

Harris Township Chicken Regulations

Residents are permitted to keep chicken hens on lots that are less than 10 acres in size.

Roosters are not permitted on lots that are less than 10 acres.

The following regulations apply to the number of chicken hens allowed:

For any property with a single family detached dwelling unit on lots that are less than 10 acres, the maximum number of chicken hens allowed shall be 8. The number of chicken hens allowed per individual lot is as follows:

3,000 to 5,999 square feet	2 chicken hens
6,000 to 10,999 square feet	4 chicken hens
11,000 to 20,999 square	6 chicken hens
21,000 square feet and over	8 chicken hens

The following regulations apply to chicken coops.

- ✓ A coop can be an existing structure, if it meets applicable setback requirements, or a new structure. A zoning permit shall be required before any coop or run is established on a property.
- ✓ All chicken hens shall be housed in a roofed coop that is stationary, ventilated, predator resistant, and enclosed in a way that contains the chicken hens. An outdoor run is permitted and can be moveable as long as it is not enclosed and is not permanently attached to the chicken coop.
- ✓ The coop and run housing chicken hens shall not be located in a front or side yard area. The location of the coop and run shall follow the underlying zoning district setbacks for accessory structures. No chicken coop and run shall be closer than 6 feet from any property line. Only one coop shall be allowed on each non-agriculturally zoned property.
- ✓ The minimum coop size shall be three (3) square feet per chicken hen.

The following regulations apply to all lots housing a chicken hen that are less than 10 acres in size:

- ✓ It shall be unlawful for the owner or owners of any chicken hens to allow the same to run at large upon any of the common thoroughfares, sidewalks, passageways, play areas, parks, streets, alleys or public highways, or any place where people congregate or walk, or upon any public or private property. Any chicken not contained in a coop or run shall be deemed "at large."
- ✓ Chicken feces on private property shall not be allowed to accumulate to the degree that it becomes a public health nuisance or hazard. All coops and runs shall be maintained in a neat and sanitary condition and shall be cleaned as necessary to

prevent any odor detectable at a property line. In cases where chicken feces does accumulate on private property, the Ordinance Enforcement Officer or his/her designee may conduct an investigation after which the accumulation may be declared a public health hazard or nuisance and the owner shall be ordered to remove and dispose of the accumulated feces. Written notice shall be provided to the property owner of such violation and a time period not to exceed seven (7) days shall be given to abate the violation.

- ✓ It shall be unlawful for any person to spread or cause to be spread or deposited upon any ground or premises within Harris Township any chicken manure. However, chicken manure may be composted on the property where the chickens are housed and the composted material then applied to gardens or yards.
- ✓ Slaughtering or butchering of chickens for personal consumption or religious practices shall be permitted, provided that it is done wholly on the property where the chicken hens are kept. Slaughtering or butchering shall be conducted only in an indoor location and any waste created from slaughtering or butchering shall be disposed of in a proper and sanitary manner. Commercial slaughtering or butchering is prohibited unless it is done under the operation of an approved facility for the slaughtering of animals as regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.
- ✓ All feed, water and other items associated with the keeping of chicken hens shall be stored and dispensed in a way that prevents infestation by rats, mice or other rodents or vectors. Failure to keep all feed, water and other items associated with the keeping of chicken hens in a clean and sanitary condition constitutes a violation of this ordinance.