



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

FACT SHEET

New Regulations for Backyard Bee and Chicken Keeping

Arapahoe County adopted new regulations for backyard bee and chicken keeping in unincorporated residentially zoned areas. The new rules, which go into effect April 30, 2019, are the result of a two-year, community-driven process to balance the needs and concerns of residents.

No special licenses are required for backyard chickens or beekeeping, although residents must adhere to the adopted regulations and may need a building permit for certain improvements. Homeowner associations have the ability to implement more restrictive policies than those adopted by Arapahoe County. Residents should reach out to their respective association with specific questions.

Beekeeping

The new regulations allow residential keeping of backyard bees on parcels smaller than one acre in area in single-family detached residential lots as follows:

	Number of Hive Boxes
Less than 20,000 square feet	2
20,000 to 1-acre	4
1-acre or more	8*

* The following zone districts do not have a hive box limit: A-E, A-1, A-2, and R-A.

- Hive boxes must be set back 10' from rear and side property lines.
- Hive boxes are allowed a maximum of 6' in height above ground level and up to 10 cubic feet in volume.
- No flyway is required if hives are at least 25 feet from all property lines. If hives are less than 25 feet, a fly way is required on any side closer than 25 feet from a property line.
- Residential beekeepers are prohibited from selling honey for commercial purposes.

Chickens

The new regulations allow the residential keeping chickens on single-family detached parcels located outside agricultural districts.

- Residents are limited to four hens. Roosters and additional fowl are prohibited.
- Hens must be kept in coops from dusk to dawn (overnight). The animals must be fully contained to the owner's property at all times, behind the front building line.
- Residents must control odor, noise, dust, waste and drainage needs so as not to constitute a nuisance, safety hazard or health problem.
- The maximum coop height is six feet from the ground. The recommended indoor coop floor space is three square feet per bird. All coops must meet applicable building code requirements; a permit may be required for coops larger than 120 square feet in area.
- All coops and chicken runs must be set back 10' from side and rear property lines.
- Residential chicken keepers cannot commercially sell eggs or slaughter hens on the property.

For more information:
www.arapahoegov.com/beeschickens or 720-874-6711