

**CITY OF EMMONS
FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE # 82**

AN ORDINANCE FOR KEEPING BACKYARD CHICKENS OR QUAIL WITHIN CITY LIMITS

The City Council of Emmons, Minnesota, ordains that:

Section I - Chickens and Quail.

Certain Chickens and Quail are allowed by permit only. Only female chickens/quail may be kept. No ducks, geese, turkeys, peafowl, crowing hens may be kept. No roosters are allowed. No other bird species shall be kept. No more than 10 hens total are permitted to be kept on parcels that are less than ten acres in size, provided that the owner obtains a backyard chicken/quail permit from the City. Chickens or Quail are not allowed on properties with two or more dwelling units. The owner of the birds must live in the dwelling on the property. Birds must not be raised or kept for the purpose of fighting. No permit will be granted by the city to keep any birds within a dwelling. The raising of birds for breeding purposes is prohibited on residentially zoned properties. No slaughtering is allowed within the city limits.

(A) Any person desiring to obtain a backyard chicken/quail permit under this subdivision must make a written application to the City Clerk on a form provided by the city and pay an application fee. Fees to be charged for the issuance of a permit to keep birds shall be set by City Council on the fee schedule. The application must include a scaled diagram that shows the location of the pen including the distance of the pen from adjoining structures and property lines and the pen's dimensions.

(B) All initial permits will expire on December 31st in the year of issuance unless sooner revoked. Renewal permits are due January 1st of each year and shall expire on December 31st of that year unless sooner revoked.

(C) A permit is subject to all terms and conditions of this section and any additional conditions deemed necessary by the city to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Private restrictions such as covenants take precedence over the permit. A permit issued to a person whose premises are subject to covenants that prohibit the keeping of birds is subject to be voided. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restrictions is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

(D) The City may revoke a permit for failure to comply with provisions of this section or any of the permit's conditions. Prior to revoking a permit, the city shall provide the owner with notice of the revocation and an opportunity to appeal the revocation to the city council.

(E) The city may inspect the premises for which a permit has been granted in order to ensure compliance with this subdivision at any time. If the city is not able to obtain the occupant's consent to enter the property, it may seek an administrative search warrant.

(F) All birds must be kept in an enclosed pen. Coops must possess proper ventilation, be predator-proof, and have a design that facilitates easy cleaning. The living area must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, devoid of all rodents and vermin and free from objectionable odors at all times. Waste must be disposed of on a regular basis. Grains and feed must be stored in rodent/raccoon-proof containers inside of a structure. The enclosed pen must be maintained in good condition and be sufficient

in strength and size to allow the birds to move about, but also able to prevent escape. The enclosed pen must have a minimum square footage of four feet per animal but must not exceed 120 square feet nor 6 feet in height. Stationary coops must be raised 4-6 inches off the ground. The enclosed pen must be located in the backyard and set back at least 30-feet from any residential dwelling on any adjacent lot and at least 10-feet from the property lines.

(G) No person shall allow any chicken/quail under his or her ownership or control to violate nuisances listed in Ordinance #80, Title IX, Chapter 91.

(H) Persons that intend to no longer keep birds on their premises shall notify the City Clerk. If there is a pen, it must be removed within 30 days upon expiration of the permit.

(I) Dead birds must be disposed of according to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health rules which require chicken/quail carcasses to be disposed of as soon as possible after death, usually within forty-eight (48) to seventy-two (72) hours. Legal forms of chicken/quail carcass disposal include offsite burial, offsite incineration or rendering, or offsite composting.

Section 2 - Violations and/or penalties.

(A) Any person violating any sections of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

(B) If any person is found guilty by a court for violation of this Ordinance, their permit to own, keep, harbor, or have custody of non-domestic animals and fowl shall be deemed automatically revoked and no new permit may be issued for a period of one (1) year.

(C) Any person violating any conditions of this permit shall reimburse the City for all costs borne by the City to enforce the conditions of the permit including but not limited to the pickup and impounding of birds or the removal of coops.


This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of passage, approval and publication according to law. Any other ordinance that is inconsistent with this ordinance is hereby repealed.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Emmons the 9th day of June, 2025



David Bosma, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lorry Zasada, Clerk — Treasurer

(seal)

CITY OF EMMONS CHICKEN/QUAIL PERMIT

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

PID#: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ PERMANENT PEN: Include diagram indicating pen dimensions and location, including distance from adjoining structures and property lines.

_____ MOVEABLE PEN: Size: _____

_____ NUMBER OF HENS (LIMIT 10)

_____ \$25 PERMIT FEE PER YEAR

I will at all times keep the birds in accordance with the City of Emmons Ordinance #82 and understand failure to obey such conditions will constitute a violation of the provisions of this ordinance and be grounds for cancellation of the permit. If I will no longer be keeping birds, any pen will be removed upon expiration of the permit or within 30 days of ceasing to use the pen, whichever is earlier. Premises subject to private restrictions and/or covenants that prohibit the keeping of fowl shall void any permit issued.

This permit may be revoked or suspended for violation of Ordinance #82, following written notice and allowing applicant opportunity to appeal the revocation to the City Council.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

*****FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY*****

Inspection Date: _____ Approved _____ Denied _____

Permit Fee Paid: _____ Check: _____ Cash: _____

Inspector Signature: _____

Permit Expiration: December 31, _____