

**Zoning Ordinance Amendment- PC Public Hearing**  
**Beekeeping in residential districts**

**Sec. 10-41. - Supplemental district regulations.**

(19) Urban agriculture.

(a) Residential chicken keeping as defined in section 10-61 of this chapter, are permitted in the Residential (R-1), (R-2), (R-3), (TND) and (PUD-RES) zoning districts subject to the following requirements:

1. A minimum lot size of two (2) acres is required.
2. The owner of the chickens must reside on the property on which the chickens are kept.
3. The keeping of male chickens is prohibited.
4. Chickens shall be kept within a predator-resistant coop or chicken enclosure and shall not be allowed to roam free and shall be confined to enclosure/structure.
5. Coops and chicken enclosures shall be located in the rear yard only and shall be setback at least fifty (50) feet from side and rear property lines. Portable coops shall not be utilized.
6. Chicken enclosures shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height.
7. Chicken enclosures shall be well-ventilated and kept in a condition that is conducive to the well-being of chickens at all times.
8. Chickens shall be kept for the household's personal enjoyment only. On-site commercial uses such as selling eggs or chickens for meat shall be prohibited.
9. Provision shall be made for the storage and removal of chicken waste (manure). Such waste shall not create a nuisance or health hazard to adjoining property owners.
10. All feed or other materials intended for consumption by chickens shall be kept in containers impenetrable by rodents, insects, or predators.
11. A zoning permit shall be obtained by the owner of the chickens.
12. Residential chicken keeping shall comply with chapter 3 and chapter 7, article III of the County Code.

**(b) Residential beekeeping as defined in section 10-61 of this chapter, are permitted in the Residential (R-1), (R-2), (R-3), (TND) and (PUD-RES) zoning districts subject to the following requirements:**

- 1. A minimum lot size of one half (1/2) acre is required.**
- 2. A density of two (2) hives per one half (1/2) acre is permitted in residential zoning districts, with an equal number of nucleus hives.**
- 3. Beehives shall be located in the rear yard only and shall be setback at least twenty five (25) feet from side and rear property lines.**

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4. *Water supply for bees. Every person owning, possessing, or keeping any beehive shall maintain, within fifty (50) feet of each beehive, an adequate, accessible, and useable supply of water for the bees.*
5. *Bees shall be kept for the household's personal use and enjoyment only. On-site commercial uses such as sales of honey, beeswax, or bees shall be prohibited.*
6. *A zoning permit shall be obtained by the owner of the bees.*
7. *Residential beekeeping shall comply chapter 7, article III of the County Code.*

**Sec. 10-61. - Definitions.**

Agriculture, small scale: The production of plants and animals useful to humans as defined under general agriculture above, of no greater than three (3) animal units per acre and no more than ten (10) animal units total on the tract.

Animal unit: The equivalent of one (1) head of beef cattle. For the purposes of this chapter, the following equal one (1) animal unit: one (1) head of beef cattle; one (1) dairy cow; two (2) calves of less than one-year old; one (1) buffalo; one (1) llama; one (1) horse; one (1) mule; five (5) sheep; five (5) goats; two (2) swine; two (2) deer; one hundred (100) chickens; fifty (50) turkeys; three (3) ostriches; *two (2) beehives*; or one hundred (100) rabbits.

*Residential beekeeping: The keeping of beehives in non-agriculturally zoned areas as an accessory use to a single family residence subject to the standards set out in section 10-41(19).*