



AMADOR COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee

FROM: Michael W. Israel, Environmental Health Department *MWI*

DATE: December 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Draft Livestock Ordinance

This matter was last heard by the Committee nearly a year ago. Staff was advised that a subcommittee could be formed to develop proposed language to ring back before this committee for review. It is proposed that the ordinance replace the existing language in Section 19.48.060, which is rarely applied.

The proposed language would establish stocking densities for various sizes of livestock. It allows for continued noncompliant uses that predate the code unless and until they are declared a nuisance or until the use ceases for two years or longer. It allows for 4H and similar projects that do not meet the stocking density and for intensive grazing for vegetation control or fire hazard reduction. It also allows for a conditional use permit for livestock operations that exceed the specified stocking density.

19.48.060

Livestock management on parcels less than five acres in size.

- A. This ordinance does not apply to any parcel five acres or greater in size, regardless of zone district or general plan designation. This ordinance applies to livestock, as that term is defined in Section 8.04.080 of this code. Existing nonconforming uses which are maintained so as not to create a public nuisance are automatically exempt from this ordinance unless and until the nonconforming use ceases for a period of two or more years or until the use is determined to be a public nuisance by the Amador County Health Officer, Agricultural Commissioner, or the Board of Supervisors.
- B. Maintaining livestock on parcels less than 5 acres in size is subject to the following stocking density limits:
 - 1. For large animals such as full size horses, cattle, adult swine, or any livestock with an average adult size 500 lb+ the allowed density would be one-half acre per animal.
 - 2. For medium size animals such as sheep, goats, miniature horses, ratites (other than kiwis), or any livestock with an average adult size 50 - 499 lb the allowed density is one-quarter acre per animal.
 - 3. For small animals such as poultry, with the exception of roosters, or any livestock with an average adult size <50 lb the allowed density is 0.02 acres per animal.
 - 4. No more than five roosters may be maintained on any parcel less than five acres; these are to be included within the total count of small animals.
 - 5. Total acreage required is the sum of the required acreage for each individual animal.
- C. This ordinance does not apply to livestock employed for vegetation management or fire hazard abatement purposes provided that the stocking density of those animals does not exceed the above listed standards for more than 90 days in a calendar year.
- D. This ordinance does not apply to educational, youth oriented animal husbandry projects affiliated with 4H, FFA, Grange, other organizations or similar independent study projects.
- E. Operations requiring more intensive stocking density shall be subject to a discretionary use permit.

19.48.060 Private stables.

The following regulations shall apply in all cases where a use permit has been issued for the maintenance of a private stable:

A.—The minimum lot area upon which horses may be kept is one acre, and two horses may be kept on such area. One additional horse may be kept for each twenty thousand square feet by which the parcel of land exceeds one acre.

B.—Stables shall not be located closer than twenty feet from the side lines, and not closer than fifty feet to the front lot line. Paddocks shall be located on the rear half of the lot and not closer than twenty feet to any property line, nor closer than forty feet from any dwelling on the same or adjacent property. (Ord. 351 §12.2(1), 1962).

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