



**Administration  
Department**

3650 Braddock Ave NE  
Suite 3200  
Buffalo, MN 55313

Ph: (763) 682-7378  
Fax: (763) 682-6178

[www.wrightcountymn.gov](http://www.wrightcountymn.gov)

**Greg Kryzer  
County Administrator**

3650 Braddock Ave NE  
Suite 3200  
Buffalo, MN 55313

Ph: (763) 682-7377  
Fax: (763) 682-6178

[Greg.Kryzer@wrightcountymn.gov](mailto:Greg.Kryzer@wrightcountymn.gov)

## HF 4295/SF 4547 - Clarity Regarding Backyard Chickens in Rural Areas

This bill seeks to add an allowance for an ordinance to create an exemption for backyard chicken coops from the definition of a feedlot. A feedlot is defined as anywhere an animal is confined, and manure may accumulate or where vegetation does not grow. A chicken coop and run meet this feedlot definition. A chicken coop does not have to be registered as a feedlot. All counties are required to comply with this definition. We are asking to treat backyard chicken coops just like the State treats pasture areas.

Attached are two photos of a legal pasture area abutting Little Waverly Lake in southern Wright County, MN. To the north of pasture runs the Twelve Mile Creek. The upper portion of the photo sit atop a bluff area and houses the main dairy operation.

The first photo is zoomed out to show the greater overall area with the second photo zoomed in to show the heifers in the pasture.

This pasture area is for dairy heifers. The zoomed in photo shows what appears to be 13 dairy heifers. A heifer is .7 animal units (AU). A chicken is .005 animal units.

13 Heifers = 9.1 Animal Units (AU)

**9.1 AUs of chickens (.005 AU) = 1,820 chickens.**

**This many chickens in pasture are legal but 1 chicken in a coop would be illegal.**

### 7020.0300 DEFINITIONS.

Subp. 3. **Animal feedlot.** "Animal feedlot" means a lot or building or combination of lots and buildings intended for the confined feeding, breeding, raising, or holding of animals and specifically designed as a confinement area in which manure may accumulate, or where the concentration of animals is such that a vegetative cover cannot be maintained within the enclosure. For purposes of these parts, open lots used for the feeding and rearing of poultry (poultry ranges) shall be considered to be animal feedlots. Pastures shall not be considered animal feedlots under these parts.

Subp. 5.

**Animal unit.**

A(2) one heifer, 0.7 animal unit

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F(2) one chicken if the facility has a dry manure system:

(a) over five pounds, 0.005 animal unit



