

CLIMAX TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF CLIMAX TOWNSHIP,
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED
PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission of Climax Township will hold a special meeting and public hearing on Monday, June 22, 2026, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Climax Township Hall, 110 North Main St., Climax, MI 49034, to consider proposed text amendments to the Climax Township Zoning Ordinance regarding the keeping of chickens as an accessory residential use and the keeping of horses, cattle, swine, sheep and lamb in the A, R-1, and R-2 zoning district classifications. The Planning Commission may also consider such other and further matters as may lawfully come before them.

Written comments will be received concerning the above matter by the Climax Township Clerk at the Climax Township Hall at any time during regular business hours on regular business days until and including the day of the meeting, and may further be submitted to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

The proposed text amendments and the Climax Township Zoning Ordinance/Map/L and Use Plan may be examined by contacting the Climax Township Clerk at the Township Hall during regular business hours on regular business days maintained by the Township offices from and after the publication of this Notice and until and including the day of the meeting, and further may be examined at the meeting.

All interested parties are invited to be present to participate in the public hearing on the matter.

Climax Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon three day's advance notice to the Climax Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Climax Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

CLIMAX TOWNSHIP

Sara DeBoer, Township Clerk

clerk@climaxtownship.org

110 N. Main St.

Climax, MI 49034

(269) 746-4103

9.15 – KEEPING OF CHICKENS (HENS) AS AN ACCESSORY USE

A. The purpose of this section is to provide standards and requirements for the keeping of chickens. Roosters are only permitted in the Agricultural District. It is intended to enable residents to keep chickens on a non-commercial basis while limiting and mitigating any potential adverse impacts on surrounding properties and neighborhood.

B. The keeping of chickens that are utilized exclusively by the person(s) occupying a single-family dwelling as a locally grown food source for the consumption of eggs or meat, is permitted as accessory to the residential use if all of the following are satisfied:

1. This section shall only apply to all residential districts and agriculturally zoned property of five (5) acres or less:

Lot Size	Permitted Hen Total
Less than one acre	6 hens
1 acre to 1.99 acres	10 hens
2 acres to 2.99 acres	14 hens
3 acres to 3.99 acres	18 hens
4 acres to 4.99 acres	22 hens
5 acres or more	26 hens

2. Chickens shall be kept only in the rear yard secured within a coop and attached pen during non-daylight hours. During daylight hours, chickens may be allowed to roam outside of the coop and pen, if supervised, and only within an area completely enclosed by a fence with a minimum height of four feet.

3. The accessory use, coop and pen shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for chickens while minimizing adverse impacts on other residents and the neighborhood. The coop and pen shall meet the following additional requirements:

- a. The coop and pen shall be setback a minimum of ten feet from all side and rear lot lines and a minimum of 30 feet from the nearest wall of any adjacent dwelling. Additionally, a coop and pen located on a waterfront lot shall have a 40-foot rear yard setback.

- b. Chicken coops and pens shall be regulated as accessory structures and shall comply with all applicable standards.

- c. The use of corrugated metal/fiberglass, sheet metal, plastic tarps, scrap lumber or similar materials not in keeping with the appearance of other accessory buildings in the immediate area of the property as determined by the Zoning Administrator is prohibited. The coop and pen must be completely enclosed with a top and/or cover.
- d. The coop and pen may be movable only if the dimensional/setback restrictions contained in this section are satisfied.
4. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens that are likely to attract or to become infested with or infected by rats, mice or other rodents shall be protected so as to prevent rats, mice or other rodents from gaining access or coming into contact with them.
5. Waste materials (feed, manure and litter) must be disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. Piling waste materials on the property is not permitted. Litter must be kept dry.
6. Dead chickens and waste eggs must be promptly bagged and disposed of in the garbage.
7. The outdoor slaughter of chickens shall be screened from view from off the premises.
8. The accessory use shall comply with all ordinances of Climax Township pertaining to noise, odors, dust, fumes, sanitation and health or other comparable nuisances to ensure the public health, safety and welfare.
9. No person shall keep chickens without first securing a permit from the Zoning Administrator on a form provided and without paying a permit fee as established by the Township Board by resolution. The permit shall be issued by the Zoning Administrator. Such permit may be revoked by the Zoning Administrator if it is determined that any provision of this section is violated.
10. Establishment of an accessory use and/or accessory building under this section shall not confer a vested right in the provisions contained herein or a right to continue such use. Further, a permit granted under this section is personal to the applicant occupying the dwelling and is not transferable.
11. All licensing required by the State of Michigan and Kalamazoo County, as well as all other statutes, ordinances and codes, shall be satisfied.
12. No permit shall be issued by the Zoning Administrator without the written authorization from an owner of the property (if different from the applicant) consenting to the application on a form provided. Once authorization is obtained it shall continue for as long as the applicant is in possession of the property.

9.14 - KEEPING OF LARGE LIVESTOCK

The keeping of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, and lamb in the A, R-1 and R-2 zoning district classifications is permitted, except for a horse boarding or riding stable approved as a special land use, is subject to the following requirements.¹

- A. The premises shall have a lot area of at least two (2) acres.
- B. The premises shall have at least one (1) acre of pasture area per each "animal unit". The animal units are as follows:
 - 1. Slaughter and feeder cattle: 1.0
 - 2. Mature dairy cattle: 1.4
 - 3. Swine: 0.4
 - 4. Sheep and lambs: 0.1
 - 5. Horses: 1.0
 - 6. Mini Horses: .5
 - 7. Mini Cows: .5
- C. Land used as pasture area to comply with sub-part B shall include only land that is primarily used for the production of forage upon which livestock graze, and shall be characterized by a predominance of vegetation consisting of desirable forage. Sites such as loafing areas, confinement areas, feedlots, and other such areas which have livestock densities that preclude a predominance of desirable forage species from growing thereon are not considered pasture for purposes of this provision.
- D. The following facilities and areas shall be located at least the specified distance from all existing residences on adjacent properties:
 - 1. barns and shelters --- 150 feet.
 - 2. pens, paddocks, riding rings, loafing areas, and other similar areas where such livestock are confined (but not including pasture areas) --- 100 feet.
 - 3. animal waste storage areas --- 100 feet.
 - 4. pasture areas --- 50 feet.
- E. The following facilities and areas shall be located at least the specified distance from all adjoining property lines:
 - 1. pens, paddocks, riding rings, loafing areas, and other similar areas where such livestock are confined (but not including pasture areas) --- 50 feet.

¹ This section does not govern farms.

2. animal waste storage areas — 75 feet.

F. Boarded horses not owned by the property owner shall not exceed fifty percent of the horses kept on the property.