

1 Village of West Winfield  
2 Proposed Local Law #2 – 2026

3  
4 Control of Farm Animals

5 **Purpose.**

6 The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the conditions for the keeping of farm animals or fowl  
7 so as to protect the residents of the Village of West Winfield from nuisance and to maintain  
8 compatibility with suburban life.

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10 **Keeping of farm animals or fowl.**

11 It shall be unlawful for any person except as provided herein, to keep or maintain, any farm animal  
12 or fowl within the Village of West Winfield. For purposes of this article, ***the definition of*** farm animals  
13 shall include, ***but shall not be limited to***, cows, cattle, horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, pigs, goats and  
14 sheep, Fowl includes, ***but is not limited to***, chickens, roosters, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea hens and  
15 pheasants. Other animals or fowl usually known as "farm animals" but not solely limited to the  
16 aforementioned and not including common household pets.

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18 **Prohibited farm animals.**

19 Farm animals are prohibited in the Village of West Winfield, ***and Fowl may be maintained on***  
20 ***residential property zoned for single-family residences, subject to the restrictions contained in this***  
21 ***ordinance.***

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23 **Existing properties currently harboring fowl**

- 24 A. **A permit must be obtained within 30 days of the enactment of this law.**
- 25 B. Anyone currently having roosters in their existing flock ***shall have*** six months from the date  
26 of enactment of this ordinance to comply with all provisions therein.
- 27 C. Anyone not complying with this provision shall be subject to a \$150 fine and its further  
28 compliance is not met within 15 days then a fine of \$300 per week shall be levied until  
29 compliance is met or flock is eliminated.

32 **Keeping of fowl hens.**

33 The owner or primary occupant of any dwelling may be permitted to keep on the lot containing the  
34 dwelling chickens (hens only), turkeys (hens only), or other fowl, provided that a fowl permit be  
35 obtained from the Village office by anyone currently harboring fowl. **Any resident wishing to** harbor  
36 fowl **shall be subject to the** following conditions:

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- 38 A. The maximum number of hens shall be six (6) per property.
- 39 B. **Roosters:** Male fowl **over four months of age cannot be kept** within the Village West  
40 Winfield. No person shall keep any rooster (male chicken) or Tom turkeys;
- 41 C. **Cleanliness:** It is **mandatory to maintain cleanliness and sanitation** in all coops, runways, and  
42 premises where fowl are kept. The hens shall be provided with a secure, clean, covered, well-  
43 ventilated enclosure that is secure from predators and is cleaned regularly to prevent the  
44 accumulation of animal waste, feathers, and uneaten food, **and it shall be the obligation of**  
45 **the keeper of any livestock, poultry or fowl to regularly remove all waste, food, bedding,**  
46 **and other debris to prevent the accumulation of insects, rodents, or disease and to eliminate**  
47 **noxious or offensive odors.;**
- 48 D. The hens must be kept in the covered enclosure or within a fenced area, top, bottom and  
49 sides at all times. Free ranging of any fowl is not permitted within the Village of West Winfield  
50 at any time. Failure to comply with this clause will result in a \$150 fine for the first violation  
51 and a \$300 fine for each subsequent violation. Continued violations will result in the  
52 revocation of the permit.
- 53 E. No enclosure for the hens shall be located closer than 25 feet to an occupied residential  
54 dwelling on an adjoining lot; provided, however, such setback can be reduced upon  
55 submission of written permission from the owner of any adjoining dwelling(s) that is closer  
56 than 25 feet to the planned location of the hen enclosure;
- 57 F. Hens shall be fed only from a trough or appropriate container. Scattering of food on the  
58 ground is prohibited. Any feed not in use shall be kept in a sealed rat-proof container;
- 59 G. The person has obtained a permit from the Village Clerk of West Winfield and maintains a  
60 facility for keeping hens in compliance with the issuance criteria;
- 61 H. There shall be no outdoor slaughtering of hens;
- 62 I. **Restrictions in Multifamily Dwellings:** Chicken hens are not allowed in multifamily dwellings,  
63 without the owner's express written consent and of all tenants residing in the building other  
64 than the applicant.
- 65 J. All hens are subject to the unnecessary and unusual noises provisions set forth in noise  
66 ordinances of the Village of West Winfield; and

67 K. Any person who keeps hens under this section shall comply with all Village and New York  
68 State laws, ordinances, and regulations regarding care, shelter, sanitation, health, noise,  
69 cruelty, neglect, reasonable control, and any other requirements pertaining to the adequate  
70 care and control of animals in the Village, **and it shall be the obligation of the resident**  
71 **keeping hens under this section to make sure that the fowl do not create a nuisance.**

