



Marion County
OREGON

So you want to raise chickens in your backyard?



Regulations on keeping and raising chickens in Marion County

Marion County Planning Division
5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem OR 97305
(503) 588-5038 Fax (503) 589-3284
email: planning@co.marion.or.us

Does Marion County regulate the raising, and/or keeping of chickens?

Yes. For urban areas of Marion County (outside city limits but within urban growth boundary areas) Ordinance #1357 contains regulations specifically for the keeping of chickens on residentially zoned property. Rural areas of the County are covered by the Rural Zone Code and the applicable regulations depend on the location and zoning of the property.

What are the regulations for urban areas?

For properties zoned Single-Family Residential or Urban Development in urban growth boundary areas, the keeping and raising of chickens is allowed subject to the following:

- (a) A resident of a single-family dwelling or duplex may keep hens on the lot on which the resident resides.
- (b) The maximum number of hens allowed shall be six, except in the Woodburn or Silverton Urban Growth Boundary where the maximum is three.
- (c) Hens are allowed only in a fully fenced rear yard.
- (d) Hens shall be confined at all times within a coop, pen or chicken run, except when under the personal supervision of an owner or custodian.
- (e) A coop shall not exceed 120 square feet in area or 10 feet in height.
- (f) There shall be a minimum six square feet of run space per hen.
- (g) A chicken coop shall be set back at least three feet from any building on the subject property and 25 feet from any residence on a neighboring property.
- (h) Chicken feed must be kept secure from pests.

- (i) All animal byproducts and waste must be collected and removed on a regular basis, allowing the storage of one sealed 20 gallon container.

Are there any exclusions?

- (a) Roosters are prohibited.
- (b) No sales of eggs, chickens, chicks, slaughtered chicks or chickens, or fertilizer is allowed.

What are the regulations for rural areas?

Animals raised for food, fur or monetary gain (which includes chickens) are considered a farm use. Farm use is allowed in rural farm and forest zones (EFU, SA, FT, TC) and the Acreage Residential zone, but not the Single Family Residential zone. Generally, farm use is also not allowed in any of the County's industrial or commercial zones.

What if I have a neighbor violating these regulations?

Assuming the property is outside any city limits, you can contact Marion County Code Enforcement. The number is (503) 373-4333 or enforcement@co.marion.or.us. You can also use the complaint form on their website: <http://www.co.marion.or.us/SO/Operations/CodeEnforcement/complain.htm>

For more information, contact the Planning Division at (503) 588-5038, email at planning@co.marion.or.us or visit our website at <http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/Planning/default.thm>
