

1. WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

According to the American Planning Association, urban agriculture is the production of food for personal consumption, education, donation, or sale and includes associated physical and organizational infrastructure, policies, and programs within urban, suburban, and rural built environments. Types of land uses associated with urban agriculture include market/community gardens, urban farms, farmers markets, animals and beekeeping.

2. WHAT GUIDES URBAN AGRICULTURE POLICIES?

Our community has a comprehensive plan called City Plan, which sets the vision and policies for Fort Collins. In 2011, City Plan was updated and set new goals related to raising food and animals (also known as urban agriculture) in our community: permit urban agriculture in all zone districts, allow farmers markets in more zone districts, and allow a greater number and types of animals to be raised. These new standards are defined in full in our Land Use Code, fcgov.com/LandUseCode.

3. DOES MY BACKYARD OR PRIVATE GARDEN NEED AN URBAN AGRICULTURE LICENSE?

In general, no. The City currently allows for private gardens throughout Fort Collins as an accessory use (see Section 3.8.1 of the Land Use Code). If any of these practices become a principal use on the property, then an urban agriculture license would be required. For example, if your property is four acres in size and your home occupies one acre, but there is also a garden that is three acres in size, then urban agriculture has become a principal use.

4. WHAT IF I WANT TO SELL MY OWN GARDEN PRODUCE AT MY HOUSE?

Existing regulations allow for the cultivation, storage and sale of crops, vegetables, plants and flowers as an accessory use in all zone districts.

5. ARE HOAs ALLOWED TO RESTRICT URBAN AGRICULTURE?

Yes, HOAs (homeowner associations) are allowed to adopt additional regulations. You need to comply with both. Check your HOA restrictions within your covenants and restrictions documents before you begin your project.

6. WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

For general questions, questions about what is allowed in the regulations, or to obtain an urban agriculture license, call City Planning Services at 970-224-6143.

For questions about what your homeowners association allows, beekeeping regulations, or code compliance concerns, contact City Neighborhood Services at 970-224-6046.

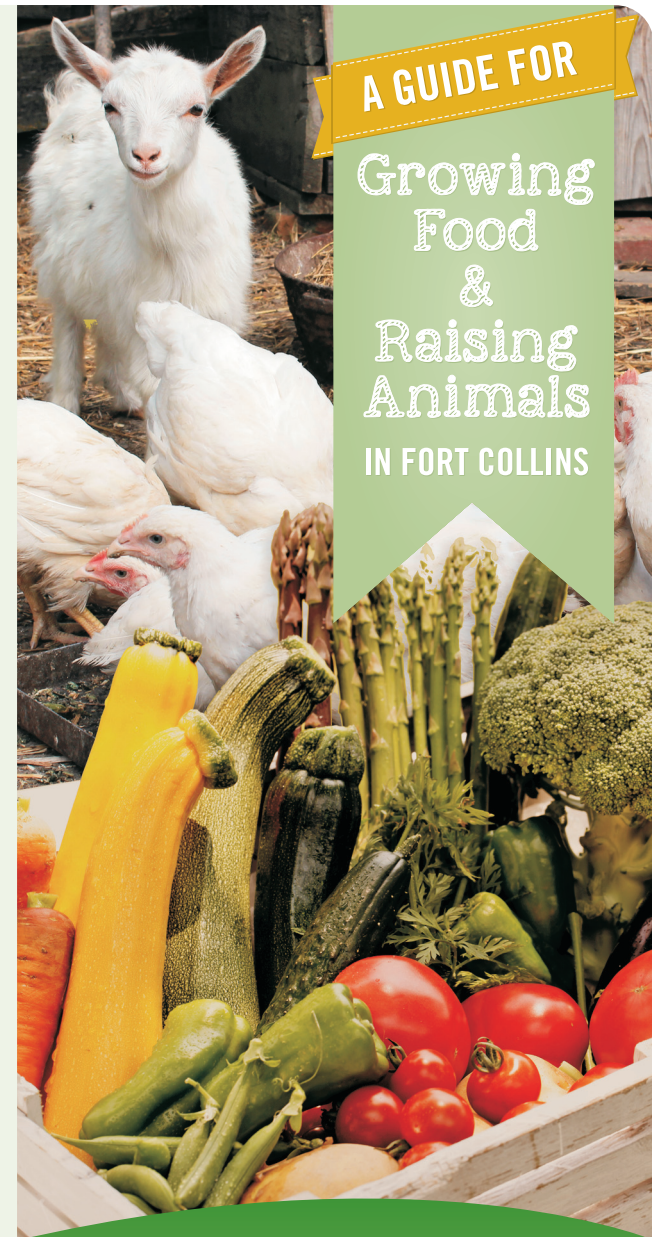
For questions about loose animals, concerns with humane treatment of animals, or to obtain a poultry or goat license, contact Larimer Humane Society at 970-226-3647, ext. 7.

