

Minimum Management Practices for Keeping Farm Animals

As part of a constant good faith effort, residents who engage in keeping farm animals on any scale should be mindful of minimum management practices that can not only ensure the safety and well-being of the animals, but also ensure happy neighbors and reduce/eliminate resident complaints.

Housing/Confinement

- Periodically inspect fencing for damage. Replace rotten wood/fence posts, damaged wire or broken housing before an animal has a chance to sneak out. Animals can be very creative and resourceful when it comes to breaking confinement. Different farm animals present different challenges and needs for proper and safe confinement. As the old saying goes, a fence needs to be “horse high, hog tight and bull strong.”
- In addition to ensuring the confinement of the housed farm animal, consideration should be given to keeping predators and other varmints out of the housed area.
- Farm animals shall have options for shelter in case of inclement weather and seasonal changes

Food/Water

- Farm animals should be fed once per day at a minimum, depending on grazing and forage options. All farm animals should always have access to clean/fresh water 24/7
- Feed should be kept dry and sealed. Rodents and insects can quickly contaminate good food sources. Feed that becomes wet can become moldy and therefore inedible
- Garbage and other food scraps should be fed immediately, or, if stored for more than 24 hours heated to 212 degrees F (100 degrees C) for 30 minutes while being agitated, prior to feeding

Manure/Waste Handling

- Manure and other waste should be monitored and removed regularly. This can include composting the manure if the property size allows, or hauling it off site. Special attention should be given to location of manure storage with respect to odor, flies and contamination of wetlands. Summer months may require more frequent remediation of manure storage.

Noise

- Be mindful and considerate of noises your animals make. Although hens and other farm animals can be vocal, roosters account for the overwhelming majority of noise complaints.

Health

- Learn about your animals. With even minimal research, residents can easily become aware of potential health concerns that their specific animals may exhibit. Fatigue, loss of appetite, weight loss and other factors could be indicators of a greater health hazard and could require the attention of a professional
- Consider options for vaccines where applicable

Contact the Agricultural Commission for more questions/comments concerning management practices