

How to Apply

Step 1

Fill out *WI Premises Registration* form (**no cost**).

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/PremisesRegistration.aspx

Step 2

Apply for an Eau Claire County license:

chickens.ehealthdepartment.org

License application **must** include:

- Number of planned poultry
- Plan to dispose of manure and other waste
- Intended coop design materials
- Diagram describing location of the coop and any attached run/enclosure in relationship to lot boundaries and nearby structures.

Step 3

Health Department will consult with you about your application. It is recommended to notify your neighbors that you will be beginning a poultry flock.

Step 4

Receive your license if all conditions are met.

- The license period is from April 1– March 31
- Licenses must be renewed annually and are **not** refundable or transferable.

Handwashing is important.

Many poultry carry bacteria that could make you and your family sick.



Always wash your hands after handling poultry, cleaning poultry coops, or being around the coop **even if you did not touch the birds**.

Don't kiss or snuggle your poultry. Don't let your birds inside your home, porch, or storage buildings. Set aside a pair of shoes to wear while maintaining your flock and keep those shoes outside.



Reporting Poultry Problems

Poultry **must not** cause any nuisance, unhealthy condition, public health threat, or otherwise interfere with the normal use of property or enjoyment of life by humans or animals.

Any person keeping poultry must immediately report any unusual illness or death of poultry to the Health Department.



Eau Claire City-County
Health Department

720 Second Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703
www.ehealthdepartment.org
P: 715-839-4718
F: 715-838-2643

Eau Claire County Poultry Ordinance



How to apply for a license



Eau Claire City-County
Health Department

Requirements

▼ As of January 2022, Eau Claire County residents in certain rural residential areas can apply for a license to keep poultry (chicken or quail) on their property. Roosters, drakes, or cocks are not allowed.



Property Requirements

- Poultry **must be** kept in a coop or attached run/enclosure at all times, or have their wings clipped if they will be allowed to roam
- Poultry may **not** be kept on a vacant lot or inside any residential structure, including home, basement, porch, garage, or multi-purpose shed

Coop Location

Coop **must be** located in the back or side yard of the license holder's property and **must be**:

- 10 feet from any property line
- 25 feet from residential structure on adjacent lot
- 5 feet from any structure on your own property
- Minimum of 2 feet from all lot lines (such as road/street)

Designing a Coop

1. Coops should be a stand alone structure used only for poultry and following county building and zoning ordinances.
2. Poultry coops **must be** built with moisture-resistant materials and include:
 - Proper ventilation
 - Insulation
 - Roof
 - Hard, cleanable floor, foundation and footings (e.g. concrete, wood, linoleum, or hard plastic) **Dirt floor not acceptable**
 - Wire netting that covers the run/enclosure to prevent poultry from escaping and deters predators
 - A minimum of 3 square feet per bird

Keeping Coops Clean

- Coops **must be** kept clean, tidy, and not cause a noise, odor, or health nuisance to the property or neighbors.
- Poultry feed must be stored to prevent access by pests or birds
- All waste, including manure, **must be** disposed of in a safe and adequate manner that does not create a public nuisance (composting is acceptable).

Frequently Asked Questions

— FAQ's —

● What can I do with manure?

Manure can be composted in an enclosed container (aerobic bins allowed), or may be disposed of in a tied bag for garbage collection.

● Am I able to gift or sell my extra eggs?

This code allows people to keep chickens in residential areas to have eggs for **personal use**.

If your poultry produce more eggs than you can use, you can gift them to neighbors, family, and friends. You are required to keep a journal of who you have given eggs to (include name and contact information).



Commercial sale of eggs is **NOT** allowed on site. To sell eggs, contact Eau Claire City-County Health Department for a retail license.

● Can I use a portion of my garage or shed to keep poultry?

Poultry can't be kept in any residential buildings, including storage sheds or garages. However, you can repurpose an existing structure if you only use it as a coop; and are able to modify it so that all applicable coop location and design requirements are met.