For information about raising bees, visit the Northern Colorado Beekeepers Association at nocobees.org.

For information about how to get involved with the emerging Local Food Cluster and local food movement, email the Northern Colorado Local Food Cluster at nocolocalfoodcluster@gmail.com.



A GUIDE FOR Growing Food & Raising Animals IN FORT COLLINS



I want to grow produce.

Great! Is the produce for personal consumption or resale?

It's personal.

In most cases, no license is required. See #3 on the reverse side for an explanation. Please note, if you have a garden structure like a greenhouse, you might need a structure permit. See next question.

It's for resale.

Okay, then you need a license. Check out fcgov.com/UrbanAgriculture for more info and to download an application for an urban agriculture license. See next question.

Are you growing produce year round in a structure? If yes, read on.

I USE HOOP HOUSES

Hoop houses are year-round growing structures that use a semi-flexible, plastic frame covered by a flexible polyethylene film without mechanical or electric utilities.

Hoop houses do not need permits. However, if a hoop house is located on a site that requires an urban agriculture license, **the location of the hoop house must be included with your license application.**

Please contact Lindsay Ex in Planning Services at 970-224-6143 or lex@fcgov.com for more information.

I USE A MEMBRANE STRUCTURE OR A GREENHOUSE

Membrane structures are year-round growing structures using an inflexible frame, (metal or wood for example) covered by a flexible polyethylene film without mechanical or electric utilities.

Greenhouses are year-round growing structures using an inflexible frame and an inflexible cover (frequently glass) and may contain mechanical and electric utilities.

Regardless of whether you are growing personal or resale food, **both membrane structures and greenhouses require a permit if over 8 feet tall or 120 square feet in size** (multiply the structure's length by its width to get square feet). To obtain a permit, please contact Building Services at 970-221-6760.

I want to raise animals.

POULTRY

Licenses are issued through Larimer Humane Society. Chicken or duck hens (females) are allowed on any lot in city limits based on lot size.

Half acre or less up to 8 hens
Half to 1 acre up to 12 hens
Each add'l half acre up to 6 hens*

* If you have over 12 hens, you'll need to give your neighbors written notification.

BEES

Bees are allowed anywhere in city limits. All bee colonies must be kept in hives with moveable combs in good condition. You'll need to maintain a flyway barrier of at least six feet in height (for example, a privacy fence at the property line). You also must ensure a convenient water source is available.

Quarter acre or less up to 2 colonies
Quarter to half acre up to 4 colonies
Half to one acre up to 6 colonies
Over one acre up to 8 colonies

GOATS

Two Nigerian dwarf or pygmy goats are allowed on all lots within city limits. Goats are subject to certain regulations. For example, goats must be does or wethered males, and they must be vaccinated for rabies and other diseases. Contact Larimer Humane Society for complete details or to apply for a license.

OTHER FARM ANIMALS

Other farm animals are only allowed in areas zoned RUL (Rural Lands), UE (Urban Estate), RF (Foothills Residential), and RC (River Conservation). Horses are an exception, they are allowed on any lot within city limits provided each horse has a minimum of a half acre of open space.