

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

Public Hearing 10/20/2025

§ 520-27. - Accessory and miscellaneous land use types.

H. Keeping of farm animals on residential lots.

(1) This is the keeping or raising of farm animals on a residential lot, in zoning districts where allowed under Figure 520-17[3] and where such activity is clearly accessory to the principal residential use. Farm animals are as defined in Article XVI. The animals may be kept for show, breeding, or products that are predominantly consumed or used by the residents of the same lot. Gardening and residential composting are allowed in all zoning districts.

(2) Performance standards:

(a) All animals shall be kept within a completely enclosed area.

(b) Uses shall meet all performance standards in Article XII, including odor standards in § 520-93.

(c) To be considered an accessory use within any RR-2 Zoning District:

[1] The only permitted farm animals are chickens, ducks, and bees.

[2] All animal enclosures and beehives shall meet the minimum interior side and rear setback requirements for detached accessory buildings per Figure V(2).

[3] No animal enclosure shall be located closer than 10 feet from the principal building.

[4] The raising or keeping of farm animals shall be permitted at a density not to exceed one animal unit per every acre owned, not considering fractional amounts of acreage.

(d) Within the AR and RR-5 Zoning Districts:

[1] The keeping or raising of hogs as an accessory use to the principal residential use shall be limited to no more than two hogs.

[2] The raising or keeping of farm animals shall be permitted at a density not to exceed one animal unit per every acre owned, not considering fractional amounts of acreage. The Zoning Administrator may approve modifications and exceptions to this animal unit density standard if, each year the normal density standard is to be exceeded, the landowner provides conservation compliance documentation from Marathon County signifying that the keeping of a higher density of animal units is in compliance with all NR 151 agricultural runoff performance standards and prohibitions.

(e) Within the SF Zoning District:

[1] The only permitted farm animals are chickens. Each parcel is limited to four (4) hens. Roosters are prohibited.

[2] Chickens shall be kept in a covered coop and attached pen located within the rear yard of the premises, no closer than five feet to any property line.

[3] Chicken coops and attached pens shall allow at least 4 square feet per chicken, not exceed a maximum of 32 square feet in size and the height of the coop and attached pen shall not exceed 6 feet above ground level. A chicken coop is excluded from figure V(1) floor area, and coverage standards associated with detached accessory structures.

[4] All chicken coops and attached pens shall be reasonably free of chicken manure and other substances such that the environment around the chickens does not become noxious or offensive.

(f) ~~(e)~~ The keeping of bees shall be governed by the following additional regulations:

[1] No more than one beehive shall be kept for each 5,000 square feet of lot area.

[2] The front of any beehive shall face away from the property line of the residential property closest to the beehive. A flyway barrier consisting of a solid fence of six feet in height or a dense hedge at least six feet in height shall be placed along the side of the beehive that contains the entrance to the hive, be located within five feet of the hive, and extend at least two feet on either side of the hive. No such flyway barrier shall be required if all beehives are located at least 25 feet from all property lines.

[3] A supply of fresh water shall be maintained in a location readily accessible to all bee colonies on the site throughout the day to prevent bees from congregating at neighboring swimming pools or other sources of water on nearby properties.

[4] No Africanized bees may be kept.

Proposed Definitions:

Chicken. A female hen of any age, including chicks. This definition does not include other kinds of fowl including but not limited to ducks, quail, pheasant, geese, turkeys, guinea hens, peacocks, emus and ostriches.

Coop. An enclosed structure or pen within which chickens roost or are housed.