

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY,
GEORGIA WITH RESPECT TO **URBAN AGRICULTURE**; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 9-15 of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, entitled “*General Regulations*” is hereby amended by adding new section 9-15-25 entitled, “*Urban Agriculture*” as follows:

Sec. 9-15-25. – Urban Agriculture

A. Keeping Chickens.

The following provisions apply to the keeping of chickens:

1. Permitted zoning districts.
 - a. The keeping of chickens is permitted in all zoning districts. Nothing herein shall abrogate any prohibitions or restrictions contained in private neighborhood covenants, such covenants not being subject to investigation or enforcement by Athens-Clarke County.
2. Number and type of chickens allowed.
 - a. No more than six chickens are allowed per parcel.
 - b. Roosters and any other crowing chickens are prohibited.
3. Noncommercial use only.
 - a. Chickens, chicken products and/or by-products shall not be sold on the property.
4. Enclosures.
 - a. A covered enclosure must be provided for roosting and protection. Chicken coops, chicken houses, and/or roosting structures shall be situated in the rear yard. Chickens must at all times be kept within a fenced or enclosed area and no person shall fail to prevent his or her chickens from straying from the property of the owner or keeper, or going upon the property of any other person, or upon any public rights-of-way.
 - b. All chicken houses and enclosures must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition at all times, must be positioned at least 10 feet from the property line in all RM zones and RS-5 zones, 16 feet from the property line in RS-8 zones, 30 feet from the property line in RS-15 zones, and 50 feet from the property line in RS-25 and RS-40 zones, and in all cases such structures must be positioned at least 20 feet from residential structures on neighboring parcels. In no case shall a resident be provided with less than a 10 foot by 10 foot opportunity for a structure at the center of the back yard.
 - c. Structures greater than 25 square feet will be considered an accessory structure and shall comply with the standards of section 9-15-12 of this title.
 - d. Fences shall comply with the standards of section 9-15-1 of this title.
5. Predators, rodents, insects and parasites.
 - a. Feed must be stored in a fully enclosed, rodent-proof container.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.