



# Creating a Sustainable Agriculture Industry in an era of Frequent Change:

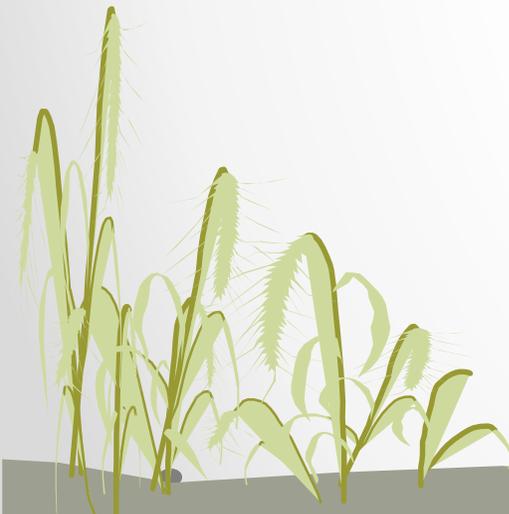
## One Size Does Not Fit All

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Agriculture Ombudsman



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# AGRICULTURE OMBUDSMAN

## Ag Ombuds in Sonoma County:

- Help ag enterprises determine permits needed for their operations
- Educate agencies and policy makers about needs of ag operations
- Website: [UCANR.edu/AgOmbuds](http://UCANR.edu/AgOmbuds)

## Other Counties with Ag Ombuds:

- Marin
- San Mateo
- Solono

**CA Dept of Food & Ag**

- ⇒ Certified Producer Certificate
- ⇒ Organic registration
- ⇒ Meat processing
- ⇒ Milk processing
- ⇒ CSA registration
- ⇒ Egg handlers

**County Planning**

- ⇒ Parcel Zoning: Use Permits
- ⇒ Plumbing, Electrical
- ⇒ Wells
- ⇒ Waste disposal
- ⇒ Fire Code
- ⇒ Roads
- ⇒ Events

**CA Board of Equalization**

- ⇒ Sellers permit

**US IRS**

- ⇒ Business Tax

**US Dept of Ag**

- ⇒ Meat processing

**County Agriculture**

- ⇒ Pesticide use registration
- ⇒ Weights & Measures

**Water Quality Control Board**

- ⇒ Dairy operations
- ⇒ CAFO's
- ⇒ Above ground waste management
- ⇒ Public water system

**CA Building Code**

- ⇒ Ag Building Exemption
- ⇒ Public/employee use
- ⇒ Accessibility on the farm

**US FDA**

- ⇒ FSMA Produce Rule
- ⇒ FSMA Facility Rule

**Air Resources Board**

- ⇒ Burn permits
- ⇒ Air quality permits

**CA Nat'l Resources Agency**

- ⇒ CEQA

**CA Public Health**

- ⇒ Food processing facility

**County Enviro Health**

- ⇒ Retail food sales
- ⇒ Waste disposal
- ⇒ Cottage Foods

**US FDA**

- ⇒ Registration of food and beverage businesses

**CA ABC**

- ⇒ Liquor license & tax

**US Alcohol & TTTB**

- ⇒ Fed excise tax

**CAL OSHA**

- ⇒ Occup health & safety

**CA Franchise Tax Board**

- ⇒ Business Tax

**Agencies that Regulate Ag Operations**

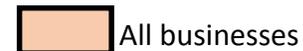
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Ag only



Most businesses



All businesses



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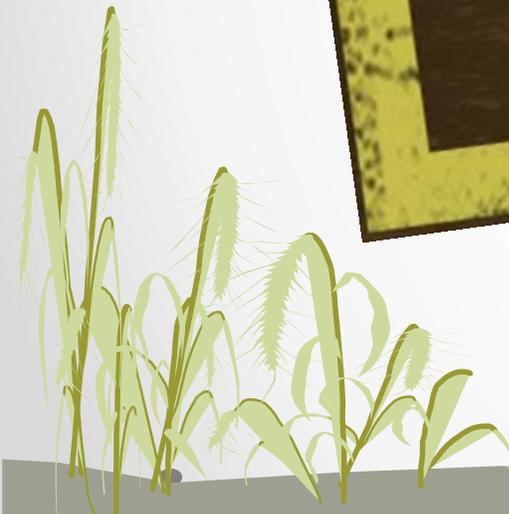
# FULL DISCLOSURE

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# EXAMPLE: ON-FARM POULTRY PROCESSING

## Problem

No local processing for small scale operators

## Solution

USDA Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) of 1957 allows on-farm "exempt" processing up to 20,000/year

Not exempt from PPIA requirements for proper handling & sanitary conditions

Exempt processed may be sold direct to consumer and to hotels, restaurants and institutions (HRI)

## Intent

Prevent adulterated or misbranded poultry products from being sold as food

Ensure that poultry and poultry products are slaughtered and processed under sanitary conditions

# CA DEPT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

## Additional layer

>1,000/year must register =  
visit by CDFA, no HRI

Licensing required to sell  
to hotels, restaurants and  
institutions (HRI) =  
\$600/year

## Intent

“Food Safety” – already a  
requirement in USDA’s  
PPIA

## Result

Become a licensed  
operation to sell to HRI

Only register and only sell  
direct to consumer

# COUNTY PLANNING & BUILDING

## Additional layer

Conditional Use Permit  
required cost: >\$10,000

Building and  
accessibility  
requirements

## Intent

Preserve ag zoned land for  
agriculture – non-ag  
development is never ag again

Zero tolerance for accessibility  
non-compliance – fear of  
litigation

## Result

Don't raise meat birds and don't  
process spent layers (stewing hens)  
for meat = underutilized asset

Do it "without benefit of permit" =  
stay very small, live in fear

Haul 2+ hours (one way) for  
USDA processing =  
GHG, stress (farmer and chickens)

# SUCCESS STORY



Problem

Conditional Use Permit  
required for ag processing  
on ag zoned land =  
**cost: >\$10,000**

Solution

Regulators met with ag operators and  
support groups to create a less  
cumbersome solution:

**Zoning permit for  
Small-Scale Ag Processing  
on Ag Zoned Land**

A large green circle containing the word "Result", with a large arrow pointing to it from the solution stage.

Result

- **Cost ~\$1,000**
- Ministerial:
  - Minimum parcel size,  
maximum building size
  - Waste management plan
  - Sufficient water quantity
  - Production: 70% of  
ingredients used are grown  
on farm

# IN CONCLUSION

## Work Together

- Regulators work with regulated
- Regulated talk to regulators

## Regulations that Match Impact

- Step up: non/minimal-impact, moderate impact, high impact
- Allow for flexibility and reasonable costs

**SONOMA  
COUNTY**



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*The  
End*