



Keeping Chickens in Denver Urban Gardens Community Gardens

Policy: Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) supports urban chicken-keeping as a way for people to enhance their food security and take a step toward making our food system more local, sustainable and healthy. DUG sees community gardens as an excellent place for community-supported urban chicken-keeping.

Scope: This policy applies to all gardeners growing in community gardens in the Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) network.

Background: As interest in urban homesteading grows, many city dwellers, including community gardeners, want to produce more of their own food not only by growing vegetables and fruit in gardens, but also by keeping chickens for eggs. Chickens that have a fresh and varied diet and live in a clean, natural environment are healthier than birds on overcrowded factory farms, and the eggs they produce are a more delicious and nutritious source of protein. Because chickens require daily care and can raise health concerns, DUG has established this policy to ensure that chickens in community gardens will be cared for properly and will not pose risks to the people and plants in the garden.

Process: For community gardens that are considering chicken-keeping, DUG has developed the following guidelines which will help gardens to comply with local ordinances, sustain positive relations within the garden and the surrounding neighborhood, and create and maintain the coop. Please follow these five steps to ensure that your community will benefit the most from chicken-keeping:

1. Call Denver Urban Gardens

Before you take any steps to bring chickens into the garden, the first thing you should do is call the DUG office at 303-292-9900. DUG staff will:

- Meet with you to determine if your garden is an appropriate place for chickens and help you determine how a coop might fit in the garden.
- Facilitate a discussion with the owner of the property where your garden is located in order to get approval to keep chicken.
- Help you organize the chicken team (the gardeners who will be responsible for caring for the chickens) and provide guidance upon request in drafting an agreement setting forth the shared responsibilities between the gardeners.
- Help you navigate the permitting process (if applicable) and serve as the permit holder.

- Help you enter into a Use Agreement between DUG, the chicken team, the garden at large, and the landowner (a Use Agreement designates responsibilities and expectations for the parties involved).

If you're interested in having chickens in your garden, DUG will support you. However, it is important to remember that your garden's chicken team will be responsible for all the care and expenses including construction and ongoing maintenance. The chicken team will be solely accountable for the care of the chickens, the cleanliness of the coop and run (outdoor enclosure for chickens), the health and safety of people who come into contact with the chickens, the handling and use of the eggs, or any other relevant issues. These responsibilities, as well as the ownership of the coop, will be outlined in the subsequent Use Agreement between the chicken team, the landowner, and DUG.

2. Know your garden and local requirements

Before adding chickens to your garden, it is important to be familiar with your district requirements, how your garden is classified, and the permissions or permits you may need.

- Know your zone district (most municipalities provide online zoning maps). This may be important in determining whether or not you are permitted to have chickens, or what sorts of permits you might need in order to keep chickens or build a chicken coop. You should know your zone district when you call your local planning department to verify your municipal chicken keeping regulations. If you need help finding your zone district information, call your local planning department or DUG (303-292-9900).
- Know whether your garden is primary or accessory use
Whether the garden is the primary or accessory use of the site often dictates the activities that can be carried out onsite (for example, in the case of Arvada for chicken-keeping). Thus, it is important to know the difference between primary and accessory uses before adding new uses into your garden. (On properties used solely for community garden use, the garden is the primary use, whereas properties that house facilities such as schools, retirement centers, or social services centers often feature gardens as an accessory use.) DUG can help you determine whether your garden is a primary or secondary use garden.
- Know whether a license and/or permit is required
In order to keep chickens in your garden, your city may require that you obtain a license or permit. Please refer to your city's policies in the Local Requirements Chart on page 12.

3. Organize the chicken team and sign an agreement

- A. Organize the group of people who will care for the chickens in the garden (the chicken team). Make sure the people who join the team are committed to providing their share of the time and financial investment it takes to care for a flock of chickens. Costs for chicken-keeping can be fundraised as a garden or as a chicken team, supplied by applying for grants (DUG can help with this), or paid

out of pocket by the chicken team. Ultimately, the chicken team is responsible for paying any expenses that are not able to be covered by fundraising or grant awards.

- B. Communicate with the landowner, other community gardeners, and the neighbors. These outreach efforts will help you address, in advance, any concerns the involved parties may have about chickens being nearby.
- C. Obtain all required permissions. Before installing a coop in a community garden, the chicken team must:
 - Work with DUG to get permission from the property owner where the garden is located
 - Obtain consent and signed liability waivers from all gardeners in the community garden
 - Obtain consent and signed liability waivers from all members of the chicken team
 - Identify a veterinarian who will treat the chickens (this is necessary for obtaining a permit from animal control)
 - Obtain animal control and zoning permits (if applicable – see in the Local Requirements Chart) from the city. As the official "tenant" of the garden property, DUG will be the holder of the permits in most cases.
- D. Establish guidelines among the members of the chicken team to divide up responsibilities. Guidelines are to be shared with DUG as they are updated. Consider the following when establishing guidelines:
 - Responsibilities for daily care, including providing food and water, collecting eggs, and cleaning the coop
 - Responsibilities for repairs or maintenance
 - Sharing expenses on costs for permits, coop construction, supplies, feed, and chickens
 - How eggs will be shared (including whether other gardeners who are not on the chicken team will have access to eggs, possibly by paying a fee that will go towards the costs of keeping the chickens)
 - Considerations for hens that no longer lay eggs (see "Removing Chickens" under the "Guidelines for maintaining a coop" section)
 - Responsibilities for removing dead, ill, or injured chickens
- E. Connect with other chicken-keepers. Identify at least two chicken-keepers who can provide troubleshooting and other resources. DUG strongly encourages the members of the chicken team to take a course and do some research on keeping chickens (see *Resources* section for recommended books and websites).

