

# Manure Management Plan

## THE MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK



Reference Ordinance No: 9-10-18

*Section: 69.35.4.7 – Specific Standards for Chickens*

# Options for Manure Disposal

**Please choose one option, sign below, and submit this page with your Chicken Permit Application.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Compost**

Municipal Regulations:

- Compost piles or bins must be located at least 5' from the property line.
- Compost piles must be aerated by turning at least once every other month.
- Compost piles must be maintained in a manner that mitigates obnoxious odors.
- No cooked food or animal products should be placed in the compost pile.
- Compost piles must be constructed and maintained in a manner to prevent harborage for rodents and/or vermin.

Best Management Practices:

- Compost piles must not be within 25' of a conveyance source to the waterways of the Commonwealth or located within the FEMA designated floodplain.
- Application of manure to vegetated areas is not permissible without first being composted, i.e. soil incorporation.
- Refer to nutrient requirements prior to applying composted manure to any vegetable or flower garden.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Discard with weekly trash collection.**

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Applicant Signature

## INFORMATIONAL

In order to maintain a healthy environment for your chickens, coops should be cleaned at least once a month during the winter and every two weeks during the summer months.

Wood chips or similar comparable is suitable for bedding within the coop and/or laying area. Straw or hay tends to hold moisture, which invites mold and bacteria into the living space.

Coops should be well ventilated, especially in the winter months, due to the generation of high levels of heat, moisture, and ammonia from the chickens' breath and droppings. Even low levels of ammonia can be harmful to the respiratory system of the chickens.

During the winter months, chickens will begin to not lay eggs as a way to conserve heat energy. You may provide a heat source but use caution when introducing a light fixture as chickens may peck at it potentially causing a fire hazard. Low volume heat panels can be purchased online, which will keep your chickens laying eggs all year round.

Always have a water supply for your chickens, but do not keep it up in the coop, it only adds to the high moisture problem which you are trying to avoid. If an electrical source is not available to supply a heated water dish, there are several articles and videos available online to construct a self-sustaining water supply during the winter months.

Within Western Pennsylvania, hawks are probably chickens' biggest threat. If you anticipate a run area for your chickens, it would be a good idea to have it covered to avoid the possibility of an air strike on your chickens by a predatory hawk. The covered run will also keep your chickens contained versus just a fence that they will eventually escape.

This short list, as well as many other sources of information can be found online, via the internet or social websites such as Facebook. Please do your homework before deciding to take on this endeavor, the efforts will aid in your success as proud chickens.

### **Sources:**

J.P. Chastain, J.J. Chamberato, and P. Skewes, Poultry Manure Production and Nutrient Content, Chapter 3b

Penn State Extension, The Basics of Manure Management Requirements, PA Nutrient Management Program

IFAS Extension, G. Hochmuth, R. Hochmuth, and R. Mylavarapu, Using Composted Poultry Manure in Mulched Vegetation Production, Published October 2009, Revised June 2016

The Clean Michigan Fund and Department of Natural Resources, Source Recovery Section, Composting at a Glance

The Municipality of Bethel Park, Don't Throw Away a Good Thing...Compost!