either public or private, due to alleged objectionable (1) odor from livestock, manure, fertilizer or feed, (2) noise from livestock or farm equipment used in normal, generally acceptable farming procedures, (3) dust created during plowing or cultivation operations, (4) use of chemicals, provided such chemicals and the method of their application conform to practices approved by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or, where applicable, the Commissioner of Public Health, or (5) water

pollution from livestock or crop production activities, except the pollution of public or private drinking water supplies, provided such activities conform to acceptable management practices for pollution control approved by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection; provided such agricultural or farming operation, place, establishment or facility has been in operation for one year or more and has not been substantially changed, and such operation follows generally accepted agricultural practices. Inspection and approval of the agricultural or farming operation, place, establishment or facility by the Commissioner of Agriculture or his designee shall be prima facie evidence that such operation follows generally accepted agricultural practices.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply whenever a nuisance results from negligence or willful or reckless misconduct in the operation of any such agricultural or farming operation, place, establishment or facility, or any of its appurtenances."

### **Town Zoning & Health Regulations**

In addition to state statutes, zoning and health regulations as mandated by your town directly govern horse owners.

The town health department oversees nuisances related to odors or water contamination, and would respond to any complaints about these issues.

To obtain your town zoning regulations, please contact your town hall for a copy. Many towns now also have their zoning books in PDF format online. Please visit the CHC website for links directly to those towns that have town websites.