4. DUG's guidelines for starting a coop

Once you have the support of your chicken team, fellow gardeners, and neighbors, and are in compliance with DUG's recommendations and your local policies, you can continue on the path towards organizing your coop. Guidelines marked with an asterisk (*) are required by DUG, and those marked with a hyphen (-) are recommended.

- Site and equipment

- * You will need to build or buy a coop. This will provide shade, overnight shelter, a place to lay eggs, and protection from predators and weather. The coop must have sufficient space for your flock—about 4 square feet per hen in the roost. Make sure your coop meets the structure requirements of your local zoning code (see the Local Requirements Chart starting on page 12).

- * DUG will help the chicken team select an appropriate location and design for the coop, and must approve the final plan.

- * Your chicken area should be located in a place where any runoff will flow away from the rest of the garden (so that chicken manure runoff does not contaminate vegetable plots). This could entail a trench, a natural barrier, a catchment system, etc.

- * Adjacent to your chicken coop, you will need a locked and secure place to store feed, equipment, and a hand sanitizing station. The chicken team must have its own rakes, shovels and other tools, which should not be used in the garden's vegetable plots.

- * Locks should also be put on the chicken coop in order to keep any people who are not part of the chicken team from entering unsupervised.

- A self-contained coop that hens can stay in all the time may be best for a community garden, but if there is room, the design may also include an enclosed run where the chickens can roam with supervision. Some local zoning codes also require that chicken areas have runs. Chickens should not be allowed to roam around the community garden because they could damage the plants in gardeners' plots, and could potentially contaminate the food-growing area.

- * Make your coop predator- and pest-proof. One way is to install hardware cloth around the coop and run and bury it about a foot into the ground so that rodents do not dig underneath. Hardware cloth is better than chicken wire, as rodents can fit through the holes in chicken wire. You may want to consider building your coop a few feet off the ground so that rodents don't come in from below. It is also extremely important to securely store feed (a metal container is best) and to collect eggs every day in order to avoid attracting rodents and predators. Of course, keeping your coop clean will also do a lot to deter pests! To protect against predators, be sure to bring the chickens into the coop at night – do not leave them in the run overnight. Use hardware cloth (not chicken wire) to cover any windows or openings, and put locks on the doors that will deter predators from entering the coop (many predators can open simple locks). It can also be a good idea to cover the run with netting or a roof so that hawks and other predatory birds cannot get in. Find more information in the *Resources* section.

- Hens

- * Roosters are not allowed in most areas, and you only need hens to produce eggs. Chickens are social animals, so you need more than one.

- A small flock of four to eight hens is recommended for a community garden, though this may vary depending on the capacity of the chicken team, the size of the coop and the applicable ordinance and/or permit. If you wish to have a continuous supply of eggs as well as keep your chickens after they stop laying, you may wish to stagger obtaining your chickens so that you always have egg-

laying hens without going over the local limit of the number of chickens allowed (hens generally stop laying eggs after three years). For example, in the city of Denver (which allows eight hens) you might choose to start with two hens and then get two more every other year. Keep in mind, however, that it can sometimes be challenging to integrate new chickens into a coop with established chickens, and you may need help doing so.

- There are many breeds of chickens. Recommended breeds for good disposition and egg production include Buff Orpington, Plymouth Barred Rock, Rhode Island Red, and Brahma.

- Ordering chicks in early spring from a certified hatchery and brooding them is one option. "Brooding" the chicks entails keeping them indoors with proper heat until they are big enough to survive outside. One or more members of the chicken team can learn how to do this at their homes, or an organization like the Urban Farm (www.theurbanfarm.org) can brood chicks for you (see the *Resources* section to learn about different options). Another option is to purchase hens that are ready to begin laying eggs (pullets); they are available at some local feed and supply stores (see the *Resources* section).

* If you decide to get chicks, they must be inoculated against common chicken diseases like coccidiosis (consult a veterinarian for recommendations on which vaccinations are necessary). For further questions or general information, contact Kristy Pabilonia at CSU (kristy.pabilonia@colostate.edu; 970-297-4109).

- Preparation for seasonality

With a coop that protects them from extreme cold and wind, chickens will survive in winter without supplemental heat. Typically, community gardens do not have access to power for supplemental heat.

* Since water is not available in most community gardens from October to May, the chicken team will have to bring water to the coop and make sure that in winter the hens have warm water early in the morning and an hour before sunset. In severely cold weather, the chicken team must regularly monitor the coop; the chicken team must be prepared to provide fresh water several times throughout the day.

