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Keeping poultry has recently been gaining great popularity among residents in urban areas. The convenience of fresh eggs and the feel of country living in your own backyard can be quite appealing. Before bringing home a handful of chicks from your local feed store, there are many things to consider—the first of which is whether or not it is legal for you to keep chickens where you live. Many communities have regulations that restrict the location and quantity of poultry. These regulations are generally put in place to keep residential neighborhoods free of the noise, odors, pest and predators that keeping poultry can attract. Attention should be paid to these regulations to protect yourself and your birds from any problems.



Know Your Zoning

In Collier County, keeping chickens is restricted to residents within Agricultural or Estates zoning districts (See section 2.03.01 of the Collier County Land Development Code). *Within these zoning designations residents are allowed by County Code to keep poultry or fowl, with a maximum of twenty-five birds.* Residents in any other zone may *not* keep poultry or fowl.

To confirm your zoning designation, you can reference Collier County’s interactive Zoning Map at: www.colliergov.net/index.aspx?page=992

What About the Coop?

If you live in an area of Collier County where poultry is allowed, the next step is to consider what type of shelter your birds will need. (See the Additional Chicken Resources section below for information on selecting the right type of chicken coop for your needs.) Keep in mind that different types of coops and poultry housing structures fall under different parts of the County Code, and thus have different requirements.

Permanent or Typical Chicken Coops

A typical chicken coop is considered incidental to keeping chickens, and thus is an allowable structure in Ag and Estates zones. Nonetheless, building a coop will necessitate a permit, and must adhere to required setbacks (min. of 30 ft. from any lot line and min. of 100 ft. from any residence on an adjacent parcel). The County’s Community Development Front Desk is available to assist you in obtaining permits and verifying standards.



An example of a typical or permanent chicken coop.

Mobile Coops or Chicken Tractors

A truly mobile coop, used for moving your chickens through your yard or garden beds, is not considered a structure and so does *not* require a permit. Instead a chicken tractor falls under the requirements for “commercial equipment” (See section 130-97 of the Collier County Code of Ordinances). This requires that when a chicken tractor is not in use, it must to be stored in a garage, or in the rear of the house, screened from view of the road and neighbors. In the event of a hurricane or major, these mobile units would need to be moved to a garage or stored inside so as not to become a hazard.



An example of a chicken tractor or mobile coop.

Additional Chicken Resources

Once you have navigated the zoning and permitting requirements for your backyard chickens and coop, you can then turn your attention to breed selections, feed choices, predator protection, and disease prevention and treatment. There are numerous resources available to assist you with this process, including the free IFAS publications listed below*.

- [Basic Guide for the Backyard Chicken Flock](#)
- [Care of Baby Chicks](#)
- [Factors Affecting Egg Production in Backyard Chicken Flocks](#)
- [Common Poultry Diseases](#)
- [Avian Influenza in Poultry](#)
- [Small Flock Poultry Nutrition](#)
- [Vaccination of Small Poultry Flocks](#)

*If the links provided are no longer functional, simply enter the name of the publication in the search bar at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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References:

Collier County Land Development Code § 2.03.01 (2015).

Collier County Code of Ordinances. § 130-97 (2015).