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73 L. **Unsanitary facilities; penalties for offenses; revocation of permit. It shall be the obligation**  
74 **of the keeper of any livestock, poultry or fowl to regularly remove all waste, food, bedding,**  
75 **and other debris to prevent the accumulation of insects, rodents, or disease and to eliminate**  
76 **noxious or offensive odors.** All facilities for keeping hens shall be open at all times for  
77 inspection by the Village Codes Officer or an agent thereof. If an inspection reveals that any  
78 provision in this article is violated, the Village Codes Officer shall give written notice to the  
79 keeper of the hens, specifying the violation and requiring that the violation be corrected  
80 within 48 hours, or within such reasonable time period as determined by the Codes Officer  
81 and as set forth in written correspondence. If the violation is not corrected within the Codes  
82 Officer shall issue a fine or the Village Clerk may revoke the specified hen permit in  
83 accordance with this article.

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85 M. If, after 48 hours or such reasonable time period as determined by the Codes Officer, the  
86 violation persists, the Codes Officer shall issue a letter stating the violation and shall issue a  
87 fine of \$150 for a first offense, and provide an additional fifteen-day period from the date of  
88 the letter to correct such violation. If a person or entity is found to be in violation of this article  
89 beyond the initial fifteen-day period or found to be in violation for a second time, the Codes  
90 Officer shall issue a letter stating the violation and impose a fine of \$300, and provide a  
91 fifteen-day period from the date of the letter within which to correct the violation. A person  
92 or entity being found in violation of this article for a third offense shall have their permit  
93 revoked.

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95 N. The Village Clerk may revoke any permit upon determining, in conjunction with the Village  
96 Codes Officer, that the facility for keeping hens no longer meets the conditions required for  
97 the issuance of a permit or that the permit was issued upon fraudulent or untrue  
98 representations or that the person holding the permit has violated any of the foregoing  
99 provisions.

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101 O. **Livestock, Poultry and Fowl at large. No person owning or in control of any livestock,**  
102 **poultry or fowl shall allow such livestock, poultry or fowl to enter or trespass upon private**  
103 **or public property without the express permission of the owner or caretaker of such**  
104 **property. Any such livestock, poultry or fowl at large may be seized and impounded.**

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106 P. ***Cruelty to Animals. No person shall beat, ill treat, torment, overload, overwork or otherwise***  
107 ***abuse an animal. No person shall cause, instigate or permit any cockfight, or other combat***  
108 ***between animals or between animals and humans. Anyone who permits such combat on***  
109 ***premises under his or her control, and any person present whether as a spectator or not at***  
110 ***such combat, shall be deemed a violator of this section and subject to punishment therefor.***  
111 ***Cruelty to animals includes confinement of an animal within or on a motor vehicle at any***  
112 ***location under such conditions as may endanger the health or wellbeing of the animal,***  
113 ***including, but not limited to, extreme temperatures, lack of food, water, or confinement***  
114 ***with a dangerous animal. Any animal control officer or peace officer is authorized to***  
115 ***remove any animal from a motor vehicle, at any location, when he or she reasonably***  
116 ***believes it is confined in such conditions as described above. Any animal so removed may***  
117 ***be taken for veterinary care if deemed necessary by law enforcement. Pursuant to the***  
118 ***veterinarian assessment of the animal may be hospitalized, euthanized or delivered to the***  
119 ***animal control shelter. The removing officer leaves written notice of such removal and***  
120 ***delivery, including the officer's name, in a conspicuous, secure location or within the vehicle.***

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122 **Poultry permit application and permit issuance.**

123 A. The West Winfield Village Clerk's office is hereby authorized and directed to establish an  
124 application and license for the keeping of hens consistent with the provisions of this article;

125 B. The application for such license must be accompanied by an application fee of \$40 and shall  
126 include the following information and documentation;

127 a. The name, phone number and property address of the applicant and the property  
128 owner, if different;

129 b. The location of the subject property;

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131 c. A description of any coops or cages that will house the hens, together with a  
132 description of any fencing, barriers or enclosures surrounding the boundaries of the  
133 property;

134 d. A scaled drawing of the property showing the precise location of cages, coops,  
135 enclosures, fences and barriers in relation to property lines and to structures on  
136 adjacent properties;

137 e. A signed statement from the property owner, if the applicant is not the property  
138 owner, granting the applicant permission to engage in the keeping of hens as  
139 described in the license application;

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- f. A signed statement from any adjoining property owner if the coop is to be located less than 25 feet from the occupied residential dwelling located on their property;
- g. Any additional information the Village Clerk and/or Village Codes Officer may require to determine whether the application and proposed keeping of hens will comply with the requirements of this article.