

**TOWN OF BELLE PLAINE**  
**DEFINITIONS OF COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT FOR**  
**KEEPING CHICKENS IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 08-23**

**A. Chickens shall be contained within a secure outdoor enclosed area.**

1. The enclosed area shall include a covered, ventilated, and predator resistant chicken coop.
2. Coops shall provide space for chickens to roost.
3. Chickens are not allowed to free range.
4. Coops, cages & runs shall be maintained in sanitary condition & cleaned as necessary to prevent offensive odor at property line of adjacent parcels.

**B. Setbacks.**

1. Pens on lake side lots need to be on the other side of the road.
2. For side yard setbacks coops must be 25 feet from any house used for human habitation including neighbor's residential dwelling.

**C. Number of chickens allowed.**

1. No more than ten (10) hens shall be allowed for each single-family dwelling.
2. Roosters are not allowed. Newly hatched roosters shall be removed within 5 months of hatch (or within 2 weeks of when they begin crowing).

**D. Related poultry guidelines.**

1. Resident must pay to the Town of Belle Plaine a one-time licensing fee of \$20.00, which lasts for as long as you live at that property. If you move to a different property in Belle Plaine you will need to apply for a new license.
2. Chicken feed must be stored in rodent and predator resistant containers.
3. Feeders shall be suspended rather than placed on the ground to minimize attracting rodents.
4. Slaughtering of birds is permitted but must be conducted out of the view of neighbors.

**E. Grandfather clause**

When this ordinance is published it will come into effect, at that time any complaints from residents that have neighbors not in compliance of this ordinance will be followed up on. If the board believes conditions need to be updated the owners may need to become compliant or the town can refer to our Public Nuisance Ordinance 30-92, **Section Two (A) and (B) (3) and Section C (9)** which pertains to possible reasons for complaints. **Section 5. Abatement of Public Nuisances, Section 6. Costs of Abatement and Section 7. Enforcement Provisions**, also located in the Public Nuisance Ordinance 30-92 pertaining to enforcing this ordinance.

**CHICKEN ORDINANCE NO. 08-23**

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023

Town of Belle Plaine

By Alvin Bartz  
Alvin Bartz, Town Chairman

Attest Kristine Vomastic  
Kristine Vomastic, Town Clerk