

POULTRY REG  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
TOWN OF BOURNE

At its regular meeting on September 11, 2013 the Bourne Board of Health, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, Section 31, voted to amend its existing Poultry Regulation with the following:

Poultry means domesticated birds including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese other than wild species, guinea, fowl, pheasants and pigeons of any age and any sex. Chickens: male (roosters) and Female (hens & Meat birds)

1) LOCATION

A) Coops, hutches or other buildings and poultry runs used to house or confine poultry shall be located not less than 100 feet from any dwelling used for human habitation, any church, public building, park, playground, hospital, nursing home, or rest home except upon written permission of the Board of Health.

B) Coops, hutches or other buildings and poultry runs used to house or confine poultry shall be located not less than 50 feet from adjoining property lot lines or the lot lines of any street, court or passageway except upon written permission of the Board of Health.

C) Coops, hutches or other buildings and poultry runs used to house or confine poultry shall be located not less than 25 feet from top of the defined coastal bank or edge of wetlands, either fresh water or salt water; and not less than 100 feet from any private/public drinking well except upon written permission of the Board of Health.

D) Coops, hutches or other buildings and poultry runs used to house or confine poultry shall be located not less than 50 feet from any room where milk is handled.

2) CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS

All coops, hutches or other such buildings used for poultry shall be of durable construction. Such structures shall be designed so as to prevent the harborage or shelter of rats and mice.

3) VENTILATION

All coops, structures or other such buildings used to house poultry shall be properly ventilated and kept dry.

#### 4) MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES

- A) Nests shall be movable and cleaned frequently.
- B) Perches and areas beneath perches shall be cleaned frequently.
- C) Interior of coops, hutches, structures, etc. shall be whitewashed (or equivalent treatment) at least once a year.

#### 5) SCREENING

All windows, doors or other openings to the outer air should be provided with screens to prevent the entrance or exit of flies and other flying insects.

#### 6) POULTRY FEED

- A) Any and all poultry feed must be held in a sealed container that has been cleaned of any contaminants and/or debris.
- B) Feed stations shall be maintained in proper sanitary condition.

#### 7) MANURE STORAGE

A ventilated, watertight storage facility constructed of concrete or other durable materials for the storage of poultry waste shall be provided as so located as to promote regular removal of manure from the premises. A written manure management plan shall be submitted to Health Department upon registering of Poultry.

#### 8) RESTRICTION TO PREMISES

All poultry shall be kept in an approved building, run or enclosure of adequate size. Poultry shall not be permitted to roam unrestrained outside the building, run or enclosure. Any animal shall be deemed to be at large when it is off the premises.

#### 9) RESTRICTIONS OF ROOSTERS AND HENS

- A) No Rooster shall be permitted on a property less than 2 acres, and
- B) Roosters are for breeding only. If there is no sale of chicks (infant chickens) for house hold income, Roosters will not be permitted, regardless of lot size, and
- C) Properties are permitted for 4 hens per  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre, no more than 2 hens for property less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre.

## 10) VARIANCE PROCEDURES

A) Variance requests must be submitted in writing to the Bourne Board of Health for consideration at a properly advertised Board Hearing.

B) For a variance to be considered, abutters within a 200 foot radius of coop and run must be notified by Certified Mail, Return Receipt requested, 10 days prior to the variance hearing.