

## CITY OF BELOIT CHICKEN FACTS

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### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### May I have chickens on my property?

Beginning January 2, 2013, you may have chickens under one of two scenarios.

- If your property is zoned residential (R-1A, R-1B, R-2, R-3, or R-4) **and** your property contains one single family residence, you can keep up to 4 female chickens on your property if you obtain an annual chicken permit and meet the requirements listed below. No roosters are allowed.
- If your property is zoned Development Holding, **and** your property is at least five acres in size, you may have a maximum of one animal unit per full acre of land area.



#### Is there anything I need to do before obtaining chickens, a coop and run?

1. You must first obtain an annual chicken permit. They are limited to 30 permits for the entire City for the first year (2013). In order to apply for an annual chicken permit, you must submit the following to the City of Beloit's Planning and Building Services Division on the Third Floor of City Hall.
  - A completed application form and the \$35.00 annual chicken permit fee. Blank forms will be available starting December 15, 2012.
  - An accurately scaled drawing showing the location of the proposed coop, chicken run, single family residence, and other detached buildings. This drawing will also need to show the distances between the coop and chicken run and all buildings on the property, any neighboring principal structures, and all lot lines. The dimensions of the single family residential lot, coop and chicken run shall also be shown on this drawing.
  - Documentation that the applicant has registered the proposed address with the Wisconsin Department of Agricultural Trade and Consumer Protection pursuant to Wis. Stats. 95.51 and ATCP 17, Wis. Adm. Code.
    - Information on this livestock premises registration can be found at [http://datcp.wi.gov/Animals/Premises\\_Registration/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Animals/Premises_Registration/index.aspx)
    - On this website, you can download a paper application or register on-line. According to the Department staff, it takes approximately one to two weeks to obtain this registration.
2. Once the annual chicken permit is issued, you may obtain a coop, chicken run, and chickens. You may be issued a ticket if you obtain them prior to obtaining your annual chicken permit.

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### What are the rules regarding having backyard chickens on a residential property?

1. A person may keep up to four female chickens on any lot containing just one single family residence.
2. No roosters will be allowed.
3. The chickens, coop and run must be kept in the rear yard area.
4. The coop cannot exceed 24 square feet in size.
5. The chicken run cannot exceed 40 square feet in size or 1 percent of the rear yard area, whichever is greater.
6. The coop and run have a variety of setbacks.
  - a. The coop and run must be set back at least 10 feet from the rear wall of the single family residence
  - b. The coop and run must be set back 10 feet from all property lines except where the side or rear property line abuts an alley, in which case it must be set back three feet from that property line.
  - c. The coop and run must be set back 20 feet from any principal structures on adjacent lots.
7. All food supplies shall be kept in a secure and rodent-proof container.
8. Chickens can only be fed food scraps within the chicken coop. Food scraps cannot be fed to the chickens in the run.
9. According to the Municipal Code, all exterior property areas shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. Therefore, the property owner/tenants must dispose of any waste generated by the operation of the coop and run, including chicken carcasses, manure, droppings, and spoiled food.
10. Coops and chicken runs must be kept clean, dry, and odor free and kept in a sanitary condition at all times in such a manner as to not disturb the use or enjoyment of adjoining property due to noise, odor or any other adverse impact.
11. Chickens must be kept in a coop or a chicken run at all times. Between sunrise and sunset, chickens may be allowed outside of the coop in the chicken run. Chickens must be secured within the coop between sunset and sunrise.
12. No person shall slaughter any chicken within the City of Beloit other than at a licensed meat processing facility.