## Chickens in Becker Township

## Can I keep chickens in Becker

 Township? In general, yes. You need to follow the animal units ordinance.There are some areas where you cannot raise chickens due to your covenants. You can obtain a copy of the covenants from your Homeowners Association. The Township does not track these.

If you have never raised chickens before, the University of Minnesota Extension office has some helpful information on raising chickens in your backyard. https:// extension.umn.edu/small-scale-poultry/raising-chickens-eggs



## Becker Township

## Animals in the Township



## Horses in the Township

## Can I keep horses in Becker

Township? In general, as long as you have at least 2.0 acres and your covenants do not prohibit them. Horses typically count as one animal unit. If you have 4 acres, you can, generally, keep 3 horses. HOWEVER, if your property has excessive wetlands, the number of AU's allowed is typically ower. Areas of ground that are typically wet are excluded from acreage calculations for AU's.

University of Minnesota Extension office has some helpful information regarding horses: https:// extension.umn.edu/horse/horse-care-and-management

You can always contact the Town Clerk to help you determine how many animal units you may have.

The old adage, good fences make good neighbors is true. So are a few others:

- Get to know your neighbors and be friendly with them. Chances are that you are both planning to be here for a long time.
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- Don't try to cultivate animosity
- Keep animals on your own property, especially at night
- Farm fields and ditches are not for dumping your trash, clippings, branches, yard waste etc. Farm fields are for growing crops - not for riding equipment in or for taking your animals for a walk. Field accesses are not for parking cars.
- Good neighbor relations begin with you.


## Animals in Becker Township

## Fencing

No animal pen or fence shall be established or maintained within 75 feet of a neighboring property owner's primary structure (house). If there is no house at the time of building your fencing, the distance must be measured from the minimum side yard and front yard setback.

## Cats and Dogs

Cats and dogs and other domestic animals customarily kept as household pets are allowed on any size parcel without a density restriction unless kept within a commercial kennel.

Calculating Animal Units for a property:

1. What Zoning District \& are there covenants?
2. Lookup AU's allowed in your zoning district. (Section 16: General Performance Standards from Zoning Ordinance)
3. Look up the multiplier and
calculate. (Section 5: Definitions from Zoning Ordinance)

## Worksheet

1. What is the number of animal units allowed on your parcel?

2. What is the animal unit multiplier for the type of animal you plan to have on your parcel?

3. Take the number in box 1 and divide by the number in box 2 above.

4. Take the result from 3 above and round down to the
nearest whole number. Result = number of AU's allowed on your


Permitted animal unit density in the General Rural Zoning District:
Less than 2 acres:
.5 animal units
2.00 to 2.99 acres
1.0 animal units
3.00 and larger:
1.0 animal unit for the first two acres, and 1.0 animal units per full acre owned above two acres, with

$$
\text { a limit of } 20.0 \text { animal units }
$$

In the General Rural Zoning District, an animal unit density greater than those listed above or a total number of units greater than 20.0 requires a conditional use permit, with a review of existing and proposed site conditions, structures, etc.

## Some AU Multipliers from Code

 Standard Horse $=1.0 \mathrm{AU}$Miniature (<350\#) Horse $=0.33 \mathrm{AU}$
Chicken or Broiler $=0.033 \mathrm{AU}$ Pig (55-300\#) $=0.3 \mathrm{AU}$

Want a copy of the:

## Animal Units Definitions,

 Section 5: Definitions OR Section 16: General Performance
## Standards

of ordinance?

## http://beckertownship.org/

 animals-in-the-township.htmlScroll down below the graphic and there are pdf links you can open.


Or, you can either contact the clerk by

Email:
clerk@beckertownship.ors By phone:

AU = Animal Units

