

LDCT-2025-5

Chicken Coops & Roosters LDC Text Amendment

Legal Ad published 3/19/25 – No Response

Request:

This is a County-initiated request to amend LDC Section 222 to allow ten-foot setbacks for structures for the sheltering and feeding of fowl; prohibiting roosters and other disruptive fowl on properties under ½-acre; and amending Chapter 9, Section 930, Variances and Special Exceptions, to conform with these changes.

- *Board-directed LDC amendment to address the balance between quality of life for residents and responsible animal husbandry in residential areas.*
 - *Allow structures for the sheltering/feeding of livestock & fowl to 10 feet of property lines.*
 - *Prohibit roosters on properties under ½-acre outside of the A/RR, COREX, and PM land use districts*
- *Not applicable to Bona Fide Agriculture.*
- *Exemptions for show animals and educational projects.*
- *Less restrictive than surrounding jurisdictions.*

BoCC Dates: 5/6 & 5/20

DRC Recommends Approval

Agenda Item 9

DRC Recommendation: Approval



Livestock & Fowl on Residential Property – Section 222.A:

The Issues

- *Current setbacks for structures intended for feeding/sheltering animals of 50 feet too restrictive.*
- *In 2024, Code Enforcement logged 225 complaints regarding fowl.*
 - *Roosters making noise in residential areas.*
 - *34 Specific to Roosters*

What is changing:

- *Allowing structure setbacks to be 10 feet from property line*
- *Prohibiting Roosters on properties under ½-acre.*

What is NOT Changing!

- *Exemptions for Show Animals & Educational Projects.*
- *No effect on Bona Fide agriculture.*
- *Not applicable on ANY property in Agricultural/Residential Rural, CORE in the Green Swamp, or Phosphate Mining Future Land Use districts*
- *Code Enforcement action can only be initiated by property owners within 250 feet of the property on which fowl are located.*



Staff Recommends Approval

- Staff surveyed 12 counties and 6 cities
 - Roosters prohibited in residential districts/zones.
 - Proposed setbacks consistent with other jurisdictions.
- Provides greater leniency when placing feeding/sheltering structures than currently allowed.



Table 1

Jurisdiction (Code citation)	Are Chickens Permitted in Residential Districts?	What are the limitations placed on them?	What other livestock types are restricted?
Alachua County Sec. 404.13	Yes	Up to 6 Hens per residence. No Roosters. 50' setback from property all lines.	Horses – 1/ac, 1 ac. min. lot Goats and Sheep – 10/ac, 1 ac. min lot Hogs – 1/ac, 1 ac. min lot Cows – 1.5/ac, 1.5 ac. min lot Pot-bellied Pigs – 0.5/ac, 0.5 ac. min lot
Brevard County Sec. 62-2108	Yes	Up to 4 Hens on lots ½ acre or more. Meet Accessory setbacks No Roosters.	No other livestock on any land except Agricultural zoning.
Duval County Sec. 656.422, 462.901, & 462.902	Yes	Requires a permit. Up to 5 hens, min. 1 acre 5 more for every ½ acre after 1 ac. No Roosters. Accessory setbacks	No other livestock permitted in residential areas. Swine are required to be setback 200 feet from any inhabited dwelling.
Hardee County Sec. 2.09.00	No.	n/a	Allowed in Agricultural (A-1) and Farm Residential (F-R) districts with a 50' setback from any offsite residential structure.
Highlands County Section 12.05.200, 12.05.316	No.	n/a	Livestock and fowl are only permitted in Agricultural (AU) district. In AU district hogs or poultry are not permitted within 100 feet of any dwelling under separate ownership or within 50 feet of residentially zoned property or within 50 feet of any lot line. (except for 4-H, and FFA projects)
Hillsborough County Sec. 6.11.129 Sec. 6.11.13	LUHO Conditional Use	Up to 5 Hens, 10' setback No roosters, capons or cockerels.	No other livestock in residential districts except for Honeybees.
Lake County Sec. 10.01.06	Yes	Up to 5 Chickens, 20' setback Must be fenced or enclosed. No roosters.	Other livestock only permitted in Agriculture (A) and Agricultural Residential (AR) districts.
Manatee County Sec. 2-4-24, 531.1	Yes	Up to 4 chickens. 10' from residential property lines, 25' from residential dwelling No roosters or male chickens. Must be inside enclosure from dusk til dawn, fenced dawn til dusk. Enclosure must provide 4 square feet per chicken.	Minimum two acres and 75' setback for all other livestock.
Orange County Sec. 38-79 (37)	Conditional Use	IFAS Training Required Site Plan, Coop, Pen Up to 4 Chickens 15' side setback, 10' rear, 6' opaque fence No roosters. Permit is not transferable.	Agricultural property: <5 acres max 30 chickens 5-10 ac 100 chickens >10 unlimited Swine 100' setback from all property lines
Osceola County Sec. 4-30	Yes.	Fenced or cooped. Up to 6 hens. 25' from rear and side lot lines Roosters prohibited in residential districts	1 horse for every undeveloped acre Pot-bellied pigs 100' setback 2 swine for every full acre