



# PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## **LIVESTOCK, HORSES, POULTRY, BEES REQUIREMENTS**

### **Definitions (Zoning Ordinance Section 90 Article I):**

**Livestock** means domestic animals normally raised on a farm such as horses, cows, swine, goats, sheep, alpacas, llamas and other such domesticated farm animals.

**Livestock, small** means domesticated farm animals weighing one hundred (100) pounds or less at maturity such as goats and other small domesticated livestock.

**Apiary** means a place where bee colonies or hives are kept and that contains an on-site water source for honey production and bee wax products.

**Slaughter** means the killing of animals usually domesticated livestock for food or for personal use or consumption only and meeting USDA requirements.

**Poultry** means domesticated fowl normally raised on a farm such as chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, doves, guinea hens, peacocks, pigeons, and other similar domesticated poultry or fowl.

### **General Agricultural (A-1), Residential Agricultural (R-A) Zoning Districts:**

**Livestock (incl. horses), poultry, bees, etc. (Section 90-54 (B)(4) / Section 90-104 (B)(4))**

Permitted as accessory uses and structures, contained or fenced, and subject to noted provisions:

- (1) **Fowl and poultry:** not to exceed 250 birds per tract.
- (2) **Brood goats or sheep:** four or less per acre per tract, not to exceed 75 head.
- (3) **Rabbits:** not to exceed 200 per tract.
- (4) **Beef, dairy cattle or livestock:** one or less per acre per tract, not to exceed 125 head, and provided any animal containment or fenced area is a distance of at least 150 feet from the nearest adjoining dwelling.
- (5) **Hogs or swine:** three or less sows, a boar and litters on a tract at least ten acres in size and provided any animal containment or fenced area is a distance of at least 500 feet from the nearest adjoining dwelling.
- (6) **Apiary for honey production and bee wax products.**

## **Residential Zoning Districts (MHR, R-E, R-1, R-2 and R-3):**

**No maintaining of livestock other than described below is permitted in this district.**

### **Horses, Mules, Donkeys, and Ponies (Section 90-1035.)**

So long as such use is consistent with the health, safety and welfare requirements in this chapter, there may be housed and maintained in R-E, R-1, R-2 and R-3 Zoning Districts; one horse, mule, donkey, or pony or two small livestock on a lot of **two acres or more**. For each additional acre in excess of two acres, one additional horse, mule, donkey, pony or two small livestock may be housed and maintained. No slaughtering of small livestock will be permitted unless it is for personal use only.

The following conditions shall be met and see the example diagram that illustrates these requirements:

- (1) A fence shall be erected around the entire grazing area. The fence shall not be located closer than **150 feet** to the front property line, nor closer than **150 feet** to an existing dwelling located on an adjacent lot.
- (2) A stable or shelter shall be provided for the stabling of each horse, mule, donkey or pony. No stable or shelter shall be erected within **100 feet** of any side or rear property line, nor within **150 feet** of any front property line.
- (3) Storage of feed, grain and hay shall be provided and properly maintained and a bedding area shall be provided and maintained in a sanitary manner.
- (4) The keeping of horses, mules, donkeys, ponies and small livestock shall be done in such a manner so as not to be objectionable to the neighborhood by reason of odor, dust, insects, noise, air pollution or water pollution. No animal waste shall be put into household trash. Animal waste should be composted on site or be disposed of in separate waste containers.
- (5) The keeping of horses, mules, donkeys, ponies and small livestock is for personal use only; no retail or wholesale use may be made of these animals.

### **Poultry and Bees (Section 90-1035.1)**

So long as such use is consistent with the health, safety and welfare requirements in this chapter, there may be housed and maintained in R-E, R-1, R-2 and R-3 Zoning Districts **poultry and bees on parcels of two acres or more**.

There shall be no more than six (6) poultry and two (2) bee hives on two (2) acres. For each additional two (2) acres in excess of two (2) acres, six (6) poultry and two (2) bee hives shall be permitted. There shall be **no roosters, gamecocks or male peacocks** and no slaughtering of poultry will be permitted unless for personal use.

The following conditions shall be met and see the example diagram that illustrates these requirements:

- (1) A fence shall be erected around the entire enclosed area for poultry. The fence shall not be located closer than **150 feet** to the front property line, nor closer than **150 feet** to an existing dwelling located on an adjacent lot.
- (2) A poultry coop and the coop fencing shall be a minimum of **twenty-five (25) feet** from the property line. A perimeter boundary fence may be placed on the property line for both containment and security purposes. The fence outside run area shall be securely enclosed on the top and sides with chicken wire mesh or a similar fenced material to maintain such poultry on the premises.
- (3) Storage of feed, grain and hay shall be provided and it shall be properly maintained. A bedding area shall be provided and maintained in a sanitary manner for such poultry. Bee

keepers shall maintain an on-site water source near the apiary and they should consider using movable frames or combs.

- (4) The keeping of poultry and bees shall be done in such a manner so as not to be objectionable to the neighbor by reason of odor, dust, insects, noise, air pollution or water pollution. No animal waste will be put into household trash. Animal waste should be composted on site or be disposed of in separate containers.
- (5) The keeping of poultry and bees is for personal use only; no retail or wholesale use may be made of poultry or bees. However, their by-products such as eggs, honey and beeswax products may be sold off-site at farmers markets or at retail stores as regulated by certain state and federal agencies.

### **Illustration of Setbacks**

