

CHICKENS IN DEKALB COUNTY - GUIDELINES & ORDINANCES

March, 2013

Unincorporated DeKalb – Chickens not allowed at this time unless residents have more than 2 or more acres of land. If you do have enough land and you want to try to raise chickens, their housing (coops) must be located a minimum of 200 ft. from the property line. DeKalb County code has been under review since 2011, when changes were recommended.

Brookhaven – no update on their rules since they newly incorporated as a city.

Chamblee – People who own 3 or more acres can raise chickens but hen houses must be located a minimum of 200 ft. from any property line and not less than 250 ft. away from houses or businesses where people reside or work.

Decatur – Voted the most chicken friendly in DeKalb! They actually have an ordinance that was written to allow chickens. Roosters are allowed too but be aware of neighbor disturbances and avoid complaints. Must supply adequate housing with a solid floor and at least 4 sq. ft. of space per bird. Housing has to be located a minimum of 75 ft. away from a neighbor's house. Birds must be confined to a fenced area – no free range chickens! Sanitation is a key issue to control odor and pests and limit complaints.

Dunwoody – Rules are up in the air. Dunwoody had an ordinance that they followed until 2010 that allowed some chickens under a permit and inspection process. Since they have incorporated as a city, some rules have changed and they have not provided an update.

Call the city offices before you decide to try to raise chickens!

Doraville – NO CHICKENS OR LIVESTOCK PERMITTED.

Ellenwood – Not incorporated as a city has a small part in DeKalb County. No chickens allowed.

Lithonia – Chickens allowed as long as they are contained. We assume that means fencing and coops? Coops must be a minimum of 250 ft. away from a house or building.

Pine Lake – Up to 30 chickens maximum if there is sufficient lot space(?). Chicken coops can be located no closer than 250 ft. from a building where people reside or work. You must provide suitable housing and a fenced run. No free range chickens and no guinea fowl are allowed.

Stone Mountain – Chickens are allowed for non-commercial purposes only. You must own **more than ONE acre** of land to have any chickens at all. Chicken coops must be located a minimum of 100 ft. from property lines.

Tucker – Chickens (hens) allowed, no roosters. Follows unincorporated DeKalb rules for coops (location, etc.), the number of birds allowed and the space required.

This information was developed from telephone surveys in 2012, but rules are constantly being reviewed and updated so check with your local government BEFORE you go to the time and expense of developing a chicken coop, etc.

NON-DEKALB residents: do not assume chickens are OK - check with local government and discuss it with neighbors to seek neighbor support prior to initiating this type of project!

This summary is strictly for educational purposes to be used in the planning process.

Provided by
DeKalb Extension
4380 Memorial Drive
Decatur, GA 30032

404-298-4080

www.ugaextension.com/dekalb

uge1089@uga.edu

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