



# Livestock Exemption for Youth Agriculture Organization Projects

---

Public Safety, Health, and Operations Committee  
June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# Current Animal Ordinance Language

---

- **6.07.020 Definitions.**
  - “Livestock” means cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, fowl, ostriches, emus, peacocks, goats, horses, mules, asses, llamas, alpacas, bison, rabbits and rheas.
- **6.07.1000 Livestock Prohibitions**
  - Minimum parcel size: It is unlawful for any person to keep or maintain any livestock within the corporate limits of the city on a parcel of land that is less than one acre in size

# Youth Agriculture Organizations

---

- **Montana 4H Mission:** To educate youth and adults for living in a global and ever-changing world by using the resources of the Land Grant Universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- **Future Farmers of America (FFA) Mission:** To make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

# Goal:

---

- To increase the participation of urban youth in agricultural educational opportunities and to increase participation in the Missoula County Fair
- To support local agriculture, increase food security, reduce the number of miles food products travel
- To allow goats, sheep and additional poultry on within city limits
  - Missoula County 4H currently has 5 market goat, 47 market sheep and 38 poultry projects
  - Most participating youth living in the county between Missoula and Frenchtown



# Best Practices for Urban Livestock\*

---

- Reference state law and use state law definitions wherever possible
- Avoid detailed sections about livestock management and instead reference “generally accepted agricultural practices” this allows for the evolution of management and does not rely on local municipal official to become agricultural experts
- The reliance on maximum animal density on acreages were based on pasture yield needed to support live. This is antiquated and does not reflect modern feeding and animal husbandry instead the focus should be on site suitability, buffers and setback.

\*from “Guidance and Recommendations for Connecticut Municipal Zoning Regulations and Ordinances for Livestock, 2012”

# Best Practices cont.

---

- Steep slopes should be avoided
- Animals should not impact sewage disposal systems or water supplies
- Surface runoff should be mitigated
- Large setbacks are not needed if generally accepted agricultural practices are followed (18" to 15')
- Municipalities should not prescribe manure management through zoning – should direct individuals to state and federal resources
- Municipalities should allow intensive use of small residential parcels for some types of food production – including livestock
- **Zoning regulations should permit the raising of livestock for FFA, 4H and other student projects**

\*from "Guidance and Recommendations for Connecticut Municipal Zoning Regulations and Ordinances for Livestock, 2012"



# Next Steps

- Direct staff to spend time on creating an exemption
- Identify what the best tool is for implementing an exemption
  - Zoning – Title 20
  - A free animal permit process - Title 6
- Animal Control
  - Addresses of participants
  - Contact information for a responsible adult
- Timeline
  - Have exemption in place prior to the next 4H enrollment period (Oct. 2022)