- While the breeds recommended for Colorado are fairly hardy, some chicken-keepers use supplemental heat in the coop in the coldest weather. Once an additional heat source is used, it may need to be used all winter. DUG cautions against this as it robs the hens of their resiliency and ability to withstand even milder cold nights.

- Considerations for school gardens

* The chicken team should be aware that the primary purposes for having a chicken coop on school grounds are its innate educational value and community building ability; production is a secondary benefit.

* When a chicken coop is located on school grounds, it is important that the chicken team foster a good relationship with the school. This includes collaborating with teachers and ensuring open lines of communication. Both the chicken team and the school will have contact information for key members from each party.

- * Keep in mind that chicken coops at school gardens will have to comply with both school and local policy requirements.
- * At any schools with kindergarten- or preschool-aged children, those grades with children aged 5 and under may not have contact with the chicken coop. This is in conjunction with regulations set forth by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to protect young children from *Salmonella* (see the *Resources* section for more information on the regulation). Children 5 and under may still have access to the vegetable garden, as long as there is a barrier between the garden and chicken coop that will keep young children from having contact with the chickens and chicken area (bedding, waste, feed, etc.). This would typically consist of a fence that children could not reach through, such as a solid fence, or two sets of wire fences that provide a buffer zone between the children and the chickens. For more questions on how to make your coop compatible with the regulations, contact DUG (303-292-9900).
- * All visitors to a chicken coop in a DUG community garden, including children from a school associated with the garden, must provide a signed waiver of liability. Many schools have their own forms that must be signed. In some cases, volunteers at the coop must go through a background check, just as do other school volunteers.
- * Instruct children who visit the coop to wash their hands with soap when they return to the school building (if a sink is not provided in the chicken area); a hand sanitizing station must be available in the community garden for them to use immediately after being in the chicken area. Closely supervise children to ensure that they sanitize and wash their hands. This is extremely important to ensure the health of the children, and to prevent infections such as *Salmonella*. Children should also be instructed not to touch their eyes or mouth while in the chicken area, and it is especially a good idea to provide shoe covers to young children in order to avoid possible contamination.

5. *DUG's guidelines for maintaining a coop*

Once your chicken coop is up and running, it requires regular maintenance. The following are key items that need continuous attention from the chicken team.

- Diet
 - * Chickens need a healthy, natural, and varied diet that includes:
 - Layer feed – specially formulated mixture for laying hens
 - Supplemental calcium, ground oyster shell and finely ground egg shells (for calcium)
 - Grit – to help chickens digest food
 - Scratch (cold weather only) – mixture of grains
 - Compostable fruit, vegetables and grains (hardy greens like kale can be planted near the coop for the hens to eat nearly year-round)
 - * Remember that chicken feed must be organic
 - If you are starting with chicks, they will eat “starter feed” for about the first six to eight weeks, before moving on to the adult chicken feed as discussed above.

- Before younger chickens start laying eggs, they should be given “growing feed” (as opposed to “layer” or “laying” feed), which contains extra protein.

* To avoid attracting mice and other pests, feed must be kept in a secure container, such as a new metal trashcan with a tight fitting lid.

- Be mindful of the nutritional balance of the layer feed that you are feeding your chickens to ensure that you are not providing excess protein from food scraps. Foods that should **not** be given to chickens include potato and avocado peels, rhubarb, tomato, eggplant, and pepper plant parts, raw eggs and egg shell pieces, and citrus. Too much fruit may cause loose stool and too much food from the onion family may lend an unpleasant taste to the eggs.

- Water

Make sure the chickens have fresh water available at all times. Laying hens drink an average of half a liter of water a day, so make sure there is plenty of water and that their supply is refilled often (at least once a day).

- Coop cleanliness

The chicken team must clean the coop on a regular basis that is appropriate for the type of coop and bedding. For example, chicken coops with adjacent runs may be cleaned less often, since chickens don't spend as much time in the coop. Smaller runs ought to be cleaned much more often than larger runs. Different types of bedding are also more absorbent than others, and the deep litter method requires cleaning much less often. You can see the *Resources* section for guidelines for cleaning the coop. Generally, the coop should be cleaned when it seems dirty or smelly, which can vary with every coop. Quickly tidying up the coop every day can do a lot towards keeping it clean.

- Keeping the coop clean is extremely important for preventing health issues in your chickens.

- For the purpose of community building, DUG recommends that the chicken team clean the coop as a group on a regular basis.

- In addition to regular cleaning, the chicken coop should be deep-cleaned a few times a year.

- Chicken health

* Keeping the chickens in a clean, natural environment and feeding them a healthy and varied diet will prevent most health problems. The chicken team should research and utilize preventative practices, such as adding crushed garlic cloves and apple cider vinegar to the hens' water supply, in order to maintain the health of the chickens (for more information, see the *Resources* section).

* The chicken team must come to a consensus (preferably before the chickens are acquired) about how to deal with health issues that may affect their birds. Sick chickens that cannot be treated successfully may pose a threat to the rest of the flock and need to be removed (for more on this, see the section on “Removing Chickens” below). In advance of procuring chickens, the chicken team must identify a contact person for support in case a chicken becomes ill.

