

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
Division of Animal Industry
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FEEDING GARBAGE IN NEW YORK STATE



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NYS Laws Regarding Garbage Feeding

Article 5 Sec. 72a. Feeding of garbage, offal or carcasses to cattle, swine or poultry prohibited.

1. Garbage fed to cattle, swine or poultry contributes to the spread of vesicular exanthema, cholera, erysipelas, foot and mouth disease, trichinosis and other infectious animal diseases. Meat from animals so inflicted, when consumed by human beings, is a primary source of trichinosis and other human sickness. It is therefore declared to be the public policy of this state to prohibit the feeding of garbage, offal or carcasses to cattle, swine or poultry to assist in the eradication of animal diseases and for the protection of the public health and public welfare.
2. Definitions. When used in this section:
 - b. "Garbage" means putrescible animal and poultry wastes from the handling, processing, preparation, cooking and consumption of foods.
 - c. "Offal" means the waste parts of butchered animals or poultry.
 - d. "Carcasses" means the dead bodies of animals or poultry.
 - e. "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, public or private corporation, public or private institution, public authority, municipal corporation and the state.
 - f. Notwithstanding anything in the preceding paragraphs of this subdivision to the contrary, animal feeds which have been heat rendered by a rendering plant at a temperature sufficient to make the product commercially sterile shall not be considered garbage, offal or carcasses within the meaning of this section.
3.
 - a. It shall be unlawful for any person to feed garbage, offal or carcasses whether cooked or uncooked to cattle, swine or poultry.
 - b. This section shall not apply to any individual who feeds garbage from his own household only, to cattle, swine or poultry on his own premises.
 - c. Violation of this section shall constitute a class A misdemeanor.

Passage of this key law has been one of the major reasons that New York is today free of several serious livestock and human diseases, plus the incidence of others has been greatly reduced.

The general definition of garbage is plate waste: food for human consumption discarded and collected from establishments that serve meals, such as restaurants, hotels, hospitals, schools and corrective institutions. Plate waste contains meat scraps, which are particularly dangerous for spreading certain diseases. Also, discarded meat products such as sausages, cold cuts and meat trimmings are not to be fed. However, certain discarded foods are NOT considered garbage: dairy and cheese waste, including outdated foodstuffs removed from supermarkets (except meat products); outdated eggs, stale baked goods; discarded vegetables and fruit. These foods may be collected and fed to swine.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets monitors swine herds in the state to insure that garbage is not allowed to enter the food stream for livestock. In addition a surveillance program of garbage generating sources such as restaurants, hospitals, schools, hotels and supermarkets is being instituted to further monitor compliance with NYS garbage feeding laws and thus reducing the possibility of disease spread.