

CHAPTER 94: CHICKENS

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94.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT.

It is recognized that the ability to cultivate one's own food is a sustainable activity that can also be a rewarding past time. Therefore, it is the purpose and intent of this ordinance to permit the keeping and maintenance of chicken hens for eggs and a meat source in a clean and sanitary manner that is not a nuisance to or detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare of the community.

94.02 LIMITATION ON NUMBER ALLOWED TO KEEP.

- (A) It is unlawful for any person to keep or harbor chickens on any premises unless issued a permit to do so as provided in this ordinance or except as specifically allowed under law. Except as provided in subsection (B) of this section, no permit shall be issued for the keeping or harboring of more than four (4) hen chickens on any premises. No permit shall be issued for the keeping of any rooster on any premises.
- (B) A permit may be issued for the keeping and harboring up to twelve (12) hen chickens if the applicant is involved in educational or instructional activity, and the need for the greater number of chickens is directly related to the education or instructional activity.

94.03 DEFINITIONS.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (A) Chicken Coop. A structure for housing chickens made of wood or other similar materials that provides shelter from the elements.
- (B) Chicken Run. Means an enclosed outside yard for keeping chickens.
- (C) Premises. Any platted lot or group of contiguous lots, parcels or tracts of land.

94.04 PERMIT.

No person shall maintain a chicken coop and run unless they have been granted a permit. The permit shall be subject to all terms and conditions of this ordinance and any additional conditions deemed necessary by the council to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community. The necessary permit applications are available in the city administration office. Included with the completed application must be a scaled diagram that indicates approximate size and location of any chicken coop and run and the distance from nearby structures and property lines. A permit for the keeping of chickens may be revoked or suspended by the council for any violation of this chapter following written notice and a public hearing. The fee for a permit shall be established as part of the fee schedule adopted by the city council. Issued permits will be valid until December 31 of the given year.

This ordinance shall not be construed to limit the ability of apartment managers, landlords, townhome associations or other representatives of property owners to impose greater restrictions.

94.05 CONFINEMENT.

Every person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains or harbors hen chickens must keep them confined at all times while in the city in a chicken coop and chicken run.

94.06 REQUIREMENTS FOR CHICKEN COOPS AND RUNS.

- (A) Chicken coops and runs must be as follows:
 - a. Chicken coops be must located at least 25 feet from any dwelling on any premises.
 - b. Chicken coops and runs are prohibited in the front yard.
 - c. Chicken coops must meet the accessory structure setback requirements.
 - d. Chicken runs must follow fence setback requirements.
 - e. Chicken coops must meet the requirements of the building and zoning codes, must not exceed ten (10) square feet per chicken and must not exceed six (6) feet in total height.
 - f. Attached fenced-in chicken runs must not exceed 20 square feet per chicken and must not exceed six (6) feet in total height.

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- g. Chicken runs shall be enclosed with wood and/or woven wire materials, and allow chickens to contact the ground.
- h. Chicken coops must be elevated with a clear open space of at least one (1) foot between the ground surface and framing/floor of the coop; or
- i. The coop floor, foundation and footings must be constructed using rodent-resistant concrete construction.

94.07 CONDITIONS.

- (A) No person who owns, keeps or harbors hen chickens shall permit the premises where the hen chickens are kept to be or remain in an unhealthy, unsanitary or noxious condition or to permit the premises to be in such condition that noxious odors are carried to adjacent public or private property. Any chicken coop and run authorized by permit under this chapter may be inspected at any reasonable time by a city animal control officer or other agent of the city.
- (B) Each owner holding a license to keep chickens within the city shall comply with the following:
 - a. No person shall keep chickens inside the dwelling or an attached or detached garage.
 - b. No person shall slaughter any chickens outdoors.
 - c. Chickens shall not be raised or kept for fighting. Cockfighting is prohibited.
 - d. Chicken feed and manure must be kept in rodent-proof and pest-proof containers and must not be placed in yard compost piles.
 - e. Dead chickens shall be disposed of according to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health rules, which require chicken carcasses to be disposed of as soon as possible after death, usually within 48-72 hours. Legal forms of chicken carcass disposal include offsite burial, offsite incineration or rendering, or offsite composting.

94.99 PENALTY.

Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor, as defined by state law, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than an amount as is provided for petty misdemeanors by state law from time to time.

Passed by the City Council of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota this 13th day of June, 2022.

Mayor

Attested:

City Administrator

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