

Backyard Poultry Compliance Form

Ellington Planning Department – 57 Main Street – 860-870-3120

The purpose of this form is to ensure that those that wish to keep backyard poultry are aware of the requirements within the Ellington Zoning Regulations. Contact information and flock information is collected at the recommendation of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Name: _____

Site Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. What is the size of your property? *The property must be greater than 20,000 square feet.*

2. How many backyard poultry do you plan to have, and what breed of poultry are they? Please be specific (i.e. 6 Rhode Island Reds). *The maximum number of backyard poultry is eight (8) of any combination of chickens, ducks, turkeys, and other birds of similar mature size, but not guinea hens, peacocks, emus, or ostriches.*

3. Will you have any roosters? *Roosters are not permitted on property which is less than 3 acres.*

4. How big will the structure(s) be for the keeping of the backyard poultry? *Structures greater than 200 square feet require permits.*

5. How far will the structures and enclosures be from the property lines? *Structures and enclosures (such as fenced areas) shall be a minimum of 20 feet from the side and rear property lines and 50 feet from the front property line, or meet the setbacks of the underlying zone (whichever is greater).*

6. Where will waste (e.g. a combination of manure and bedding) be located? *Waste shall not be located closer to property lines than the minimum setback requirements for structures and enclosures and shall not exceed 2 cubic yards at any given time.*

7. Please review Site Suitability and Impact on page 2. Will your management plan meet these requirements?

8. A sketch showing the location of poultry-keeping areas is required on a site plan of your property. Please contact the Ellington Planning Department if you need assistance.

By signing this form, you certify that you have read the regulations and understand the requirements.

Signature: _____

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Excerpt from Section 7.14.2 – Agricultural Uses from the Ellington Zoning Regulations

- E. **Keeping of Backyard Poultry:** *(Added 5-23-16, Effective 6-15-16)*
- a. **Applicability:** Backyard poultry shall include chickens, ducks, turkeys, and other birds of similar mature size, but not guinea hens, peacocks, emus or ostriches. Farms shall have no limit on the number of poultry that may be kept.
 - b. **Minimum Lot Size:** A property must be greater than or equal to 20,000 square feet in order to keep backyard poultry.
 - c. **Number of Poultry:** A property which meets the minimum lot size may keep up to a maximum of 8 backyard poultry.
 - d. **Roosters:** Roosters are not permitted on property which has less than 3 acres.
 - e. **Management:** Backyard poultry shall be suitably contained on the premises at all times. Free range backyard poultry are prohibited.
 - f. **Setbacks and Permitting Requirements:**
 - i. Structures less than 200 square feet and enclosures (such as fenced areas) for the keeping of backyard poultry shall be a minimum of 20 feet from the side and rear property lines and 50 feet from the front property line, or meet the setbacks of the underlying zone (whichever is greater). These structures and enclosures shall not require a Zoning Permit, but all owners of backyard poultry shall submit a written statement to the Zoning Enforcement Officer certifying compliance to these regulations.
 - ii. Any structure for the keeping of backyard poultry that is greater than or equal to 200 square feet shall require review in accordance with Section 7.14.2.B or Section 7.14.3.A, as applicable.
 - g. **Waste Management:** The storage and management of waste (e.g. a combination of manure and bedding) for backyard poultry shall be in accordance with the Public Health Code, as amended. In no case shall waste be located closer to property lines than the minimum setback requirements for structures and enclosures for the keeping of backyard poultry and shall not exceed 2 cubic yards at any given time.
 - h. **Site Suitability and Impact:** In order to minimize potential adverse impacts, the following shall apply:
 - i. Sites with slopes greater than 15% shall be avoided or improved to avoid heavy surface water runoff, soil erosion, sedimentation or hazardous conditions for keeping backyard poultry.
 - ii. Structures for the keeping of backyard poultry shall not be permitted directly over land containing an on-site sewage disposal system. Structures and enclosures (such as fenced areas) shall not be permitted directly over wells.
 - iii. Proper drainage shall be provided to avoid collection of water. Water shall be diverted from poultry keeping areas; however, such water shall not pollute surface or subsurface water supplies nor shall runoff be directed to neighboring properties.