

**Livestock Ordinance
Informational Meeting
March 25, 2011**

1. *How will the new regulations be enforced? i.e. By whom?*

Sanitarians from the Middletown Health Department will enforce ordinance.

2. *How much land must you own to have chickens?*

There is no lot size minimum, you must simply maintain proper separation distance...25 feet from property line and 100 feet from neighboring houses.

3. *Explain "registered" farms?*

A registered farm would be considered as a farm registered with the State of CT, FFA or Assessor's Office as 490 class land or any other registration. A farm does not have to be registered to be considered a farm.

a. *Are existing farms exempt?*

Yes.

b. *Why not mention PA (Public Act) 490 directly in the ordinance?*

Public Act 490 is a use assessment status used by the Tax Assessor's Office. Designation stays with your property forever even during the time of sale, unless changed by owner or there is a change of use.

4. *If you're an existing farm, are you exempt? Is it going to be written in the ordinance?*

Yes, it already is written in the ordinance in the first paragraph.

5. *Want to address the definition of farming?*

A property that uses Best Management Practice to raise livestock or practices other agricultural applications.

6. ***What is going to be the process for changing the ordinance? And how will farmers be included?***

- Director of Health
- Board of Health Advisory Review
- Ordinance Study
- Council

The Middletown Health Department is always working on progress. Farmers and all members of the public are always welcome to attend the Board of Health meeting or contact the Health Department with questions and concerns.

7. ***If it's not possible to locate a chicken coop at the appropriate distance from a property line, can an exception be granted if neighbors are okay with the keeping of chickens on an adjacent property?***

Yes.

a. Can manure be composted on site for use in a garden?

Yes, just use best management practice; see section D of the Code of Ordinance.

b. Is there a minimum size lot for keeping?

There is no lot size minimum, you must simply maintain proper separation distance...25 feet from property line and 100 feet from neighboring houses.

c. If chickens are locked up at night or when owners aren't home, can they be allowed to walk in an unfenced area if supervised?

Yes, provided they comply with the ordinance.

d. Do the regulations apply to all areas of Middletown?

Yes, there are no agricultural zones in Middletown.

8. ***Can we have a separate ordinance for hens?***

No, the ordinance includes hens.

9. *I have a horse farm that borders another horse farm; do we have to stay 25 feet apart from the property line?*

No.

10. *What is the purpose of the 25 feet limit from property lines?*

The Middletown Health Department and the Board of Health researched surrounding town ordinances which varied from 50-60 feet. It was decided that 25 feet would be more convenient for all involved.

11. *Are you able to keep your own ducks, chickens, or livestock i.e. miniature goats within 200 feet of your own house?*

Yes, 200 feet regulation no longer an issue.