

# Farm Winery (LWF) Quick Reference Guide Rev. 7/25

## Legal Hours of Alcohol Service

- **Monday through Friday:** Off-premises sales allowed 8:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. On-premises alcohol sales allowed 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- **Saturday:** Off-premises sales allowed 8:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. On-premises alcohol sales allowed 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.
- **Sunday:** Off-premises sales allowed 10:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. On-premises alcohol sales allowed 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- **Holidays:** No off-premises sales allowed on Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Day; on-premises allowed with food on Christmas. (Alcohol may be sold on the Monday after any Christmas or New Year's Day falling on a Sunday.)
- *Local town/city rules may be more restrictive; check with your town hall*

## Permit Requirements

- **Yearly renewal:** You must renew your permit every year. A reminder email will be sent to your email address on file. The expiration date is printed on your permit.
- **Permit framed and hung:** Place your permit in a frame and hang in a place visible to the public.
- **Permittee's name:** Your permittee's name must be displayed on a sign and hung next to the main entrance in a place visible from sidewalk or street.
- **Records needed on premises:** A 2-year record of all sales must be kept at your premises. You may ask for permission to keep elsewhere.
- **Alcohol storage:** An approved lockable area must be kept that is large enough to store alcohol stock.
- **Employee age:** An employee must be at least 18 to work at premises and sell or serve alcohol.
- **Age statement forms:** Required to be kept on premises at all times; utilize when a person's age is in question.

## Farm Winery Specific Rules

- **Products:** Wine and brandies distilled from grapes or other fruits; includes grappa and eau-de-vie. May sell other Connecticut-made wine and also brandy manufactured from fruit harvested in CT but distilled in another state.
- **Wholesaling:** You may wholesale what you manufacture to a retail permittee if you make 100,000 gallons or less per year; limited to 15 gallons/container. You may also appoint a wholesaler to sell your product.
- **Registration and price posting:** All wholesaled brands must be registered and prices posted with DCP.
- **Retail sales:** You may sell alcohol you manufacture at retail to go in sealed bottles or for consumption on the premises by the bottle or glass.
- **Tastings:** May offer tastings to customers and prospective retailers.
- **Crops:** At least 25% of fruit used in manufacturing must be grown on lawn owned or controlled by the backer.
- **Alternating proprietorship and contract manufacturing:** Allowed in CT subject to specific rules. Contact Liquor Control for help.
- **Donations:** May donate product to holder of a temporary noncommercial entity permit only. Report all donations through eLicense portal.
- **Tax Reports:** Maintain required federal and state records for tax purposes.
- **Delivery:** May deliver to CT buyers; may ship out of state if allowed by other state.
- **Drinks to go:** May sell securely sealed containers of alcohol to go *with food prepared on the premises* during normal hours. Does not need to be in manufacturer's original container, but cannot use a lidded cup with sipping holes or straw holes. Beverage must be put in bag by

employee. Limits: 1.5L of wine. You must follow all local ordinances. Does not impact general off-

premise retail sales.

### **Common Violations**

- **Sales to minors:** You may not sell to or serve anyone under 21 years of age (unless with parent, guardian, or spouse). *No minor may sit or stand at a bar unless with a parent, guardian, or spouse. You have the right to refuse a sale to a suspected minor.*
- **Sales to intoxicated person:** You may not sell to or serve to anyone showing signs of intoxication. *You have the right to refuse a sale to someone who is intoxicated.*
- **Hours:** You may only sell alcohol during the hours allowed by your permit; all alcohol must be cleared by stated hour.
- **Smoking:** Smoking of all kinds is prohibited on your premises, including all electronic systems (cigarettes, cigars, vapes, pipes, hookahs, cigarillos, etc.).
- **Gambling:** No gambling on games of chance is allowed on the premises unless allowed by CT Lottery and licensed by DCP Gaming Division. Example: no dice games, sports pools, or slot machines.
- **Discrimination:** Promotions must apply to all patrons. "Ladies nights", etc. are prohibited if deal is based on age, gender, sexual orientation, or other protected classifications.

### **Other Permits Allowed**

- **Farmer's Market Permit:** You may conduct retail sales of sealed alcohol you've manufactured at farmer's markets. You must be invited to the farmer's market and limited to 10 locations a year. No tastings allowed.
- **Craft Café Permit:** You may hold at your main premises or an alternate location. It allows you to serve Connecticut-made beer and spirits.
- **Restaurant Permit:** You may hold at your main premises or an alternate location if you have the menu, dining space, and seating required for the permit. Allows a full bar.
- **Festival Permit:** You may attend a festival at the invitation of a festival permit holder. Allowed to conduct free or paid tastings, sell at retail for consumption at the festival, and sell at retail to go.
- **Shipper Permit:** You may apply to ship from out-of-state manufacturing plants to yourself.

### **Update Your Information**

- **Your email:** It is your responsibility to update contact information with DCP, especially email address and telephone number. We send renewals and permits via email.
- **E-License account:** Set up your eLicense account with the username provided to you by the Department. You will use your eLicense account to renew your permit, cancel your permit, update contact information, submit forms, and request changes to your permit.
- **Permittee changes:** You may assign a new permittee; requires a short application.
- **Ownership changes:** Any change in ownership or stock must be reported to DCP. You cannot transfer your permit to a new owner. New business owners need their own permit.

### **Contact Liquor Control:**

[www.ct.gov/dcp/liquorcontrol](http://www.ct.gov/dcp/liquorcontrol) ♦ [dcp.liquorcontrol@ct.gov](mailto:dcp.liquorcontrol@ct.gov) ♦ 860-713-6200

**(This guide for general reference only; not a full description of all obligations; see Liquor Control Act and corresponding regulations)**