- Eggs

Depending on the breed, each hen will lay an egg every day or two and less frequently during autumn "molt" and on shorter winter days.

* Eggs must be collected at least once per day (preferably twice, to keep eggs from attracting predators or becoming soiled or squished).

* The chicken team agreement must specify how the eggs will be divided among the team, shared with other gardeners, or donated to local charities.

- Under the Colorado Cottage Foods Act (2012), community gardeners may sell fresh produce and eggs from a gardener's place of residence (with a permit). This can either be done personally by one of the members of the chicken team or in order to communally support the costs of the chicken coop. Particular food safety and labeling requirements apply; see the City and County of Denver's residential sales handout for more information:

<https://denvergov.org/Portals/746/documents/fresh-produce-cottage-residential-sales-handout-english.pdf>

- The outer coating on eggs will allow them to stay fresh without refrigeration until they are cleaned. It is a good idea to dry clean your eggs, as water can actually drive bacteria inside the shell. This can be done with fine grit sandpaper, a brush, or emory cloth. If eggs are soiled, they can be washed with water more than 20 degrees warmer than the egg so that bacteria won't be pulled in. The best way to keep your eggs clean, of course, is to keep a clean coop!

- Human safety and hygiene

It is important to keep in mind that there can be health risks associated with "backyard" chickens if appropriate precautions are not taken. *Salmonella* may be of concern, primarily for young children or individuals with weak immune systems. *Salmonella* can be passed from healthy birds or eggs to humans, which is why taking the recommendations presented in this policy regarding sanitation is particularly important. See the CDC website for recommendations regarding *Salmonella*: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/salmonellapoultry/index.html>

- The CDC recommends that people with compromised immune systems and children aged five and under should not come into contact with the chickens or the coop.

* Anyone who touches the chickens or anything in their environment, including eggs, must thoroughly wash their hands afterwards with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, which must be made available at the chicken coop.

- Be mindful of shoes tracking chicken waste out of the coop. Consider getting a boot scraper to keep inside the coop for people to use before exiting. Using a dedicated pair of chicken shoes or disposable/washable shoe covers are also good options, especially for gardeners with young children. It is advisable to have a place in the storage area for gardeners to store boots or shoe covers. Keep in mind that you will want to avoid tracking any chicken waste into the vegetable plots.

* Cleaning the chicken coop regularly will decrease risks of disease.

- Visitors
 *All visitors to a chicken coop in a DUG community garden must provide a signed waiver of liability (this is the same waiver that DUG uses for its gardeners). Waivers can be obtained from DUG.

- Composting
 Your chickens will not only provide fresh, healthy eggs, but chicken manure also provides a great source of compost material. Eggshells can be added to the compost mixture as well.
 - * Fresh chicken manure should never be added directly to garden soil—it could damage your plants and contain pathogens. However, when used in the proper manner and proportion, chicken manure is an excellent high-nitrogen “green” material for compost.
 - * The chicken team must reach an agreement with the gardeners either to add chicken manure to the common compost pile and manage it appropriately, or, if the gardeners are uncomfortable with fresh chicken manure, compost the chicken waste in a separate place.
 - As you compost the waste, the manure will be counted as “green” material and the bedding as “brown” material. You will want about 1 part green and 2 parts brown in your compost mixture because the manure has such a high nitrogen content. To achieve the desired ratio, you can also add other amendments to the compost: other green materials include food scraps, grass clippings, and living green leaves, while brown materials include straw, fall leaves, woodchips, newspaper, and cardboard.
 - Carbon (brown) material should be chopped or mowed into small pieces of no more than 2” in length. Moisten the pile until it feels like a wrung-out kitchen sponge, and make sure your compost pile is covered in order to keep heat and moisture in.
 - Turn the pile every week or two so the material on the outside of the pile is moved to the inside, where the temperature is the highest. Let the compost cure for a couple of months before using it in the garden.
 - For more information on composting, see the *Resources* section or contact DUG.

- Removing chickens
 * Decide as a group before the chickens are acquired how they will be dealt with when they need to be removed or when they stop laying eggs (chickens usually stop laying eggs after about 3 years).
 - When removing healthy chickens, the chicken team should network with other chicken-keepers to identify a household desiring (additional) chickens.
 - Chickens no longer laying eggs may be given away as pets in the same manner listed above, taken to The Old Feed Store for slaughter for meat, donated to the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program to be used as a food source for threatened birds of prey, or taken to the veterinarian to be euthanized. See the *Resources* section for more information.

* If chickens have taken ill, they need to be removed, for the safety of the other chickens and for the gardeners. DUG recommends that these chickens be taken to the veterinarian to be euthanized.

- Wellbeing of the garden

* Because DUG is ultimately responsible for ensuring that gardens in the DUG network are safe and healthy places for everyone, DUG reserves the right to require the chicken team to remove chickens from a community garden if DUG determines in its sole discretion that the chickens are not being cared for in a manner that protects the gardeners, their garden plots, the community, and the chickens themselves from the risk of disease or harm.

