

FARM AND RANCH RULES & REGULATIONS CHECKLIST

Deena Miller and Cindy Fake, UC Cooperative Extension,
Nevada & Placer Counties

Publication
Number
31-145C
(Mar 2015)

Business

- ___ Fictitious Business Name: File with the county and newspaper <https://www.sba.gov/content/register-your-fictitious-or-doing-business-dba-name>
- ___ 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: [http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Apply-for-an-Employer-Identification-Number-\(EIN\)-Online](http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Apply-for-an-Employer-Identification-Number-(EIN)-Online)
- ___ Business License: Refer to state or city laws. Needed for Christmas tree sales. <https://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/starting-managing-business>
- ___ CalGOLD Search: Search your location for specific regulations. More permits are needed inside city limits, so make sure and 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/index.html>
- ___ Workers Compensation Insurance: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DWC/>
- ___ Payroll Taxes: <http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Employment-Taxes-2>
- ___ 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/wpnodb.html>

Production: Livestock

- ___ USDA inspected slaughter: 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.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Entry_Requirements.html
- ___ Milk and milk products: http://www.cdffa.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

Placer County 530.889.7385 Nevada County 530.273.4563
<http://ucanr.edu/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/>

- ___ Organic Livestock: Comply with National Organic Program and certify , production practices, and slaughter through a 3rd party. <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/nop>
- ___ Brand Inspection http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Livestock_ID/index.html#Inspection
- ___ Scrapie Ear Tag: for sheep and goats https://www.sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms_AnimalHealth_Scrapie
- ___ 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

- ___ 1,000 Bird Poultry Processing Exemption in Nevada County <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/cda/agcomm/Pages/Poultry-Resources.aspx>
- ___ 20,000 bird Federal exemption <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title9-vol2/pdf/CFR-2012-title9-vol2-sec381-10.pdf>
- ___ Label requirements: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/shared/PDF/Labeling_Requirements_Guide.pdf
- ___ Mobile processing unit through Nevada County Grown <http://nevadacountygrown.org/poultry-trailer/>
- ___ 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/

Eggs

- ___ CDFA Egg Handler's Registration: <http://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: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&c/sffsg.html

Marketing

- ___ Community Supported Agriculture (CSA): Register through California Department of Food and Agriculture 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.

___ Labeling: Fresh Produce Container Labeling and Proof of Ownership Requirements <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/cda/agcomm/docs/Ag%20Standards/Fresh%20Produce%20Container%20Labeling%20and%20Proof%20of%20Ownership.pdf>

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: Issued by CDFA through County Ag Departments. Fee waived for sales under \$1,000 in the county of origin. http://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 <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/seed/>

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

___ 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. <http://www.ccof.org/>

Pesticide Registration and Reporting

State and federal laws regulate pesticide use but counties enforce the laws.

___ If you are using 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: www.placer.ca.gov/departments/agriculture

Nevada County: <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/cda/agcomm/Pages/Home.aspx>

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 obtain your own permit and conduct your own water quality monitoring OR join a watershed group. Placer-Nevada-South Sutter-North Sacramento Subwatershed Group is our local group. www.cleanwaters.info



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE



United States
Department of
Agriculture

This information was developed with funding from the USDA Risk Management Agency.

The University of California Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities
(Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/files/107778.doc>)

Inquiries regarding ANR's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to Linda Marie Manton, Affirmative Action Contact, University of California, Davis, Agriculture and Natural Resources, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 752-0495.