

Minnetonka Code of Ordinances

925.115. Farm Animals.

1. A person who keeps or allows the keeping of a farm animal on property in the city must comply with the following:

a. The parcel of property where a large farm animal is kept must be at least one acre in size, not counting wetlands and undeveloped land not usable for pasture. The parcel of property where a small farm animal is kept may be smaller than one-half acre, but the number of small farm animals allowed must be reduced proportionally, rounded down to the nearest whole number. When determining the size of the property under this paragraph, and paragraph b below, only one parcel of land can be included. Parcels of land cannot be combined to meet the minimum area unless those parcels are already combined under one property identification number.

b. The maximum number of farm animals allowed are:

category	number
large farm animals over six months in age	one per acre
small farm animals over six months, except fowl	five per half acre
small farm animals that are fowl of any age	five per half acre

c. A farm animal must not be kept or maintained on a regular basis on the front yard of the property, as defined by the zoning ordinance.

d. A farm animal that is kept outside must be provided a shelter structure of appropriate size, that is accessible to the animal at all times. The shelter structure may not be located closer to the boundary line of adjacent occupied property than it is to the principal structure on the animal owner's property, but not less than 10 feet.

e. The farm animal must be contained on the property by the use of a fence or other appropriate device.

f. Crowing roosters are not allowed if the crowing can be heard off the property of the owner.

g. A farm animal must not be kept on residentially-zoned property if it is being used as part of a commercial purpose, whether or not the commercial use occurs on the residentially-zoned property. This provision does not apply to a property that is being used for agricultural purposes and that qualifies for the agricultural property tax classification established

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in Minn. Stat. § 273.11.

h. The ground or floor of the area where a farm animal is kept must be covered with vegetation, concrete, or other surface approved by the Minnetonka health authority, so that it can be, and is, sufficiently maintained to adequately dissipate offensive odors, in compliance with section 925.080(2)(a) and (c).

2. The following provisions apply to property in the city where a farm animal was kept outside the principal structure on the effective date of this ordinance (June 5, 1999) and was kept there regularly from the date of ordinance introduction (July 27, 1998) until that date. Such property is called a “pre-existing property”.

a. The owner of pre-existing property who does not comply with the standards in paragraph 1(a) - (e), may continue in that manner only by obtaining a multiple animal permit and complying with the required conditions, except as otherwise provided below. The multiple animal permit will specify the maximum number of animals allowed based on the number and size of animals kept when this ordinance was introduced. The owner of pre-existing property has the burden of establishing the number of animals kept at that time. Any new shelter or fence must comply with the zoning ordinance standards.

b. In an action seeking enforcement of the maintenance standards in section 925.080(2), the owner of pre-existing property may provide as an affirmative defense that he/she is implementing the reasonable management practices that have been required and approved by the health authority.

c. The owner of pre-existing property may replace animals that die or are otherwise removed from the property, up to the maximum number allowed by the permit, as long as there has been no finding or admission of a violation of city ordinances relating to the keeping of the animals.

d. The pre-existing rights may continue only as long as the pre-existing property is not reduced in size and as long as there has been no finding or admission of a violation of city ordinances relating to the keeping of the animals.

e. The permit and the pre-existing rights authorized above are personal to the owner of the pre-existing property and cannot be transferred to anyone else.

(Amended by Ord. 2007-33, adopted October 22, 2007; amended by Ord. #2002-13, adopted May 20, 2002)