

DRAFT

**CITY OF BLUE GRASS, IOWA
AMENDMENT 2026-02**

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6.20 Regulating the number and type of livestock and other animals within City limits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council, of the City of Blue Grass, Iowa, hereby amends the Blue Grass Municipal Code, 6.20 Regulating the number and type of livestock and other animals within City limits as follows:

Chapter 6.20

**REGULATING THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF LIVESTOCK
AND OTHER ANIMALS WITHIN CITY LIMITS**

Sections:

6.20.010	Livestock and Poultry Prohibited.
6.20.020	Agricultural Rezoned to Residential.
6.20.030	Number and Type of Animals Permitted.
ADD: 6.20.040	Hobby Farms.
ADD: 6.20.050	Penalty.
ADD: 6.20.060	Nuisance.
ADD: 6.20.070	General Regulations.
ADD: 6.20.080	Appeal.

Section 6.20.010 "A" now reads as follows:

6.20.010 Livestock and Poultry Prohibited.

- A. It shall be unlawful to maintain, keep, or harbor any cattle, swine (except Vietnamese or Asian pot-bellied pigs), sheep, llamas, horses, jacks, goats, guinea fowl, ostriches, poultry (domestic chicken, turkeys, geese and ducks), or similar domestic animals raised for home use or for profit within the City limits unless the property and the surrounding properties upon which such animals are maintained, kept, or harbored are zoned as agricultural property and must have a minimum of ten (10) acres. (Amd. 21-02, eff. 03/08/21) (Amd. 22-11, eff. 12/22/22)
- B. Any structure or enclosure for the shelter of livestock or poultry shall be located not less than one hundred feet (100') from the boundary of any R (residential) District.
- C. This section shall not apply to a bona fide zoological garden, pet shop, educational institute, circus, carnival, or veterinary hospital treating such animals. (Amd. 07-07, eff. 12/03/07)

Section 6.20.010 change "A" to read as follows:

- A. It shall be unlawful to maintain, keep, or harbor any cattle, swine (except Vietnamese or Asian pot-bellied pigs), sheep, llamas, horses, jacks, goats, guinea fowl, ostriches, poultry (domestic chicken, turkeys, geese and ducks), or similar domestic animals raised for home use or for profit within the City limits unless the property and the surrounding properties upon which such animals are maintained, kept, or harbored are zoned as agricultural property and must have a minimum of ten (10) acres **or the property is defined a Hobby Farm and meets the requirements in Section 6.20.040.** (Amd. 21-02, eff. 03/08/21) (Amd. 22-11, eff. 12/22/22)

6.20.020 Agricultural Rezoned to Residential and/or Commercial.

- A. If an owner keeps livestock on land that has been rezoned from agricultural to residential and/or commercial; he/she may continue to keep livestock as a nonconforming use until ownership of the property changes hands. (Amd. 07-07, eff. 12/03/07) (Amd. 21-02, eff. 03/08/21)

Section 6.20.030 delete "C" as follows:

6.20.030 Number and Type of Animals Permitted.

- A. It is unlawful for any person to keep or maintain at any one location within the City more than four of the following types of animals, those being dogs, cats, ferrets, and pot-bellied pigs; and of those four, no more than three shall be of the same species. This limitation applies to animals that are more than six months old or animals that are from more than one litter that are more than three months old. This limitation shall not apply to any person provided that person 1) is licensed to operate a kennel, animal shelter, pet shop, boarding kennel, commercial kennel, commercial breeder operation, veterinary hospital, zoological garden, circus, carnival, educational or medical institution, or research facility; or 2) if such animals are kept or maintained upon property zoned agricultural property with the City.
- B. Indoor pets such as gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, mice, birds, fish, snakes and reptiles, and similar animals normally maintained as pets in an enclosure inside of a dwelling are not prohibited by this section unless specifically regulated by other sections throughout the Blue Grass Municipal Code. (Amd. 07-07, eff. 12/03/07)

~~C. Livestock and poultry: if the property within the City limits meets the requirements under section 6.20.010 shall be able to maintain, keep, or harbor at any one location within the City no more than six of the combined following types of animals, those being swine (except Vietnamese or Asian pot bellied pigs), sheep, llamas, horses, jacks, goats, guinea fowl, ostriches, poultry (domestic chicken, turkeys, geese and ducks), or similar domestic animals raised for home use. This limitation applies to animals that are more than six months old or animals that are from more than one litter that are more than three months old. (added: Amd. 22-11, eff. 12/22/22)~~

Section 6.20.040 add at its entirety as follows:

6.20.040 Hobby Farm.

The definition of a Hobby Farm is a small-scale agricultural operation run for personal enjoyment, self-sufficiency, or supplemental income, rather than as a primary source of livelihood, blending rural living with activities like raising animals, growing produce, etc. Hobby Farms are mainly acreage living or rural residential and are typically smaller than commercial farms and are often managed by families.

