

# BACKYARD CHICKEN PILOT PROGRAM

## FAQ



### SEMINOLE COUNTY

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On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Seminole County began a two-year Backyard Chicken Pilot Program to allow the keeping of chickens for up to 100 occupied, single-family residential properties within the unincorporated areas of the County. Please see the information below for answers to some common questions. All other program requirements and regulations can be found in Ordinance No. 2016-22.

### Which zoning districts may apply for the pilot program?

To qualify for this program, you must have an occupied, single-family home in Unincorporated Seminole County, within one of the following zoning districts and meet all other guidelines as stated in the Ordinance:

- RC-1
- R-1
- R-1A
- R-1AA
- R-1AAA
- R-1AAAA

### Could I still participate if I live in a different zoning district?

If you live within a Planned Development (PD), your Homeowners Association would need to amend the PD's Development Order to allow participation in the program. If you are in the A-1, A-3, A-5 or A-10 zoning district, you can keep chickens on your property without the necessity of this program. The R-1B, R-1BB, R-2, R-3, R-3A, R-4, RM-1, RM-2 and RM-3 zoning districts do NOT qualify for this program. You may call or e-mail Planning and Development to confirm your zoning district or visit the 'My Resident Info' page at:

<http://cdn.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/guide-to-county-services/for-residents/my-resident-page.shtml>.

### How many chickens may I keep on my property?

Once accepted into the program, you may have up to 4 chickens, roosters excluded.

### May I keep roosters also?

No, roosters are not allowed under this program.

You may contact us at any of the methods above to ensure you meet requirements prior to submitting your application.

## Can I sell the chicken, eggs, feathers or manure?

No, the chickens must be kept for personal use only.

## What are the requirements for the coop and enclosure/run?

The **coop** must:

- have a minimum of 4 square feet per chicken;
- not exceed 150 square feet;
- not exceed 8 feet in height;
- be completely secured from predators;
- be covered and ventilated; and
- be tied down for wind resistance.

The required **enclosure/run** must:

- have a minimum of 5 square feet per chicken;
- be completely secured from predators; and
- be covered and ventilated.

If your property is within the Seminole County Urban Bear Management Area, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has additional guidelines for “Living with Florida Black Bears”. For more information, please visit: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/environmental-services/solid-waste-management/bear-aware-seminole/>



## Will a building permit be required for my coop?

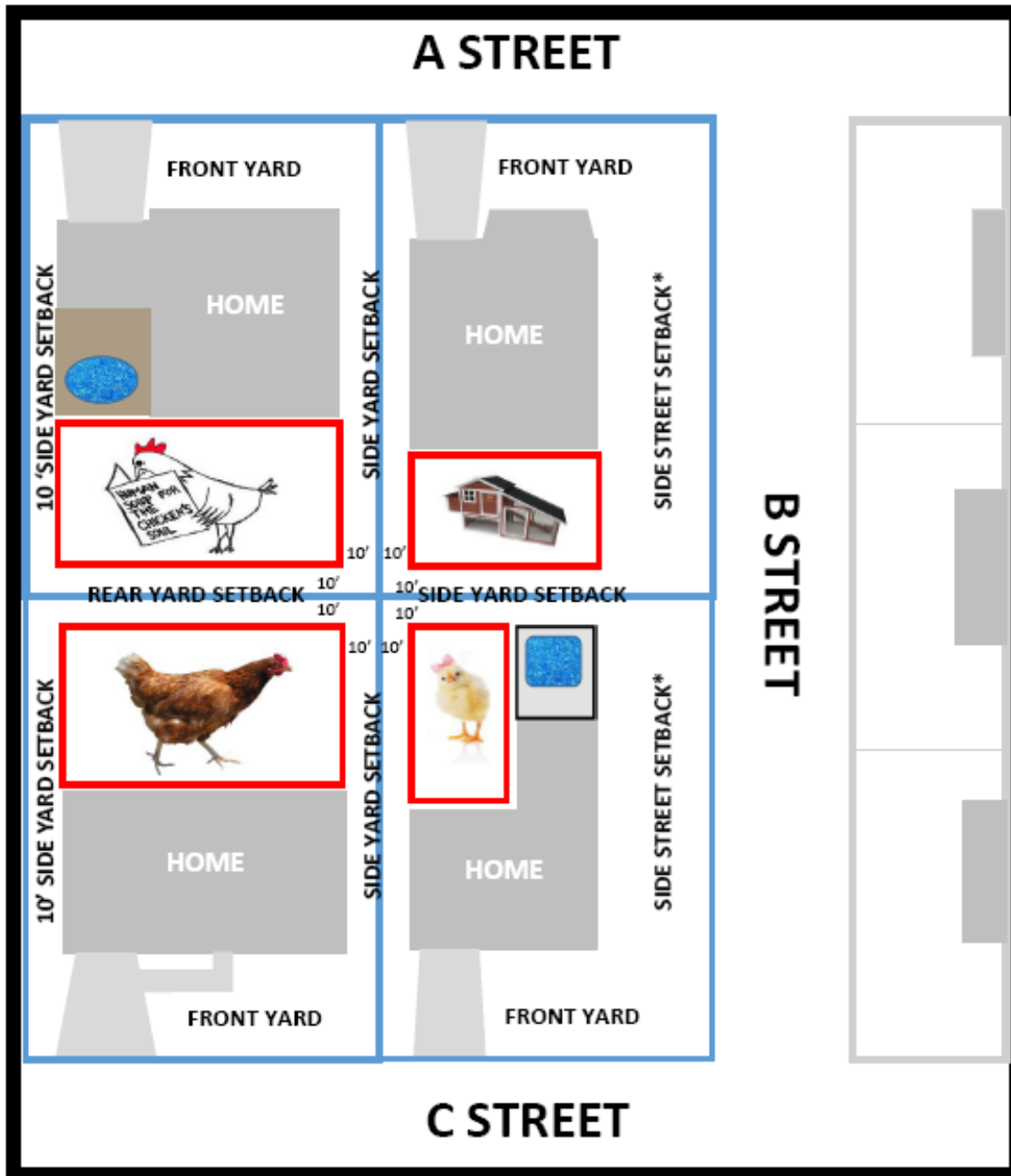
If the coop exceeds 100 square feet in size (10' x 10'), a building permit will be required. Coops larger than 120 square feet require signed and sealed engineered plans. Coops over 100 square feet, but less than 120 square feet do not require engineered plans, but must indicate how the coop will be secured to meet wind load requirements.

