

MEMO

TO: Aimee Nassif, AICP, Interim Director Development Services

FROM: Pierce Pulliam, Plan Services Intern

CC: Adair Bright, AICP, Senior Planner

DATE: May 9, 2025

RE: Chickens – Code Research

On May 14, 2025, members of City Staff will facilitate a discussion concerning the City's current code requirements for chickens. This memo serves as an overview of the research conducted regarding other municipalities code requirements for chickens.

| City | Are chickens allowed? | District | Amount? | Permit? | Additional Processes or Restrictions? |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|---------|---|
| Lee's Summit, MO | Yes | AG, Residential | 6 | No | N/A |
| Blue Springs, MO | Yes* | Residential | No Limit | No | Special Use Permit; Property must be 3-acres min. |
| Independence, MO | Yes | AG | 6-20 | No | 3-acre min.; Quantity dependent on setbacks and enclosures |
| Kansas City, MO | Yes | Residential | 15 | No | 100-ft. setback from adjacent residences |
| Lenexa, KS | Yes | AG, Residential | 4-15 | No | Quantity varies based on acreage |
| Shawnee, KS | Yes | AG, Residential | 10 | Yes | Special Animal Permit |
| Overland Park, KS | Yes | AG, Residential | 3-12 | Yes | Permit required for properties less than 3-acres |
| Olathe, KS | Yes | AG, Residential | 10 | Yes | Special Animal Permit required for properties less than 3-acres |
| Wentzville, MO | Yes | Residential | 4-10 | No | N/A |
| Chesterfield, MO | Yes | Not Specified | No limit | No | 2-acre min. |
| Franklin, TN | Yes | Not Specified | No limit | Yes | N/A |
| Carmel, IN | Yes | AG, Residential | 6 | No | N/A |

*Only permitted with a Special Use Permit

Below is a breakdown city-by-city and includes more detailed code requirements for chickens.

Lee's Summit, MO

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

- Up to six hens per tract of land

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

- R, AG

Site Constraints:

- Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must be located at least ten feet from the property line and at least forty feet from any adjacent residential dwelling, church, school, or place of business.
- Henhouse and chicken tractor size.
- The minimum size of any henhouse or chicken tractor shall be two square feet per chicken.
- The maximum size of any structure henhouse or chicken tractor shall be four square feet per chicken.
- The interior roosting area of any henhouse or chicken tractor shall be not less than two feet in height.
- The exterior height of any henhouse or chicken tractor, including any risers or pedestals, shall not to exceed ten feet.

Blue Springs, MO

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

- No hens or roosters are allowed in any zoning district except RE (Residential Estate) unless they have a special use permit.

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

- RE (Residential Estate)

Site Constraints:

- The parcel must be a minimum of 3-acres.

Independence, MO

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

- Less than three Roosters or Hens are allowed to be kept as pets only.
- 6 or more Hens but no Roosters are allowed if you meet enclosure requirements.
- Any number of Hens or Roosters can be kept in agricultural zones.

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

Hens are allowed in all zones, more than three roosters are only allowed in agricultural zones.

Site Constraints:

Any number of hens or roosters must be kept in a coop, cage, or fenced enclosure. There is no setback requirement from owners' residence, all must have at least a 6-foot setback from the property line.

- 3 or less chickens: 25-foot setback from other residence
- Up to six hens, non-commercial purpose: 50-foot setback from other residence
- Up to 20 hens, non-commercial purpose: 100 feet setback from other residence

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- 20 or more hens, any type of purpose: 200 feet setback from other residence and must be in a fenced space.

Kansas City, MO

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

- No more than 15 chickens (over 4 months old) or 50 chicks (under 4 months) can be kept with a minimum of 100 feet between the nearest neighboring residence unless it is for sale at a market, in a laboratory for research, or in agriculture zones.
- No roosters are allowed within 300 feet of any residence other than the owners.

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

- Residential
- Agricultural
- Urban Agriculture Zones are allowed to have 50 hens for laying eggs or 650 broiler chickens for meat production.

Site Constraints:

Chickens must be in an enclosure and must be at a minimum 100 feet away from the nearest neighboring residence unless they are for sale at the market, in a research lab, or in an area zoned for agricultural uses. Enclosure must not allow them to run or fly.

Lenexa, KS

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

The number of chickens allowed is dependent on the lot size and is as follows:

- Less than 1 Acre: maximum of 4
- 1-3 Acres: 5 per acre but cannot exceed 15.
- 3+ Acres: Residential districts can have 5 per acre. Agriculture districts have no limit.

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

- Agricultural Districts
- Residential Estate Districts

Site Constraints:

- Coops must be at least 100 feet away from any neighboring dwelling.
- 100 feet front setback from property line and 25 feet away side and rear setbacks from property line

Shawnee, KS

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

No roosters are allowed in city limits. Up to 10 hens are allowed with a special animal permit.

