

Text Change Request (Please print or type):

What specific section (s) of the zoning ordinance is proposed to be changed? _____

Reason (s) for the requested change(s): _____

Proposed change(s) (if more space is needed, attach another sheet of paper): _____

It is understood by the undersigned that while this application will be carefully reviewed and considered, the burden of proving the need for the proposed amendment rest with the applicant.

Name: _____
(Printed name of Applicant)

Signature: _____
(Applicant)

Date: _____

Article 9: Specific Use Requirements

Section 9.14 Keeping of Farm Animals, Chickens, and Bees

- A. *Farm Animals and Chickens.* Farm animals and chickens are only permitted on conforming lots in the AG Zoning District; and at schools on school properties of at least five (5) acres, with a maximum of five (5) animals (excluding young animals dependent on mothers or less than six (6) months of age), when approved as a special land use. Operations shall be compliant with all applicable State of Michigan Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices.
- B. *Chickens.* The intent of this section is to authorize residents to keep chickens on residential property under certain conditions.
1. Applicability. Chickens may be kept on single-family dwellings in the R-1 Zoning District, R-2 Zoning District, and non-conforming AG lots of record, subject to the requirements of this section.
 2. Permit Requirements.
 - a. A permit is required to keep chickens on properties in the R-1 and R-2 Zoning Districts and non-conforming AG lots of record. The permit shall be valid for a period of three (3) years and may be renewed thereafter. The permit process shall be administered by the Township, with a nominal application and renewal fee established by the Township Board.
 3. Coop Construction Requirements
 - a. All chicken coops and runs shall be constructed in a neat, workmanlike manner using durable, weather-resistant materials. Materials such as tarps, fabric, cardboard, and unpainted plywood or OSB are prohibited as exterior finishes. All coops must be enclosed on all sides and include a secure roof.
 - b. Chicken coops shall contain no less than 4 square feet per hen. Runs shall contain no less than 4 square feet per hen. The enclosure shall not exceed a total square footage of 80 square feet, and a height of 8 feet.
 - c. All covered enclosures shall be constructed in such a way as to prevent rats, mice, other rodents, or vermin from being harbored underneath or within the walls of the enclosure. The enclosure shall be constructed in a

workmanlike manner. The coop and pen must be completely enclosed with a top and/or cover.

- d. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens likely to attract rats, mice, other rodents, or vermin shall be secured and protected in sealed containers.

4. General Requirements.

- a. Chickens shall be kept in compliance with the State of Michigan Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals, as amended, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- b. The keeping of chickens shall be done on a non-commercial basis while limiting and mitigating any potential adverse impacts on surrounding properties. The keeping of chickens shall be exclusively used by the people occupying the property as a locally grown food source for the consumption of eggs or meat.
- c. A maximum of 4 chickens may be kept per parcel if the parcel is ½ acre in size or less, 5 chickens if the parcel is ½ to 1 acre in size, and 6 chickens if the parcel is over 1 acre in size. Roosters are prohibited.
- d. The outdoor slaughtering of chickens is prohibited.
- e. Chickens shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or an adjoining fenced enclosure at all times. Chickens may be allowed to roam outside of the covered or fenced enclosure if within a fully fenced side and/or rear yard and if supervised by a person in the immediate vicinity of the chickens.
- f. Chicken coops and enclosures are not classified as accessory buildings under this ordinance but must comply with the same setback and location requirements as accessory buildings as defined in Section 8.3, Table 8.3B.
- g. A maximum of 1 chicken enclosure per property is permitted

C. *Beekeeping.* The intent of this section is to authorize residents to keep honey bees on residential property under certain conditions.

- 1. Applicability. Honey bees may be kept on non-farm properties in the AG, R-1, and R-2 Zoning Districts, subject to the requirements of this section.
- 2. General Requirements.

- a. Hives must be set back 10 feet from all property lines and at least 50 feet from any dwelling on a neighboring property.
- b. An adequate and constant source of water, as temperatures allow, shall be placed within 20 feet of the location of bee hives and shall be permanently maintained while actively beekeeping.
- c. Beekeeping operations shall be compliant with the State of Michigan Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Beekeeping and Apiary Management. Beekeepers must be able to provide verification of compliance.

Article 4. Residential Districts

Table 4.2 Schedule of Uses: Residential Districts

A new row entry will be added to this table, containing the following:

1. Use
 - a. Keeping of chickens
2. R-1
 - a. P
3. R-2
 - a. P
4. R-2A
 - a. Blank
5. R-3
 - a. Blank
6. Other
 - a. 9.14

Article 22. General Definitions

Section 22.2: Definitions

The following definitions will be added to the list of definitions in this section:

Coop. A building or structure, constructed with durable materials, that is roofed and enclosed on all sides for the purpose of housing chickens in a clean, safe, and sanitary manner.

Enclosure. The combined space occupied by a chicken coop and any attached run or pen, including all fencing, roofing, or covers used to secure and contain the chickens.

Run. A fenced, outdoor area attached to or adjoining a coop that allows chickens to move about freely while remaining confined and protected from predators.