Finally, remember that even after you have established your flock, the chicken team is responsible for managing the coop properly so that it does not run afoul (pun intended) of DUG standards and local requirements.

Good luck and have fun with your chickens!

Chicken Keeping Resources

Denver Urban Gardens

303-292-9900

www.dug.org

Classes

- Denver Urban Homesteading Meetup Group: <http://www.meetup.com/Greater-Denver-Urban-Homesteaders/events/past/?scroll=true#past>
- Wardle Feed & Pet Supply: <http://wardlefeed.com/chicken-class/>
- Urban Farm at Stapleton: <http://theurbanfarm.org>
- EarthDog Denver: <http://www.earthdogdenver.com/Chicken-Care-Classes.php>
- DUG Composting Classes: <https://dug.org/compost/>
- DUG Master Composter 10-session training program: <https://dug.org/master-composter/>
- Boulder County Composting Classes: <http://www.bouldercounty.org/env/compost/pages/compostworkshops.aspx>

Books

- *Chickens in Your Backyard: A Beginner's Guide*. Rick and Gail Luttmann, Rodale Press.
- *Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens*. Gail Damerow, Storey Publishing.

- *Keeping Chickens*. Jeremy Hobson and Celia Lewis, David & Charles Books.
- *Chickens: Tending a Small-Scale Flock for Pleasure and Profit (Hobby Farms)*. Sue Weaver, BowTie Press.
- *The Chicken Health Handbook*. Gail Damerow, Storey Publishing.
- *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Urban Homesteading*. Sundari Elizabeth Kraft, DK Publishing.

Websites

- <http://modernfarmer.com/2016/03/how-to-raise-chickens/>
- <http://www.almanac.com/blog/home-health/chickens>
- Question forum: <http://www.backyardchickens.com>
- University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/livestock/poultry/backyard-chicken-basics/>
- Denver Extension: <http://www.denverext.colostate.edu/chickeninfo.html>
- CSU Extension: <http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/nutrition-food-safety-health/home-produced-chicken-eggs-9-377/>
- Composting information: <http://www.seattletilth.org/learn/resources-1/city-chickens/compostingchickenmanure>

Hens, Feed, Coops & Supplies

- Murray McMurray Hatchery: www.mcmurrayhatchery.com
- The Urban Farm: www.theurbanfarm.org
- www.mypetchicken.com : For info and orders for as few as three hens (will guarantee the sex).
- Golden Mill: 1012 Ford Street, Golden, CO 80401, 303.279.1151. Feed store and chickens (will guarantee the sex). <http://www.goldenmillinc.com/index.html>
- High Altitude Organics: www.highaltitudeorganics.com, organic chicks and feed.
- Wardle Feed & Pet Supply: <http://wardlefeed.com/chicken-class/>

Other

- Urban Hens, program of CU Boulder: wynn.martens@colorado.edu, can answer questions, provide technical support, and help find new homes for chickens.
- City and county of Denver - best practices and further resources: <https://www.denvergov.org/Portals/682/documents/FPA%20Best%20Practices%20Handout%20-%20EV.pdf>
- Retirement options for chickens: <http://eatwhereulive.com/chicken-retirement-options/>
- The Old Feed Store: 970.493.0320, 2612 W County Rd 54g, Laporte, CO 80535.
- CDPHE regulation: http://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/_p/nws2/9C1A3605-4B4F-4840-8876-F2D5A4847DC7/updated-cdphe-rules-regulations-governing-child-care-facilities

The regulation is also housed in the CDPHE Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability 6 CCR 1010-7 section 7.13.1(B).

Local Requirements Chart

*Although DUG has done our best to compile accurate local policy, information can change over time and therefore older documents may not be accurate or exhaustive. If you are thinking of chicken-keeping in your garden, it is a good idea to call your city or county planning department in order to receive the most comprehensive information possible and to make sure that your garden is a good place to keep chickens.

*If your community garden is located at a school, you will most likely have additional requirements set forth by the school district. Contact the school district to learn what their policies are.

City	Policy Requirements	Link to Municipal Code
Arvada	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> Yes, but only on land where the community garden is the “primary use”. Structures (i.e. chicken coops) are not allowed in accessory use community gardens in Arvada, according to the zoning code. For primary use gardens, chickens are allowed in any zoning district.</p> <p><u>Permit required:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> Females chickens only</p> <p><u>Number:</u> Maximum 5 allowed</p> <p><u>Coop location:</u> Coops must be at least 15 feet away from property lines, and chickens are not allowed within 35 feet of any dwelling unit or within the front setback of the property</p> <p><u>Coop structure:</u> No more than three total accessory structures are allowed in a community garden, and structures may not exceed a combined area of 1000 square feet total</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Dead animals must be disposed of within 24 hours by burial, incineration, or another state-approved means</p>	<p>Municipal code: https://www.municode.com/library/co/arvada/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH14AN see Section 14-92 through 14-125</p> <p>Community agriculture guide: https://static.arvada.org/docs/Community_Agriculture_Guide_2013-1-201307161519.pdf see page 7</p> <p>Zoning code: https://www.municode.com/library/co/arvada/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIILADECO_ART5USRE_5.2ADUSSTCO_5.2.9COGAAGCO</p>
Aurora	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> Yes, in some places (chickens are only allowed in single family residential zoning areas and zoning districts where livestock is allowed [the agricultural and R-A zoning districts – see Zoning Code Sec. 146-1203])</p>	<p>Municipal code: https://www2.municode.com/library/co/aurora/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH14AN_ARTIILI See Sec. 14-134 through 14-135</p>

