

NEW CHAPTER 508 – FARM ANIMALS

508.01 Purpose.

The regulations of this chapter are established to permit the non-commercial keeping of farm animals within the City, provided that such animals are properly cared for, do not create nuisances, and are maintained in safe and sanitary conditions. These regulations shall be enforced in conjunction with Section 505.08 of the Findlay Municipal Code and the Ohio Administrative Code 901:12.

508.02 Small Farm Animals.

(a) **Permitted Use.** Small Farm Animals may be kept on any parcel within the City without limitation on lot size or number, provided they are maintained in accordance with all other applicable regulations.

508.03 Medium Farm Animals.

- (a) **Lot Size.** No Medium Farm Animal shall be kept on a parcel less than one (1) acre in area.
- (b) **Fencing.** All animals shall be contained within a fenced enclosure located only within the rear yard.
- (c) **Shelter.** All Medium Farm Animals shall be provided with shelter that complies with applicable building and zoning setback requirements.

508.04 Large Farm Animals.

- (a) **Lot Size.** No Large Farm Animal shall be kept on a parcel less than three (3) acres in area.
- (b) **Fencing and Shelter.** Fencing and shelter requirements shall be the same as those set forth in Section 508.03.

508.05 Sanitation and Nuisance Standards.

- (a) **Animal Welfare.** All animals shall be kept in a clean, healthy, and humane condition.
- (b) **Slaughtering.** Only Small Farm Animals may be slaughtered on-site, and only for household consumption. Such slaughtering shall not be visible from adjoining properties or public rights-of-way.
- (c) **Nuisance Control.** The keeping of any farm animal shall comply with the nuisance provisions of Chapter 505 of this Code.

508.06 4-H and Educational Exemption.

- (a) Animals kept as part of a recognized **4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA)**, or similar youth agricultural education program shall be permitted.
- (b) Written verification of enrollment or program participation shall be provided to the City upon request.

508.07 Grandfathering.

- (a) Animals lawfully kept prior to the effective date of this chapter may remain as a legal nonconforming use, provided:
 - (1) The owner provides documentation of prior use within ninety (90) days of the passage of this ordinance;
 - (2) The number of animals or facilities is not expanded;
 - (3) The use is continuous and not discontinued for twelve (12) months; and
 - (4) Nonconforming rights shall transfer with the property.

508.08 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) **Farm Animals, Small** – Animals with an expected adult weight of less than fifty (50) pounds, including but not limited to chickens, ducks, rabbits, and similar animals.
- (b) **Farm Animals, Medium** – Livestock with an expected adult weight between fifty (50) and five hundred (500) pounds, including but not limited to goats, sheep, and similar animals.
- (c) **Farm Animals, Large** – Livestock with an expected adult weight greater than five hundred (500) pounds, including but not limited to horses, cows, pigs, and similar animals.