

ZONING APPLICATION **REGISTRATION FOR CHICKENS OR BEES**

Borough of Oxford

PO Box 380, 1 Octoraro Alley, Oxford, Pennsylvania 19363

Phone: 610-932-2500

Email: codesadmin@oxfordboro.org

Fax: 610-932-8119

2026

**** Registration for the Keeping of Chickens or Bees in the Borough of Oxford –
Permitted in accordance with
Ordinance Chapter 27~Part 2 & Part 3**

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

ADDRESS: _____ ZONING DISTRICT: _____

LOT SIZE: _____ S.F. PARCEL #: _____

RESIDENT INFORMATION:

OWNERS NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

Owners Signature: _____

TENANT NAME: (if not owner occupied) _____ PHONE #: _____

Signature _____

_____ CHICKENS _____ Max Number of Chickens allowable per Ordinance

_____ BEES _____ Max number of Hives allowable per Ordinance

I have read the Ordinance guidelines and agree to comply:

Applicant's Signature

Date

REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00

Make checks payable to "Borough of Oxford"

Approved: Y N Date _____ Zoning Officer/Codes Office Signature _____

Permit # _____ Issue Date _____ Permit Fee \$ _____

Date Paid _____ Check# _____ Credit Cash

CHAPTER 27 ~ Section 2-204 (Bees) Specific Requirements:

1. Flyaway Barrier. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, in each instance where a colony is kept less than 25 feet from a property line of the lot upon which the apiary is located, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six feet in height between the hive entrance and the property it faces. The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof, such that bees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony. If a flyway barrier of dense vegetation is used, the initial planting may be four feet in height, so long as the vegetation normally reaches six feet in height or higher. The flyway barrier must continue parallel to the apiary lot line for 10 feet in either direction from the hive or contain the hive or hives in an enclosure at least six feet in height. A flyway barrier is not required if the property adjoining the apiary lot line is undeveloped, or is zoned agricultural or industrial, or is outside of the Borough limits, or is a wildlife management area or naturalistic park land with no horse or foot trails located within 25 feet of the apiary lot line.
2. No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of colonies on any lot within the Borough, based upon the size or configuration of the apiary lot:
 - A. One-half acre or smaller lot: two colonies.
 - B. Larger than one-half acre but smaller than three-quarters of an acre lot: four colonies.
 - C. Larger than three-quarters of an acre lot but smaller than one acre lot: six colonies.
 - D. Larger than one acre but smaller than five acres: eight colonies.
 - E. Larger than five acres: no restriction.
3. Regardless of lot size, so long as all lots within a radius of at least 200 feet from any hive, measured from any point on the front of the hive, remain undeveloped, there shall be no limit on the number of colonies permitted to be kept. No grandfathering rights shall accrue under this subsection.
4. If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm or swarms of honeybees from locations where they are not desired, the beekeeper shall not be considered in violation of the portion of this Part limiting the number of colonies if he temporarily houses the swarm on the apiary lot in compliance with the standards of practice set out in this Part for no more than 30 days from the date acquired.

CHAPTER 27 ~ Section 2-304 (Chickens) Specific Requirements:

1. Number and Type of Chickens Allowed.
 - A. There shall be no more than four chickens per 20,000 square feet of lot area.
 - B. The maximum number of chickens for any property, regardless of size, shall be 20 chickens.
 - C. No chickens shall be permitted on properties with less than 20,000 square feet of lot area.
 - D. Only female chickens are allowed. There is no restriction on chicken species. Male chickens, or roosters, are prohibited and may be removed by the Code Enforcement Officer.
2. Sanitary Requirements. All owners of chickens within the Borough are hereby required to house the same at all times under sanitary conditions and free from offensive odors so that the keeping of chickens shall not become either a public or private nuisance. The following provisions apply:
 - A. Chicken areas shall be well-drained and clean at all times, offer access to living vegetation, be resistant to erosion by activities of the birds, and provide access to water, shelter and feeding areas.
 - B. The henhouse and outdoor enclosure must be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent the accumulation of waste.
 - C. Waste must be managed through proper use and disposal of bedding materials and henhouse design. Bedding must be kept in a dry, mold-free, friable condition, and replenished as necessary.
 - D. All chicken feces accumulated on private property shall be removed by using the approved sanitary method of double bagging and placing in the trash for collection unless composted as provided for in Subsection 3 below.
 - E. Chicken feces on private property shall not be allowed to accumulate to the degree that it becomes a public health nuisance or hazard. In cases where chicken feces do accumulate on private property, the Code Enforcement Officer or its designee may conduct an investigation, after which the accumulation may be declared a public health hazard or nuisance, and the owner shall be ordered to remove and dispose of the accumulated feces in an approved manner. The order to remove such accumulated feces shall be given personally to the owner or shall be sent by registered mail, and the owner shall be given a period of 48 hours from the date and time of receipt of the order to clean the property and remove the accumulated feces.
3. Composting. It shall be unlawful for any person to spread or cause to be spread or deposited any chicken manure upon any ground or premises within the Borough. However, chicken manure may be composted on the property where the chickens are housed in a closed composting container and the composted material then applied to gardens or yards.