<p><u>Permit required:</u> Yes – apply to the director of neighborhood services (or the director’s designee) and pay a permit fee. For permitting details, see Sec. 14-135 of the municipal code.</p> <p>Written consent of the property owner must be obtained before applying for a permit</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> Females chickens only</p> <p><u>Number:</u> Maximum 4 allowed</p> <p><u>Coop location:</u> Coop must be in rear yard and located adjacent to an enclosed area (run) not less than six square feet in size to allow chickens outdoors, with fencing to protect them from predators. Chicken coop and run must be at least 15 feet from all property lines unless written consent from the owners of abutting property is obtained.</p> <p><u>Coop structure:</u> Coop must be covered, properly ventilated, fenced by an opaque fence that conforms to fence requirements in Zoning Code chapter 146 article 17 (146-1700 through 146-1761), at least two square feet per chicken, and no more than 120 square feet of floor space.</p> <p><u>Care:</u> During daylight hours, chickens must have access to the chicken house and outdoor enclosure. During nighttime hours, chickens must be secured in the chicken house.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> No chicken may be killed at the direction of the keeper except by the order of a state or county health official, for the purpose of euthanasia when surrendered to a licensed veterinarian, or as otherwise expressly permitted by law.</p>	<p>Zoning code: https://www2.municode.com/library/co/aurora/codes/building_and_zoning?nodeId=BUILDING_ZONING_CODE_CH146ZO</p> <p>Zoning information: https://www.auroragov.org/city_hall/maps/land_use_zoning_maps</p>
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<p>Commerce City</p>	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> No</p> <p>Currently, chicken-keeping is only allowed in agricultural districts in Commerce City.</p>	
<p>Denver</p>	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Permit required:</u> No, if fewer than eight are kept. In that case, a restricted livestock or fowl license is required. If more than eight are kept, a permit (renewed annually) is required.</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> Female chickens only</p> <p><u>Number:</u> Maximum 8 allowed under a restricted livestock or fowl license</p> <p><u>Coop location:</u> Coop and run must be in rear half of zone lot, and may not be closer than 15 feet to any dwelling unit. Denver requires 16 square feet per bird of “permeable space” – a run – which should have ground or grass, not concrete.</p> <p><u>Coop structure:</u> Chicken space must be enclosed by fencing, which can be made up of materials such as chicken wire or chain link. The floor of the coop may be made of wood (if the floor is at least a foot off the ground), permeable ground (chicken wire or hardware cloth must be buried at least a foot down around the perimeter of the coop), or concrete. There must be adequate shelter from weather and predators. The nighttime enclosure must have 4 solid walls and a solid roof, and the door must be able to close securely. A daytime shelter must have at least 3 solid walls and a solid roof. Daytime and nighttime shelter requirements may be met in one multi-use shelter. Construction of a structure such as a coop requires a zoning permit.</p>	<p>Food Producing Animals Ordinance: https://denvergov.org/Portals/682/documents/The%20Food%20Producing%20Animals%20(FPAs)%20Ordinance%20(CB11-0151)%20.pdf</p> <p>Municipal code: https://www2.municode.com/library/co/denver/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TITIIREMUCO_C_H8AN_ARTIVLIFO see section 8-91</p> <p>Zoning code: https://denvergov.org/Portals/682/documents/ACCFiles/All%20Articles_Amd%206_FPA%20for%20Posting.pdf see section 11.8.5</p> <p>Best practices: https://www.denvergov.org/Portals/682/documents/FPA%20Best%20Practices%20Handout%20-%20EV.pdf</p> <p>License information: http://eatwhereulive.com/how-to-get-an-fpa-license/</p>

	<p><u>Note</u>: Slaughtering of animals is prohibited</p> <p><u>Note</u>: Selling or giving away baby chicks is prohibited</p>	
Denver Public Schools	<p>* DPS is still in the process of finalizing their chicken policy, so the following are simply brief guidelines of their general requirements. If you have a garden at a Denver Public School and want to keep chickens, contact the DPS Sustainability Office (720-423-4171).</p> <p>* Also keep in mind that in addition to following DPS requirements, gardens must also comply with City and County of Denver requirements, as are listed in the row above.</p> <p>* Anyone wishing to keep chickens at a DPS garden must sign a license agreement with DPS and prepare the relevant documents to obtain the licensure. Students and volunteers must all complete DPS waivers in order to enter the chicken area. In addition, volunteers at the coop may need a background check based on DPS' volunteer policy.</p>	
Edgewater	<p><u>Chickens allowed</u>: Not in community gardens. Chickens, as a "specially regulated animal," are only allowed on properties used for single-family detached dwellings and with a license issued by the City Manger or his designee</p> <p><u>Permit required</u>: No, but a license is required</p> <p><u>Sex</u>: Female chickens only</p> <p><u>Number</u>: Maximum 6 allowed</p> <p><u>Cage location</u>: Chickens must be located within the rear 50 feet of the lot and 35 feet from any neighboring dwelling unit</p> <p><u>Cage structure</u>: A 6 foot solid fence must enclose the rear yard of the property</p>	<p>https://www2.municode.com/library/co/edgewater/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=EDMUCO_CH7HE_SAAAN_ART6AN_DIV1GEPR_S7-6-80CEANPR</p> <p>See section 7-6-80 through 7-6-82</p>

