

# PROPOSED FARM ANIMAL ORDINANCE

Public Information Meeting

Presented by: Matt Cordonnier and Rob Feighner

Date: November 10, 2025

6:00 PM, City Council Chambers

# Why Create a Farm Animal Ordinance?

- Establish clear, consistent, and fair regulations for keeping farm animals in the City.
- Address growing community interest in backyard livestock.
- Provide clear standards to prevent nuisance and sanitation issues.
- Protect animal welfare and public health.
- Reduce neighborhood conflicts and enforcement ambiguity.

# Purpose of Chapter 508

- Permit the non-commercial keeping of farm animals within the City.
- Ensure animals are properly cared for, safe, and sanitary.
- Prevent nuisances from occurring in neighborhoods.
- Enforced under Section 505.08 of the Findlay Municipal Code and OAC 901:12.

# Small Farm Animals

- Examples: Chickens, Ducks, Rabbits, and similar animals.
- Permitted on any parcel within the City.
- No lot size or number limits.
- Must comply with sanitation and nuisance standards.

# Medium Farm Animals

- Examples: Goats, Sheep, and similar animals.
- Minimum lot size: 1 acre.
- Must be contained within a fenced rear yard.
- Shelter must comply with building and zoning setbacks.

# Large Farm Animals

- Examples: Horses, Cows, Pigs, and similar animals.
- Minimum lot size: 3 acres.
- Fencing and shelter requirements same as Medium Animals.

# Sanitation & Nuisance Standards

- Animals must be kept in clean, healthy, and humane conditions.
- Only Small Farm Animals may be slaughtered on-site for household use.
- Slaughtering must not be visible from neighboring properties or streets.
- Must comply with nuisance provisions in Chapter 505.

# 4-H & Educational Exemption

- Applies to 4-H, FFA, and similar youth programs.
- Written verification of participation must be provided upon request.

# Grandfathering Provisions

- Existing animals may remain as a legal nonconforming use if:
  - Proof of prior use provided within 90 days.
  - No increase in number of animals or facilities.
  - Use continues without a 12-month break.
  - Rights transfer with property.

# Definitions Summary

- Small Farm Animals: < 50 lbs (chickens, rabbits).
- Medium Farm Animals: 50–500 lbs (goats, sheep).
- Large Farm Animals: > 500 lbs (horses, cows, pigs).

# Next Steps

- Collect public input and answer questions.
- Begin legislative process and ordinance readings.
- Potential adoption before end of the year.

# Contact Information

- Planning & Zoning Department, City of Findlay, Ohio.
- Phone: (419) XXX-XXXX
- Email: [zoning@findlayohio.gov](mailto:zoning@findlayohio.gov)