

Are you interested in raising chickens on your property in Lewiston? You can! However, you are limited to six female chickens and must meet the following ordinance requirements:

The keeping of up to six female chickens are permitted in the Rural- Agricultural (RA), Low-Density Residential (LDR), Suburban Residential (SR), Medium Density Residential (MDR), and the Neighborhood Conservation "A"(NCA) districts on lots of no less than 15,000 square feet developed with single-family detached dwellings including mobile homes on individual lots.

Check the zoning of your property at <https://webapps2.cgis-solutions.com/Lewiston/Basic/index.html>

You must also meet the following provisions:

Sec. 14-34. Number and type of chickens allowed.

- (a) The maximum number of chickens allowed is six (6) per lot developed with a single family dwelling.
- (b) Only female chickens are allowed. There is no restriction on chicken species.
- (c) Chickens must be purchased from an approved source such as the National Poultry Improvement Plan (i.e. hatcheries that participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan).
- (d) This provision shall not apply to allowed agricultural uses.

Sec. 14-35. Noncommercial use only.

Chickens shall be kept as pets and for personal use only; no person shall sell eggs or engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes. The slaughtering of chickens is prohibited.

Sec. 14-36. Enclosures.

- (a) Chickens must be kept in a fenced area or enclosure at all times. Enclosures must be clean, dry, and odor free, kept in a neat and sanitary condition, in a manner that will not disturb the use of neighboring lots due to noise, odor or other adverse impact. The free ranging of chickens is not allowed.
- (b) Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse during non-daylight hours.
 - (1) Henhouses are not allowed to be attached or located in any part of a dwelling unit. The henhouse shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors. The henhouse must be well maintained.
- (c) Chickens shall be kept only in the rear or side yard behind the principle structure of the lot and must be kept on the property of the owner. Chicken henhouses, fenced areas, and enclosures shall not be closer than twenty (20) feet to any property line.

Sec. 14-37. Odor and noise impacts.

The keeping of chickens authorized under this section shall not create a nuisance and shall be conducted in a manner that does not disturb the use of adjacent properties. Odors from chickens, chicken manure, or other chicken related substances shall not be perceptible at the property boundaries. Perceptible noise from chickens shall not be loud enough at the property boundaries to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity.

Sec. 14-38. Predators, rodents, insects, and parasites.

The property owner and/or chicken owner shall take all necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation may be removed by the City, through the animal control officer, or any other designee, and the cost of the same shall be borne by the property owner and/or chicken owner.

Sec. 14-39. Lot size requirements.

Notwithstanding the provisions under Appendix A, Article XI, Sec. 23 of this Code, the keeping of up to six female chickens are permitted in the Rural- Agricultural (RA), Low-Density Residential (LDR), Suburban Residential (SR), Medium Density Residential (MDR), and the Neighborhood Conservation "A"(NCA) districts on lots of no less than 15,000 square feet developed with single-family detached dwellings including mobile homes on individual lots.

Any questions, contact Planning and Code Enforcement at 207-513-3125 or email planningcode@lewistonmaine.gov