



The Keeping of Livestock in Foothills County

Land Use Bylaw Regulations & Applications

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AGRICULTURAL GENERAL means systems of tillage and animal husbandry which involve methods used on large areas of land for the raising of crops or the rearing of livestock (provided that the density of the operation does not exceed 1 animal unit per 3 acres of land) either separately or in conjunction with one another in unified operations and includes buildings and other structures incidental to the agricultural operation except where the intent of the building or structure is to be used as an “arena, private”, “arena, limited public”, or “arena, commercial.”

AGRICULTURAL (INTENSIVE USE) means systems of tillage and animal husbandry which involve concentrated methods used on areas of land to raise crops or keep livestock, poultry, and other animals, or their products for market, and includes intensive livestock operations, intensive swine operations, intensive poultry operations, and intensive vegetative operations.

LIVESTOCK means animals kept or raised for use, for profit, or for pleasure; including but not limited to: beefalo, buffalo, camels, cattle, elk, goats, horses, llamas, mules, rabbits, sheep, poultry, swine, and, zebras.

More information on agricultural use and livestock regulation can be found in Section 10.1 of this bylaw.

- The keeping of livestock shall not be permitted on parcels less than three (3) acres in size.
- The keeping of more than three (3) animal units on parcels between three (3) and nine (9) acres and/or the keeping of more than one animal unit per three (3) acres in excess of nine (9) acres will require a Development Permit.
- Table 10.1 A outlines the number of animals equivalent to one animal unit for the purposes of this Bylaw.

Please note: Backyard Hens are not included as Livestock Animal Units as they are dealt with separately in accordance with Section 10.27 of the Land Use Bylaw.

Table 10.1 A Number of Animals Equivalent to One Animal Unit

TYPE OF ANIMAL	# OF ANIMALS EQUIVALENT TO ONE
Cattle:	
Dairy Cows	1
Beef, Cows or Bulls (greater than 1,000 lbs. – may include calf at side)	1
Buffalo or Beefalo	1
Feeder Cattle (between 500 lbs. and 1,200 lbs.)	2
Replacement Heifers (between 500 lbs. and 1,000 lbs.)	2
Calves (less than 500 lbs. – excludes calves at side)	5
Swine:	
Sow, farrow to weaning (includes gilts suckling 18 kg)	2
Feeder Hogs (54 kg average)	2
Weaner Hogs (less than 20 kg)	5
Poultry:	
Backyard Hens (See Section 10.27)	N/A
Chickens or Ducks	30
Geese or Turkey Hens, heavies	10
Geese or Turkey Toms, heavies	10
Geese or Turkey broilers	10
Sheep:	
Rams or Ewes plus Lambs at side	5
Lambs	12
Horses:	
Horse (1 year and older)	1
Mare with Foal	1
Weanling	2
Miniature	4

Table 10.1 A Number of Animals Equivalent to One Animal Unit Cont'd

Miscellaneous:	
Donkeys	2
Mules	1
Elk, Bulls	3
Elk, Cows	4
Elk, Calves	12
Llamas	5
Alpaca	6
Goats	5
Ostriches	3
Emu	7
Rabbits	40
NOTE: The Approving Authority may determine the number of animals equivalent to one animal unit for any kind of animal not named above.	

INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS:

It may be possible to address and increase the permitted number of animals through application for a Development Permit for an intensive livestock use. Prior to application with the County, you must first determine if your proposed operation falls under Provincial guidelines for Confined Feeding Operations, by contacting the area Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) office.

Please note that applicants must ensure that they meet the following requirements, found under Section 10.1 of the Land Use Bylaw for the Development Authority to consider approving an application:

1. A Development Permit is required for all intensive livestock operation whether such operations involve a new facility or expansion of an existing facility.
2. A new intensive livestock operation or an expansion of an existing intensive livestock operation and related short-term manure storage should be setback a minimum of 150 meters (492.13 feet) from neighboring dwellings. In determining the extent of the setback, the distance shall be measured from the neighboring dwelling (not the property line of the lot upon which it is located) to the point closest to the intensive livestock operation, including related manure storage facilities. Activities associated with the intensive livestock operation or related short-term manure storage, such as feed handling and storage, office, water supply, and land upon which manure is spread shall not be considered part of the intensive livestock operation or related short-term manure storage for the purposes of determining the minimum setback limit.
3. A facility for the short-term storage of manure must be setback a minimum of 100 meters (328 feet) from any spring or water well and 30 meters (99 ft.) from an open body of water. The Approving Authority may consider a variance to the setback based upon circumstances particular to a specific application.
4. If there is a concern with the environmental impact of an agricultural intensive use, the Development Permit application will be referred for comment to Alberta Environmental Protection, the Regional Health Authority and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.
5. It is the responsibility of the owner and operator of any agricultural intensive use to ensure that all manure storage facilities are designed and constructed to avoid contamination of groundwater, prevent contaminated surface water from leaving the property, and reduce odor nuisance.
6. The owner and operator of an intensive livestock operation shall be required to satisfy the Development Authority that sufficient land is available for the use of the manure produced by the operation.
7. In no circumstances shall a new or expanded intensive livestock operation be permitted within 122m (400 ft.) from a watercourse or water body which is not entirely surrounded by the lot or lots on which the operation is located, unless suitable containment facilities are constructed to the satisfaction of the Approving Authority.
8. All intensive use applications must comply with all applicable provisions of the Agricultural Operations Practices Act, Code of Practice.
9. Seasonal feeding or wintering livestock between November 1 and May 31 are to be considered under the intensive use requirements.
10. If approved, the Development Authority may impose more restrictive conditions on approval of an application for a Development Permit for an intensive Agricultural Operation than those set out above.