

# FARM AND RANCH RULES & REGULATIONS CHECKLIST

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## Business

- \_\_\_ Fictitious Business Name: File with the county and newspaper <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/launch/choose-your-business-name-register>
- \_\_\_ Liability Insurance: a critical component to protecting your farm; need farm liability, product liability may be required by Certified Farmers Markets, buyers or others involved in marketing
- \_\_\_ IRS Employer Identification Number EIN, Tax ID Number: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>
- \_\_\_ Licenses and Permits: Refer to state or city laws. Needed for Christmas tree sales. <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/launch/apply-for-licenses-permits-federal-state>
- \_\_\_ CalGOLD Search: Search for regulations specific to your area. Permits are needed inside city limits, so use the filter on the right hand side of the page <http://www.calgold.ca.gov/>

## Employees

- \_\_\_ Employment Development Department EDD Number: <https://eddservices.edd.ca.gov/>
- \_\_\_ Workers Compensation Insurance: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DWC/>
- \_\_\_ Payroll Taxes: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed>
- \_\_\_ OSHA Posters: Farm Safety <https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.athruz?pType=Industry&pID=81>
- \_\_\_ California Department of Industrial Relations Workplace postings: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/wpnodeb.html>

## Production: Livestock

- \_\_\_ USDA inspected slaughter: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/downloads/slaughter\\_list.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/downloads/slaughter_list.pdf)
- \_\_\_ Transportation across state lines requires a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), and many species require an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit. [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/Entry\\_Requirements.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Entry_Requirements.html)
- \_\_\_ Milk and milk products: [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Milk\\_and\\_Dairy\\_Food\\_Safety/index.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Milk_and_Dairy_Food_Safety/index.html)
- \_\_\_ Beef Check off: producer-funded marketing and research program designed to increase domestic and/or international demand for beef. [https://www.beefboard.org/about/faq\\_aboutcheckoff.asp](https://www.beefboard.org/about/faq_aboutcheckoff.asp)
- \_\_\_ Organic Livestock: Comply with National Organic Program standards; certify production practices and slaughter through 3<sup>rd</sup> party certifier. <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program>

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\_\_\_ Brand Inspection [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Livestock\\_ID/index.html#Inspection](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Livestock_ID/index.html#Inspection)

\_\_\_ Scrapie Ear Tag: for sheep and goats [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/content/printable\\_version/fs\\_scrapie\\_recordkeeping.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/fs_scrapie_recordkeeping.pdf)

\_\_\_ Sales by weight must use a certified scale, certified by your County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

### **Bees**

\_\_\_ California requires all beekeepers to register their apiaries with the County Agricultural Commissioner where the apiaries are located.

### **Poultry**

\_\_\_ 20,000 bird Federal exemption <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title9-vol2/pdf/CFR-2012-title9-vol2-sec381-10.pdf>

\_\_\_ Overview of On-farm Poultry Processing with USDA Exemption [http://ucanr.edu/sites/CESonomaAgOmbuds/Poultry\\_Processing\\_Exemptions/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/CESonomaAgOmbuds/Poultry_Processing_Exemptions/)

\_\_\_ Nevada County Poultry Resources including 1,000 Bird Processing Exemption, HAACCP sanitary operating procedures <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/1280/Poultry-Resources>

\_\_\_ Mobile processing unit through Nevada County Grown <http://nevadacountygrown.org/poultry-trailer/>

\_\_\_ Label requirements: [https://www.fsis.usda.gov/shared/PDF/Labeling\\_Requirements\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.fsis.usda.gov/shared/PDF/Labeling_Requirements_Guide.pdf)

\_\_\_ Proper processing and storage: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/services/Documents/fdbRFC.pdf>

\_\_\_ USDA inspected slaughter and processing [http://ucanr.edu/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/Livestock/Niche\\_Meat\\_and\\_Processing/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/Livestock/Niche_Meat_and_Processing/)

### **Eggs**

\_\_\_ CDFA Egg Handler's Registration: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/mpes/pdfs/EggHandlersRegistrationApplication.pdf>

\_\_\_ Requirements for egg handlers include: labeling, quality, refrigeration and defects.

## **Production: Crops**

### **Food Safety**

\_\_\_ Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/>

\_\_\_ California Small Farm Food Safety Guidelines: CSA and Producer's Certificate requirement: [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i\\_&c/sffsg.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&c/sffsg.html)

### **Marketing**

\_\_\_ Certified Farmers Market and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Register through California Department of Food and Agriculture: [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i\\_&c/cfm.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&c/cfm.html)

\_\_\_ Farmers Market: Certified Producer's Certificate <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/farmersmarket/>

\_\_\_ Farm Stand: regulated by Ag Department and/or Environmental Health, rules vary by county.

\_\_\_ Produce Stand or Farm Store: State regulations changed as of January 1, 2015. Contact your county ag

department for current regulations.

\_\_\_ Scales must be sealed annually by County Ag Commissioner where produce is grown.

\_\_\_ Labeling: Fresh Produce Container Labeling and Proof of Ownership Requirements <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/15725>

### Flowers

\_\_\_ Direct sales: Resale License from the California State Board of Equalization to charge sales tax (not necessary with wholesale) <http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/reg.htm>

### Nursery Starts

\_\_\_ Nursery License Application: Issued by CDFA through County Ag Departments. Fee waived for sales under \$1,000 in the county of origin. [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/docs/nipm/nipm\\_2\\_1\\_nsy\\_lic\\_app.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/docs/nipm/nipm_2_1_nsy_lic_app.pdf)

### Seeds

\_\_\_ Apply to sell seeds through the California Department of Food and Agriculture [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/docs/seed/SeedSalesApp\\_Instructions.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/docs/seed/SeedSalesApp_Instructions.pdf)

## Organic

\_\_\_ Registered Organic: Register with the state to begin the organic process. If your annual gross farm sales are less than \$5,000, and you follow NOP Standards, you may state that your products are organic without being certified. [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i\\_%26\\_c/organic.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_%26_c/organic.html)

\_\_\_ Certified Organic: If your annual gross farm sales are more than \$5,000, you must be certified organic by a USDA accredited certifying agency. CCOF is a commonly used certifier. <https://www.ccof.org/>

## Pesticide Registration and Reporting

State and federal laws regulate pesticide use but the laws are enforced by the counties. If you use pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, miticides, rodenticides, etc.) on commercial crops, including pasture for commercial livestock, you must have an operator ID or pesticide applicators' license.

\_\_\_ Placer County: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/agriculture>

\_\_\_ Nevada County: <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/1056/Pesticide-Use-Reporting>

## Water

\_\_\_ If your water comes from an irrigation district, the district holds the water rights. The California Water Resources Control Board regulates water rights and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulates physical access to water bodies for purposes of diversion (pumping or otherwise).

\_\_\_ Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Irrigated Lands Program. If you irrigate land for commercial crop or livestock production, you must join a watershed group OR obtain your own permit and



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