Englewood	Keeping of fowl is prohibited in Englewood	http://cityofenglewood.org/filestorage/1441/1468/2265/1487/1586/2003_Hlth_Code_Chap_4_Animals.pdf
Golden	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> Yes, in residential (RE, R1, R2, R3) zoning districts</p> <p><u>Permit required:</u> Yes, Special Use Permit needed</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> Female chickens only</p> <p><u>Number:</u> Maximum 6 allowed</p> <p><u>Coop location:</u> Must be a minimum of 800 square feet of area for the chickens, and there must be a 5-foot setback from the side and rear property lines for coops and accessory structures</p> <p><u>Coop structure:</u> All chickens must be kept in a fenced area. No permit is required for the coop if it is under 120 square feet.</p>	<p>http://www.cityofgolden.net/media/SmallAnimalsBrochure.pdf</p> <p>Permit application: http://www.cityofgolden.net/media/SmallAnimalsPermitApplication.pdf</p> <p>Municipal code: https://www2.municode.com/library/co/golden/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT18PLZO_CH18.28USDERE_18.28.085SPUSRER1DI See Section 18.28.085, number (3)</p> <p>Zoning information: http://www.cityofgolden.net/government/departments-divisions/planning-and-development/zoning-regulations/</p>
Lakewood	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> Yes, in R-1-43, R-1-18, R-1-12, R-1-9, R-1-6, and R-2 zoning districts</p> <p><u>Permit required:</u> Only in R-1-6 and R-2 zoning districts</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> Female chickens only</p> <p><u>Number:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In R-1-43, R-1-18, R-1-12, and R-1-9 districts: 1 bird per 4 square feet of coop area</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In R-1-6 and R-2 districts: Maximum 4 hens</p> <p><u>Coop location:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In R-1-43, R-1-18, R-1-12, and R-1-9 districts: Coop must be located in the rear yard and 15 feet from all property lines</p>	<p>www.lakewood.org/ChickensHandout/</p> <p>Permit application: www.lakewood.org/SmallAnimalPermitApp/</p> <p>Zoning information: http://www.lakewood.org/Zoning/</p>

	<p>In R-1-6 and R-2 districts: Must be located in side or rear yard, and have at least a 5 foot setback</p> <p><u>Coop structure:</u></p> <p>In R-1-43, R-1-18, R-1-12, and R-1-9 districts: 1 bird per 4 square feet of coop area</p> <p>In R-1-6 and R-2 districts: Minimum of 6 square feet of living space per bird, coop must be secure, roofed, and well ventilated, and may be a maximum of 32 square feet and 10 feet in height</p>	
Littleton	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> Permitted in R-E, R-1, R-2, and R-3 zoning districts</p> <p><u>Permit required:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> Female chickens only</p> <p><u>Number:</u> Maximum of 4 allowed</p> <p><u>Coop location:</u> Must be at least 15 feet from property lines</p> <p><u>Coop structure:</u> Must be predator resistant and properly ventilated. Coop must provide at least 2 square feet of floor space per bird, and an outdoor enclosure must provide at least 10 square feet of floor space per bird.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Chickens may not be killed (or directed to be killed) by the owner or keeper, unless authorized by a state, county, or city official, or for the purpose of euthanasia as recommended by a licenses veterinarian</p>	<p>Municipal code: http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/m_index.php?book_id=504 See section 10.4.4 (B)</p> <p>Zoning information: https://www.littletongov.org/index.aspx?page=560</p>
Lone Tree	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> Yes</p> <p><u>Permit required:</u> Yes, for coop structure</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> Female only</p> <p><u>Number:</u> Not specified, please see DUG</p>	<p>Zoning information for building structures: https://www.municode.com/library/co/lone_tree/codes/municipal_code?nodemd=CH16ZO_ARTVIISUBREDI-</p>

