LAWRENCE URBAN AG POLICY
Do you know your rights and responsibilities?

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

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So you want to GROW CROPS?

WHERE can I grow them?
- Front, back and side yards

What about public RIGHT-OF-WAYS between the sidewalk & street?
- Crops grown in public right-of-ways are considered temporary in case of City improvements
- If you live on a corner, crops in the sight distance triangle (25 ft. along each street) must not exceed 3 ft. tall

What about MAINTENANCE?
- You must prevent water and other runoff from the property
- Equipment not in use must be stored or screened off in back or side yard

What about WEEDS?
- Crop agriculture is not considered a weed
- Weeds should be kept below 1 ft. tall

Are there other LIMITATIONS?
- Plants must be at least one foot from sidewalk
- Plants within 8 ft. of the road must not be taller than 3 ft.
- Plants within 3 ft. of sidewalk must not be taller than 3 ft.
- Plants between the sidewalk and road must not be taller than 3 ft.

So you want to SELL AGRICULTURE on-site?

WHAT can I sell?
- Unprocessed, fresh crops (uncut except for harvest); horticulture products (plants to transplant); eggs; honey
- Products grown by you on-site or elsewhere in the City

Is the NUMBER of sales limited?
- No

WHEN can I sell?
- 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

WHAT about the SITE?
- The area for sales varies by lot size, ranging from 100 sq. ft. to 300 sq. ft. (see Lawrence Urban Ag website for more information)
- Any sales stand or table must be removed when you are not conducting sales

WHAT about the SIGNAGE?
- Signs must only be out during sales
- Signs must be located at least 20 ft. from the road, or placed on the house
- Signs must be no larger than 2 sq. ft. and must be less than 3 ft. tall

Can I do MORE?
- May require approval of a Special Use Permit (see pg. 11)

Can OTHERS sell at my stand?
- No – only you can sell items you produce at your site
- Consider a farmers’ market if you want to sell with others
So you want to raise CHICKENS or DUCKS?

Do I need a PERMIT or registration?

How MANY do you intend to keep?

MORE than 20

Requires approval of a Special Use Permit (see pg. 11)

FEWER than 20

1 bird per 500 sq. ft. of lot area

What is PROHIBITED?

• No roosters; hens only
• No slaughter
• No bad odors

Where am I allowed to keep FOWL on my property?

• Chickens or ducks must be kept at established homes or businesses; they may not occupy a site alone

• A COOP is required:
  - Must be positioned at least 5 ft. from adjacent properties
  - Must provide 1 laying box for every 3 hens, and one roost per hen (does not apply to ducks)
  - May not be in front yard
  - Must be a minimum of 3 sq. ft. per bird with an outdoor run, or 10 sq. ft. per bird if no enclosed outdoor run is provided
  - Must be sturdy (able to keep predators out) and well-maintained

1 bird per 500 sq. ft. of lot area
So you want to keep BEES?

I'm interested in WILD POLLINATORS

Consider a bee hotel:
• Provides temporary housing for wild pollinators
• Easy to build; easy to maintain
• Permitted without restriction in the City of Lawrence

I'm interested in HONEY production

Do I need a PERMIT or registration?
No, but if any hives are not kept on your own property, you must include your name and phone number on the hive(s)

How MANY hives can I have on my lot?
• 2 hives for every ¼ acre, not to exceed 8 hives
• Hives may not be larger than 20 cu. ft.

What about the BEES?
• Provide water March – October
• No Africanized honey bees
• If defensive behavior develops, you must requeen the colony

Where am I allowed to keep HIVES on my property?

• Hives must be placed at least 3 ft. from property lines
• If hives are within 10 ft. of the property line, a flyway barrier (at least 6 ft. tall, extending 10 ft. in both directions from the hive, vegetative and/or solid) must be provided.
• Hives may be kept on rooftops, in side yards, and in backyards
• Hives must be placed at least 25 ft. from the main building on neighboring lots
• Hives must be placed at least 10 ft. from sidewalks
So you want to raise GOATS or SHEEP?

What SPECIES?
- Only small or dwarf species permitted
- Must not be taller than 24" at the withers when grown

Do I need a PERMIT?
- No, but animals older than 120 days require vaccinations for rabies and leptospirosis

How MANY can I keep?
- Minimum of 2; lot must be 10,000 sq. ft.
- Up to 4 on lots bigger than 20,000 sq. ft.
- Nursing offspring/under 12 weeks do not count

What about MALES?
- Males older than 4 weeks must be neutered

Can I process them for MEAT?
- Slaughtering on-site is NOT permitted, but you may seek out a licensed processor to butcher, smoke, or otherwise process meat

Where am I allowed to keep GOATS/SHEEP on my property?
- Miniature goats and sheep must be kept at established homes or businesses; they may not occupy a site alone
- A structure is required:
  - Must be at least 15 ft. from property lines
  - Must be located at least 50 ft. from neighboring homes
  - Must provide at least 10 sq. ft. of indoor living space for each animal and include a fenced, open area that provides at least 150 sq. ft. per animal
  - Must be located in a back or side yard – not in front yard
- Keeping more animals requires approval of a Special Use Permit (see pg. 11)
- If space is not well-maintained, animals may be removed
So you want to have an URBAN FARM?

The approval of an Urban Farm Special Use Permit is only required when on-site activities EXCEED the urban ag activities allowed by-right in Lawrence (such as larger sales, more employees, or more animals).

WHAT do you want to do?

- Keep ANIMALS
- SELL crops or products
- Have more than 1 full-time EMPLOYEE

- ONLY permitted on property zoned RS40
- See Page 3

- Must have 1 parking spot per employee during largest shift
- Likely requires approval of an Urban Farm Special Use Permit (see pg. 11)

HOW DO I APPLY for an Urban Farm Special Use Permit?

VISIT lawrencesks.org/urban-ag or CALL 785-832-3150

How is your lot ZONED?

- RESIDENTIAL: RS40, RS20, RS10, RS7
- INDUSTRIAL: IL, IM, IG

You are eligible to seek approval for an Urban Farm Special Use Permit

- Submit a completed application
- Application reviewed by Planning Commission at public hearing
- Application approved by City Commission at public hearing
- Must include: • Review fee • Site plan (can use aerial photo)

You are not eligible for an Urban Farm

- Ask questions and verify your eligibility

I don't know

- Look it up at lawrencesks.org/city_maps/#interactive
  1) Click on Layers List;  2) Select Zoning Layer;  3) Find your property

Yes

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The City of Lawrence has approved a series of policies to support urban agriculture, expanding the ability of residents to responsibly produce local, healthy food at home and creating opportunities to pursue commercial production.

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

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

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