

## Animal Welfare Act-Bird Rules

2023 American Emu Association Convention (AEA) speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Pannill DVM, APHIS, explained to the attendees:

- “The Animal Welfare Act **considers ratites to be livestock (farm animals) when raised agriculturally and used solely for purposes of meat, fat, feathers, eggs or skin.**
- Emus are **considered an exotic animal if used for any other purpose than agriculture.** As exotics they do not qualify under the “pet birds” category.
- **Emus used for agriculture can be shown during a farm tour for educational purposes.**
- **When emus are raised agriculturally as livestock, a license is NOT required.**

The second video on this link explains “**Do I Need A License or Registration?**”.  
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/new-bird-rule/awa-standards-for-birds>

**Frequently Asked Questions** about the Animal Welfare Act-Bird Rules  
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare>

If you currently maintain a USDA license or registration, you have until August 21, 2023, to become compliant with the new avian welfare regulations. If you are not currently USDA licensed or registered, you have until February 21, 2024, to become compliant with the new avian welfare regulations.

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