	<p>recommendations</p> <p><u>Coop location:</u> There are no requirements for chicken keeping specifically, so you should see the city's zoning regulations for general structure requirements</p> <p>Residential district: setback of 25 feet abutting a street, 5 feet on side and rear</p> <p>Multifamily district: setback of 20 feet abutting a street, 15 feet on side and rear</p> <p><u>Coop structure:</u> See zoning regulations for structure requirements</p> <p>Residential district: accessory structure may be no taller than 10 feet</p>	<p>see your relevant zone district for information</p> <p>To find your zone district: http://www.cityoflonetree.com/government/departments_and_divisions/planning/zoning</p>
Louisville	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> Yes, except in the residential high density (RH) zoning district and in multi-family dwellings</p> <p><u>Permit required:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> Female chickens only</p> <p><u>Number:</u> Maximum of 6 allowed</p> <p><u>Coop location:</u> Must be in the rear or side yard and have a minimum 10 foot setback from property lines</p> <p><u>Coop structure:</u> Coop should be covered and predator resistant, and may be a maximum of 120 square feet in area and 6 feet in height. Chickens must also have access to a fenced run. Both the coop and run must provide at least 4 square feet of space per chicken.</p> <p><u>Storage:</u> Chicken food must be stored in a re-sealable, airtight, predator and vermin-proof container</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Any outdoor slaughtering of chickens</p>	<p>https://www2.municode.com/library/co/louisville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT6AN_CH6.20BAHE</p> <p>Zoning information for accessory structures: https://www2.municode.com/library/co/louisville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT17ZO_CH17.16GERE_S17.16.030ACUS</p> <p>Zoning Map: http://www.louisvilleco.gov/residents/planning-zoning/zoning-information-553</p>

	must not be visible from adjoining properties	
Sheridan	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> No, not in community gardens. In Sheridan, chicken-keeping is only allowed on land used for single-family residential purposes and as an accessory to an individual household dwelling unit. On such land, chicken-keeping is allowed in RES-S, RES-SFLL, and RES-MF zoning districts.</p> <p><u>Permit required:</u> No</p> <p><u>Sex:</u> Female chickens only</p> <p><u>Number:</u> Maximum 6 allowed</p> <p><u>Coop location:</u> Both coop and outdoor enclosure must be located in the rear yard and have a minimum setback of 10 feet from any property line</p> <p><u>Coop structure:</u> Must be covered and predator-resistant, must provide at least 2 square feet per chicken, may be a maximum of 32 square feet in area and 8 feet high. In addition, there must be an outdoor enclosure that provides at least 9 square feet per fowl and is fenced to protect from predators.</p> <p><u>Storage:</u> Feed and waste must be kept in a re-sealable, airtight, predator resistant container and be disposed of in a sanitary manner</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Chickens may not be slaughtered on site, unless ordered by a state, county, or city official or for the purpose of euthanasia as ordered by a veterinarian or animal shelter</p>	<p>http://www.ci.sheridan.co.us/DocumentCenter/View/603</p> <p>Zoning map: http://co-sheridan.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/169</p>
Thornton	<p><u>Chickens allowed:</u> No, except in agricultural and residential estate zoning districts</p> <p><u>Permit required:</u> No</p>	<p>https://www2.municode.com/library/co/thornton/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CO_CH6AN_ARTIILIFO</p> <p>See section 6-21</p>

	<p><u>Sex</u>: Not specified</p> <p><u>Number</u>: Maximum 10 chickens for the residential estate zoning district</p> <p><u>Coop location</u>: Not mentioned in ordinance; please refer to DUG recommendations and Thornton zoning requirements for accessory structure setbacks</p> <p><u>Coop structure</u>: All livestock must be kept in a fenced area, coop should be a maximum of 120 square feet in area</p>	<p>Accessory structure information: https://www2.municode.com/library/co/thornton/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CO_CH18DECO_ARTIVUSUSRE_DIV3AGUS_S18-195COGA</p>
Westminster	<p><u>Chickens allowed</u>: Chicken keeping is only permitted on single-family residential lots in Westminster, therefore it is not an option for community gardeners at this time.</p> <p><u>Permit required</u>: Yes</p> <p><u>Sex</u>: Female chickens only</p> <p><u>Number</u>: Maximum of 6 allowed</p> <p><u>Coop location</u>: Chickens must be kept in the rear yard and be set back from all property lines by at least 10 feet.</p> <p><u>Coop structure</u>: Chicken area should be fully screened by a privacy fence of a minimum of 6 feet in height, unless the adjacent property is city-owned open space. Coops may not exceed 120 square feet in floor area or 6 feet in height.</p> <p><u>Storage</u>: Chicken feed must be stored in a re-sealable, airtight, vermin-proof container</p> <p><u>Note</u>: chickens must be kept in their coop at nighttime</p> <p><u>Note</u>: Outdoor slaughtering is prohibited</p>	<p>http://www.ci.westminster.co.us/CityGovernment/CommunityDevelopment/PlanningDivision/ChickensandBees</p>

Wheat Ridge	<p><u>Chickens allowed</u>: Yes</p> <p><u>Permit required</u>: No</p> <p><u>Sex</u>: Not specified</p> <p><u>Number</u>: Not mentioned in ordinance; please refer to DUG recommendations</p> <p><u>Coop location</u>: Coops must be in the side or rear yard, should have a minimum 15-foot setback from property lines, and be at least 30 feet from main structures on adjacent property.</p> <p><u>Coop structure</u>: Coop may not be larger than 400 square feet in ground area or more than 12 feet high. These maximum floor areas may increase by 50% for each additional acre to the minimum lot size for the zone district.</p>	<p>https://www2.municode.com/library/co/wheat_ridge/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOLA_C H26ZODE_ARTVISURE_S26-606SMANPO</p>
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