

Summary of Researched Livestock Ordinances

1. Glen-Alpine

Unlawful to have livestock on less than 10 acres of land, must have 200ft buffer between livestock and property line. Pens, coops, and/or enclosures of livestock must always be clean and cannot be within 200ft of a school, church, or Sunday school. You cannot maintain poultry for sale; however, dealers keeping fowl needed in daily business are allowed to have chickens for commercial use, and flock still cannot be greater than 20 chickens at any one time.

2. Momeyer

No pens closer than 500ft from buildings used for human habitation unless a special use permit has been issued. Board of adjustment must issue permit. All livestock must be penned. There is a special provision for clubs like 4H, they can raise animals for showing. Noise from animals shall not disrupt “the activities of the adjacent land uses”.

3. Woodfin

No non-fowl animals allowed in town on land less than an acre. 1 acre = 2 animals, 2 = 4, etc. Does not apply to fairs or the keeping of house pets. Have separate sections for fowl and poultry. Must get a permit to keep chickens outside but is not required for those keeping chickens for agricultural purposes or fowl “exclusively housed in its owner’s residence”. Permit must be renewed annually but at no cost. Town inspects property before giving permit. Pen must be 25+ feet from the property line and no more than 20 fowl per acre. Newly annexed lands have 90 days to come into compliance with Woodfin’s livestock and animal ordinances.

4. New Bern

No cows, goats, etc. in city limits unless animal is housed in a barn, shelter, etc. at least 200 ft from nearest human dwelling. Bizarrely excludes pigs weighing no more than the largest dog species kept in doors as pets. Specifically, cannot have fowl at-large, no more than 10 fowl on property inside city limits, minimum of 30ft from nearest non-owner residence. Coops “may not be kept between the street and a line drawn parallel to the street facing the walls of a residence”. Totally unlawful to keep livestock inside city limits for commercial purposes.

5. Oxford

Unlawful to have livestock within city limits. If fowl are running at large within the town, perhaps from a property outside of town, owners of the chickens have 3 days to fix, or the chief of police can “destroy” the fowl.

6. Thomasville

May keep poultry but not at-large, must be 50+ feet from buildings, and coops must be clean. Officers may, at any time, be permitted to enter the property to check the poultry or fowl.

7. Four Oaks

Broad prohibition against “non-pet animals” within city limits.

8. Lincolnton

Keeping of livestock is prohibited within corporate limits. Unlawful to keep ducks, geese, guinea, roosters, or other domestic fowl in the city; but, residents of single-family homes may keep hens if the

parcel is greater than 1/3rd of an acre. 5 hens are permitted parcels between 1/3 and ½ acres and a maximum of 10 hens on parcels greater than ½ an acre. No at-large animals. Coops must be 15 feet from all property lines, at least 50 feet from the nearest residence other than the owner and “may not be located between the street and a line drawn parallel to the street facing walls of a residence”. After an area is annexed, it may continue to operate as before but may not expand or enlarge the activity.

9. Shelby

Only limit on livestock and fowl is a requirement to not let them run at large.

10. Forest City

Prohibits vicious, dangerous and potentially dangerous animals, animals that cause a public nuisance (with, but not limited to, 10 examples of what constitutes a public nuisance). Their public nuisance sections focus on dogs rather than livestock or non-traditional pets. Forest City does not allow the keeping of “farm animals” on property less than 1 acre. For cows and horses, the maximum population should not exceed 1 per acre. For hogs, goats, sheep or fowl they must be kept at least 200 feet from any public street or dwelling which is part of the one-acre property. Sec. 3-31 has rules on maintenance of pens, coops, etc. where fowl are kept to limit smells, manure accumulation, and fly breeding between April 15 and November 1 each year (fly breeding period). Fowl specifically have a section stipulating that may not run at large.

11. Cherryville

No prohibition on fowl or poultry within city limits only on horse, pony, or donkey lots. No animals may run at large or be grazed on any streets or public places.

12. Rutherfordton

Broadly prohibits the keeping of livestock in city limit. Unlawful to have roosters or “male chickens”, and hens may only be kept if they do not run at large, their enclosure is in the backyard of the residence “and/or in such a manner that the enclosure is not visible from the road or street”, it is more than 50 feet from any well, spring, or other water source, more than 50 feet from any drain, sewer, or gutter and more than 50 feet from the boundary of any adjoining property (unless under common ownership). Further, no more than four hens may be kept, no slaughtering of chickens outside, enclosure must be maintained “in a neat and clean condition. . . to prevent offensive odors”. They have separate sections for keeping equine animals, sheep, or goats and limits their ownership to parcels greater than 2 acres. They have a scale from 2 to 10+ acres to determine how many animals are allowed. Repeats language of fowl rules above on enclosure distance from property line, drains, water sources, etc. to make it apply to livestock.