

LAWRENCE URBAN AG

What You Need to Know



To learn more, VISIT lawrenceks.org/urban-ag or CALL 785-832-3150

A community food production guide from the Douglas County Food Policy Council

THE CITY OF LAWRENCE has approved a series of policies to support urban agriculture, expanding the ability of residents to produce local, healthy food at home and creating opportunities to pursue commercial production. This sheet provides an introduction to what is allowed, but does not include comprehensive information.

THE CITY OF LAWRENCE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE DEFINES:

- What practices residents can do “by-right”
- What regulations limit those practices based upon zoning, lot size, etc.
- An “Urban Farm” Special Use Permit for activities that EXCEED the allowed practices
- The way urban ag regulations will be enforced

SMALL ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Small Animal Agriculture includes raising, producing, or keeping of animals to provide food, wool, and other products. It is limited to small animals which are more appropriate in a denser urban setting, such as bees, crickets, worms, rabbits, small goats, small sheep, fowl, and aquatic animals/organisms such as crayfish and fish. Small Animal Ag is allowed as an “accessory use” in all residential zones. In commercial districts, only bees and other small organisms are allowed. Large Animal Agriculture is only allowed in RS40. Domesticated animals such as cats and dogs do not fall under this category, but instead are regulated through Article 2 of Chapter 3 of the City Code.

	CHICKENS & DUCKS	SMALL GOATS & SHEEP	BEES
WHAT IS PERMITTED BY-RIGHT?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 1 per 500 sq. ft. of lot area » Up to 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Small breeds only (no taller than 24 in. at shoulders) when grown » Minimum of 2 » 2 animals per lot between 10,000 - 20,000 sq. ft. » 4 animals per lot ≥ 20,000 sq. ft. 	<p>HONEY BEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 2 hives on lots < ¼ acre » 4 hives on lots between ¼ - ½ acre » 6 hives on lots between ½ - 1 acre » 8 hives on lots > 1 acre <p>SOLITARY WILD BEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No restrictions on bee hotels
WHERE & HOW SHOULD THEY BE KEPT?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » In a coop or structure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is at least 5 ft. from adjacent property lines • Includes at least 1 laying box for every 3 hens and 1 roost per hen (does not apply to ducks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Covered structure that will protect the animals from predators, with an open-air fenced enclosure » Structure in rear yard that is placed at least 50 ft. from adjacent dwelling and 15 ft. from property lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hives must be at least 3 ft. from all property lines; at least 10 ft. from sidewalks; at least 25 ft. from the principal building on adjacent lots » Hives may be kept on rooftops, in side yards, and in backyards
WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No roosters » No slaughtering » No bad odors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Nursing offspring younger than 12 weeks do not count toward the maximum allowances » Male goats older than 4 weeks must be neutered » Sheep and goats older than 120 days must be vaccinated for rabies and leptospirosis » No slaughtering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » If a hive is within 10 ft. of a property line, a flyway barrier is required unless the hive is at least 10 ft. off the ground » A water source must be made available between March and October » No Africanized honeybees

Regardless of your urban agriculture activities, it is always important to respect your neighbors. Maintain open communication that builds positive relationships.



CROP AGRICULTURE

Crop Agriculture includes the management and maintenance of an area of land to grow and harvest food crops and/or non-food ornamental crops, such as flowers, for personal or group use, consumption, sale, or donation. Types of Crop Agriculture include, but are not limited to, personal gardens, community gardens, market gardens, rooftop gardens, tree farms, hay meadows, or truck gardens. Standard structures used for Crop Agriculture include hoop houses, cold-frames, greenhouses, equipment or planting sheds, composting and waste bins, and rain barrels.

CROPS

(The City of Lawrence Weed Ordinance now exempts crop agriculture)

<p>WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS?</p> <p>»»</p>	<p>» Crops must be more than 1 ft. from sidewalks and may not grow over sidewalks</p> <p>» Crops may not exceed 3 ft. in height within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 ft. of a road • 3 ft. of a sidewalk • The sight distance triangle at intersections (25 ft. along each street) 	
<p>WHAT ELSE IS ALLOWED?</p> <p>»»</p>	<p>» Tools, equipment, and materials used in day-to-day crop ag operations may be stored outdoors</p> <p>» Structures (e.g. garden shed) are allowed without a principal building (e.g. house)</p> <p>» Season extension structures (e.g. cold frames, high tunnels, hoophouses, etc.) must meet building requirements outlined in 20-533 in the City Code</p>	

ON-SITE AGRICULTURAL SALES

On-site Agricultural Sales are the sale of unprocessed agricultural products grown or produced on the property, or by the resident at another location in the city. On-site Agricultural Sales are allowed in all residential, commercial, and industrial districts.

<p>WHAT IS PERMITTED?</p> <p>»»</p>	<p>» Sale of unprocessed products including plants, produce, eggs, or honey</p> <p>» Sales must occur at least 20 ft. from the road, between 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p> <p>» Sales area size is dependent on lot size: Up to 7,000 sq. ft. = 100 sq. ft. sales area; Up to 10,000 sq. ft. = 150 sq. ft. sales area; More than 10,000 sq. ft. = 300 sq. ft. sales area</p>	
<p>WHAT ELSE IS ALLOWED?</p> <p>»»</p>	<p>» Sales structures or tables must be temporary and removed when sales are not in progress</p> <p>» Signs are permitted during sales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 20 ft. from the road or attached to a building / displayed in a window • Free-standing signs cannot be more than 3 ft. high and no more than 2 sq. ft. in area 	

URBAN FARM

The approval of an Urban Farm Special Use Permit is required when onsite activities EXCEED the limits on allowed urban agriculture practices (such as larger sales, more employees, more animals, etc.). End products are typically sold on-site, off-site, or through small scale distribution. An Urban Farm typically includes employees coming to the site and may or may not include a residence.

<p>WHAT IS THE PERMIT PROCESS?</p> <p>»»</p>	<p>» Contact the City of Lawrence Planning Department to ask questions and obtain a Special Use Permit application</p> <p>» Submit completed application, review fee, and a site plan (aerial photo can be used)</p> <p>» Planning and City Commission review application at public hearing; City Commission must approve</p> <p>» Urban Farms in operation before May 2016 can register with the Planning Department for an automatic Special Use Permit</p>	
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