Hobby Farms must have a minimum of ten (10) acres and zoned A-1 Agricultural District or A-2 Agricultural District surrounding properties upon which agricultural animals are maintained, kept, or harbored are zoned as agricultural property and not border to any residential property.

Any person wishing to operate as a Hobby Farm must make application for a Hobby Farm Permit upon forms provided at City Hall and provide adequate information pertaining to the intended operations of the Hobby Farm accompanied by a one-hundred-dollar (\$100.00) application fee. The City Building Inspector shall review the application and inspect the property to determine whether the application meets the requirements of Section 6.20.040. If the applicant does not meet the requirements of Section 6.20.040, the City Clerk-Financial Officer, or person designated by the Clerk, shall provide the applicant requesting to operate as a Hobby Farm the date, time and place of the City Council meeting at which meeting the Council shall consider the approval of the Hobby Farm permit. Should the applicant be denied a permit for failure to comply with Section 6.20.040, the applicant may appeal for an exemption from the City Council. All Hobby Farm Permits expire from one year to the date the City Council's decision becomes final or if the Permit Holder violates this Chapter. It is the applicant's responsibility to reapply thirty days prior to the expiration date of the Permit at which time the applicant shall complete a new application accompanied by

a one-hundred-dollar (\$100.00) application fee. There will be no refunds if the Hobby Farm disbands or the Permit Holder violates this Chapter and the application is revoked. The inspection of the property by the Building Commissioner will be conducted and results submitted to council for approval.

Livestock and Poultry shall be limited as follows:

- A. All agricultural animals harbored will maintain a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from any City street and one hundred fifty feet (150) from any neighboring residence house.
- B. No more than six (6) llamas, horses, ponies, jacks, ostriches, heifers, steers, bulls, cows, or combination thereof. This limitation applies to animals that are more than six months old or animals that are from more than one litter that are more than three months old.
- C. Small animals such as sheep and goats shall be limited to 1.25 per acre or combination thereof. This limitation applies to animals that are more than six months old or animals that are from more than one litter that are more than three months old.
- D. Poultry, guinea fowl, domestic chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks, rabbits and similar animals shall be limited to fifty (50) total animals and kept in a sheltered place.

Section 6.20.050 add at its entirety as follows:

6.20.050 Penalty. Each violation of this Chapter shall create a simple misdemeanor with a one-hundred-dollar (\$100.00) fine plus court costs. No person shall permit any animal or fowl owned or controlled to run at large within the City limits or a penalty shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of violating this Chapter and a minimum fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each such conviction.

Section 6.20.060 add at its entirety as follows:

6.20.060 Nuisance. In addition, any violation of this Ordinance may be subject to abatement as a nuisance under Title 8 Chapter 8.04 of the Blue Grass Municipal Code.

Section 6.20.070 add at its entirety as follows:

6.20.070 General Regulations. No Hobby Farm shall permit generation or emission of noise, vibration, smoke, dust, or other particulate matter, odorous matter, odoriferous matter, humidity, glare, refuse, radiation, or other objectionable emission that will be detrimental to the agricultural character of the neighborhood at any time. The Hobby Farm operation shall not infringe upon the right of neighboring residents to enjoy the peaceful occupancy of their home for the purpose the district was created and primarily intended.

Section 6.20.080 add at its entirety as follows:

6.20.080 Appeal. A neighbor who lives within three hundred feet (300) of the applicant's residence may appeal any decision made by the City Council under this Ordinance by filling out a nuisance form and file with the City Clerk-Financial Officer at City Hall stating their objection to the decision of the City Council. If a complaint falls under Chapter 8.04 (Nuisance), it will be handled in the same manner as a nuisance.

Full force and effect. This amendment shall be in full force and effect from the date of passage and publication as required by law.

Repealer. This amendment shall be construed to repeal any prior amendment inconsistent herewith.

Severability of provisions. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this amendment be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed as separate, distinct and independent provision as such holdings shall not be affected the validity of the remaining portion hereof.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Blue Grass, Iowa, this 27th day of
March, 2026.

Approved and signed by the Mayor of the City of Blue Grass, Iowa, this 27th day of
March, 2026.

Mayor Brad Schutte

Attest: _____
Ann M. Schmidt, CMC, City Clerk/Financial Officer

Date of 1st reading: 02-17-26

Date of 2nd reading: 03-02-26

Date of 3rd reading: 03-16-26

Date of Publication: 03-27-26