

**WALKER TOWNSHIP  
HUNTINGDON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-5**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WALKER, HUNTINGDON  
COUNTY, PA AMENDING THE WALKER TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE  
SECTION 401.35 “REGULATIONS GOVERNING AGRICULTURE”**

WHEREAS, the Township of Walker Township, Huntingdon County, PA (the “Township”) has enacted the Walker Township Zoning Ordinance in March of 2006 (the “Zoning Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, there is an interest in allowing chickens and ducks to be kept on certain properties in the Township;

WHEREAS, the Township has concluded that amendments to Section 401.35 of the Zoning Ordinance are necessary and appropriate.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Walker, County of Huntingdon and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by and with the authority of the same as follows:

**Section 1:     REGULATIONS GOVERNING AGRICULTURE AMENDMENTS**

Section 401.35 is amended to read as follows:

- A. No retail or commercial activity shall take place other than the storage, processing and sale of farm products or their accessory products on the property where produced.
- B. Roadside stands for the sale of farm-produced products must have a minimum setback of twenty-five (25) feet from the street or road right-of-way.
- C. No farm livestock shall be kept in a building, pen or containment, any part of which is closer to the nearest lot line than three hundred feet (300’). No garbage or refuse, other than produced on the premises shall be used, dumped, or stored. Intensively used facilities, such as feed lots or similar uses, shall be set back at least five hundred feet (500’) from the nearest lot line.
- D. All farms, including those limited to the care of animals for personal use, such as horseback riding, shall be at least five (5) acres in size.
- E. Any lot less than five (5) acres in size will be permitted to have one (1) horse for personal use in the Conservation (A1), Residential Suburban (RS), Residential Urban (RU),

Village (V), or Residential Professional Office (RPO) districts, with a minimum lot size of 1 ¾ acres and an additional two (2) acres for each horse thereafter. Any horse barn, manure storage areas or stable shall be located within the side or rear yards and must be at least 75 feet (75') from the nearest lot line. No horse barn, manure storage areas or stable will be permitted in the front yard.

#### F. CHICKENS AND DUCKS

The purpose of this section is to establish regulations for the keeping of domesticated, chickens and ducks, as an "Permitted Use" in the Conservation (A1), Residential Suburban (RS), Residential Urban (RU), Village (V), or Residential Professional Office (RPO) districts with a minimum lot size of ¾ acres or more. Properties with a lot size less than ¾ acres, are not permitted to keep any chickens and/or ducks or other fowl. Properties with a lot size greater than two (2) acres, shall be allowed to increase the number of chickens and/or ducks as noted in this section.

#### DEFINITIONS

CHICKEN - Common domestic fowl (*Gallus domesticus*) or its young.

COOP - Fully enclosed and covered henhouse providing a predator-resistant shelter, ventilated, provides adequate sun/shade and all-season protection from the elements, and is designed to be easily accessed and cleaned where chickens and/or ducks live.

RUN - A covered, secure enclosure that allows chicken hens or ducks access to the outdoors.

RUNWAY - A fully enclosed, fenced area connected to the coop.

CHICKEN TRACTOR - A movable fully enclosed structure commonly used for pastured chicken hens that graze on fresh grass daily. The chicken tractor is moved every day as needed for the chicken hens to have fresh grass. Chicken tractors can be used as permanent or temporary housing for chicken hens and is considered a type of chicken/duck coop.

DUCK - Any breed of domestic duck of the Anatidae family, excluding swans and geese.

HEN - A female adult chicken.

ROOSTER - A male adult chicken.

#### GENERAL

The keeping of chickens or ducks shall be kept for personal use only. No sales of eggs, chickens, chicks, ducks, or fertilizer is permitted.

No pigeons, pheasants, swans, geese, or other fowl, except for chickens/ducks as noted in this section, is permitted on any lot less than two (2) acres in size.

There shall be no more than six (6) (combined total) chickens and/or ducks on any lot consisting of ¾ acres to 2 acres. Only hens are permitted. Roosters are not permitted under any circumstances on lots less than two (2) acres. Male and female ducks are permitted. Only non-flying duck species, such as Pekins and Khaki Campbells, are acceptable.

There shall be no more than fifteen (15) (combined total) of any fowl on any lot consisting of two (2) acres to five (5) acres. Roosters are permitted on lot size of two (2) acres or more.

Only one (1) unit consisting of a coop, run, runway, and chicken tractor is permitted on a lot. A chicken tractor may be temporarily relocated from the permanently installed unit.

The coop, run, runway, chicken tractor, and surrounding areas must be maintained in good condition and free from trash, accumulated droppings, and shall be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent odor and/or unsanitary conditions. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.

All animal byproducts and waste must be collected and removed on an as needed basis. Chicken/duck manure and/or used bedding may be composted on the property, however; no animal and/or byproducts is permitted to enter any Walker Township's storm water system/sewer.

Chickens and/or ducks will always have food, clean water, and adequate bedding. All feed must be maintained in a sealed container to avoid infestation by rodents, wild birds, and predators.

Ducks must be provided with a clean supply of water in a pond, wading pool, tub or other container that is large enough for a duck to fit its entire body in and deep enough to submerge its head.

All chickens/ducks must be confined within the property owner's lot.

All coops and accessories may be inspected by the Walker Township Code Enforcement Officer at any time.

#### LOCATION OF COOPS, RUNS, RUNWAYS, AND CHICKEN TRACTORS

All coops, runs, runways, and chicken tractors must be at least ten feet (10') from the side property line and ten feet (10') from the rear property line and be located within the side or rear yards. No coops or any accessories will be permitted within the front yard.

#### COOPS SHALL

Must be clean, dry, and odor free, and maintained in a neat and sanitary condition so the chickens or ducks do not produce noise or odor that creates a nuisance for adjacent properties.

Coops must provide at least three (3) square feet of space per chicken/duck inhabiting the coop.

Be designed to secure chickens/ducks and be accessible for cleaning.

Be impermeable to rodents, wild birds, and predators, including dogs and cats.

Provide adequate sun, shade, and ventilation.

Coops may be either commercially built or built by the owner in compliance with this section. The use of scrap, waste board, or similar material is prohibited. All coops are considered an “Accessory Structure” and will require a zoning permit.

**RUNWAYS SHALL**

Be attached to the coop and provide at least ten (10) square feet per chicken/duck.

Must be covered with wire, aviary netting, or solid roofing to keep predators from accessing the area.

Be accessible by the chickens/ducks from the coop when the chickens/ducks are not secured in the coop.

**Section 3: ALL OTHER PROVISIONS REMAIN**

All other provisions of the Walker Township Zoning Ordinance, as amended, not otherwise inconsistent with this Amendment, shall not be in any way impacted by this Amendment and shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 4: EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after passage.

**ENACTED AND ORDAINED** at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Walker held this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF WALKER:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

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Chairman

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Vice-Chairman

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Supervisor