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

Residential

Agricultural

Site Constraints:

Chicken enclosure standards:

- In backyard and at least ten feet from nearest property line
- 40 feet away from nearest neighboring dwelling
- Built with and maintain a minimum of 2 square feet per hen but shall not exceed 100 square feet total.
- Enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors. Access doors must be able to be shut and locked. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator and bird-proof wire of less than 1-inch openings.

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- It consists of sturdy wire or wooden fencing and should be designed to be easily maintained.
- Constructed and maintained with durable materials that will hold up to weather and environment. Used material, scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar materials are prohibited.

Overland Park, KS

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

Roosters are not allowed on less than three acres. Hens are allowed on less than three acres with a “chicken permit”. The number of hens is dependent on lot size and is as follows:

- .20-.49 Acres = Up to 3 Hens
- .50-.99 Acres = Up to 6 hens
- 1-3 Acres = Up to 12 hens
- > 3 Acres = No maximum

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

Agricultural Districts

With a permit, hens are allowed on:

- Single family residential districts on more than .20 acres
- Two-Family residential districts on more than .20 acres
- Agricultural-residential districts on less than 3 acres

Site Constraints:

Chicken Coops must be on the side yard with a 10-foot setback or in the backyard with a 25-foot setback.

Chicken coop conditions are:

- Floor area of the chicken coop must equal at least 10 square feet of area per chicken.
- For properties less than 3 acres, no chicken coop, mobile pen or run shall exceed 200 square feet.
- Chickens must be housed in a chicken coop whenever they are unattended by the keeper. During daylight hours, when attended by the keeper, the chickens are allowed in a completely fenced-in yard.
- Chicken coops must be fenced-in rear yard.
- No Chicken coops in landscape setback

Olathe, KS

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

- Roosters are only allowed on 3 acres or more.
- Up to 10 hens are allowed on less than 3 acres with a special animal permit.

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

- Residential
- Agricultural

Site Constraints:

Chicken coops must:

- Be on the side or backyard.
- Having a minimum setback of 6 feet
- Have a minimum of two square feet per chicken.
- Not exceed 84 square feet without a permit

Wentzville, MO

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

Roosters are prohibited anywhere except agriculture. Number of hens allowed is dependent on size of the

property in residential zones:

- R-1E (8,300 square feet minimum lot area) = six hens
- R-1D (9,000 square feet minimum lot area) = six hens
- R-1C (12,000 square feet minimum lot area) = six hens
- R-1B (20,000 square feet minimum lot area) = eight hens
- R-1A (1-acre minimum lot area) = ten hens
- PD-R = four hens (Enforced for parcels less than 8,300 square feet in lot area. Parcels equal to or larger than 8,300 square feet shall utilize the above maximum allowances).
- R-2 = four hens (Maximum applies to each dwelling unit in R-2 zones).

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

- All Single-Family Residential Districts (Roosters Prohibited)
- Planned Development Districts (PD-R) (Roosters Prohibited)
- Two-Family Residential Districts (Roosters Prohibited)
- Agricultural Districts

Site Constraints:

For hens in residential zones, the fenced area must meet these specifications:

- Wired fence
- Six feet in height or less
- Enclosed area must have a minimum of ten square feet per hen.
- Cannot be 200 square feet in total size.
- Ten-foot setback from property line and a 25-foot setback from neighboring residence
- Must be in the backyard.

The coop must have:

- A roof constructed of standard building material.
- Walls constructed of wood or metal, windowed or screened, which are eight feet or less in height.
- Ten-foot setback from any property line and at least 25 feet from a neighboring residence
- Located entirely in the backyard of the residence.
- Contain a minimum of four-square feet per animal kept but not exceed 100 square feet in total size.

Chesterfield, MO

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

No number defined but to own hens or roosters they must be in an enclosed area on two or more acres of land.

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

No specification just must have two or more acres of land.

Site Constraints:

Enclosed area

Franklin, TN

Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

Chickens are not allowed within 1,000 feet of any residence, business, or public street without a permit. Issuance of permit is under the discretion of the health officer.

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

Agricultural districts

Site Constraints: N/A

Carmel, IN

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Number of Hens/Roosters allowed:

- Roosters not allowed except in AG zones.
- Up to 6 hens are allowed in non-agriculture areas.
- Must have 3 + acres to have more than 6 hens except in AG zones.

Zoning Districts Allowed in:

Agricultural Districts

Residential Districts

Site Constraints:

- Non-agricultural areas with 6 hens or less must be in the backyard.
- Must have adequate shelter to protect from weather, predators, and pests.