## Will a building permit be required for my run?

If the run is constructed of wire and supports, no additional building permit would be required, but if the run is constructed of fencing type wood or vinyl, then the applicable fence code will be applied.

## Where on my property am I allowed to keep the chickens?

Chickens must be kept within a coop and enclosure, which must be screened from the neighboring property. The coop and enclosure must be located behind the home. The coop and enclosure must be a minimum of 10 feet from the rear and side property lines and 20 feet from any neighboring residential homes. If you are on a corner lot, the coop and enclosure must meet the required side street setback for the applicable zoning district.



**FOR VISUAL REFERENCE ONLY – TEXT OF ORDINANCE AND ZONING SETBACKS GOVERN**

Chickens and their structures may be kept in the red boxes as shown in the diagram, provided they meet all setbacks, are at least 20 feet from any neighboring residential structure and do not encroach into any easements or wetlands.

\*Side Street Setback varies based upon zoning classification.

## What do I do with the chicken manure and feed?

All stored feed must be kept in a rodent and predator proof container or be kept inside a secured structure. A manure box inside the coop is recommended as manure shall not accumulate on the floor or ground. A fly-tight bin for manure storage must be kept at least 20 feet away from all property lines.

## Would it be permissible to breed or slaughter chickens on my property?

No. Chickens may not be bred or slaughtered on premises.

## How do I apply for the program?

Those interested in the pilot program must submit the following to the Planning and Development Division:

- Completed application;
- Scaled drawing or survey showing all required details (see page 1 of the application);
- Certificate of Completion of an approved class on the care and raising of chickens;
- Completed Owner Authorization Affidavit, if applicable; and
- Application fee of \$75.00

## Is there a fee to apply for this program?

Yes, there is a non-refundable application fee of \$75.00 due at the time of application submission. We accept cash, check or credit card. If you plan to pay in cash, please try to have exact change. If you plan to pay with a check, please make it payable to "Seminole County". If you plan to pay with a credit card, please note there is a non-refundable \$3.00 convenience fee for doing so.

## Where do I get information on the required class?

Information regarding the required class can be found at the following link:

[http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/development-services/planning-development/forms-applications-resources/backyard\\_chicken\\_pilot\\_program.stml](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/development-services/planning-development/forms-applications-resources/backyard_chicken_pilot_program.stml)

## When does this program end?

The 2 year pilot program ends on July 12, 2018, unless an extension or other action is taken by the Board of County Commissioners prior to that date.

## If I rent my home, could I still participate in this program?

If you are not the fee-simple owner of the property, the owner must provide consent by signing the application and completing the Owner Authorization Affidavit in order for you to participate in the program.

## What if I decide that I no longer want to participate in the program after approval?

If you decide to leave the program, you must provide notice in writing by e-mail or mail to the Planning and Development Division as soon as possible. The County is then authorized to re-issue the permit to another qualified applicant.

## Is there a waiting list?

Once all 100 permits have been issued, interested applicants can be placed on a waiting list in the event a permit becomes available for re-issue.

## Who should I contact with a complaint about someone participating in the program?

If you have a concern about a participant in this program, you may contact Planning and Development at (407) 665-7371 or you may contact Code Enforcement with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office at (407) 665-6986.