

Sekyere Afram Plains District Cattle Herders and Crop Farmers Coexistence Bylaw, 2024

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Preamble

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Sekyere Afram Plains District by Section 181 of the Local Governance Act 2016 (Act 936), the District has enacted this bylaw to govern cattle herding in the District. The bylaw has been made to address the incessant farmer-herder conflicts in the District, with its associated detrimental effects on lives and livelihoods, food security, property and general security in the District.

1. Title

This bylaw may be cited Sekyere Afram Plains District Cattle Herders and Crop Farmers Coexistence Bylaw, 2024

2. Cattle Herding Land Allocation Permit

- a. Cattle owners/herders are required to obtain cattle herding land allocation permit from the relevant Traditional Authorities / Land Owners or their agents to legally graze their animals in the District.
- b. The cattle herding land allocation permit shall specify:
 - i. The location of the land, e.g. land marks.
 - ii. The duration of the land allocation permit.
 - iii. The expected conduct of the herder(s) and the herd(s).
 - iv. Conditions for land allocation permit renewal.
 - v. Forfeiture of land allocation permit if a case of misconduct is established against the grantee.
- c. Cattle land allocation permit granted shall be subject to annual renewal.
- d. Renewal of land allocation permit shall be subject to good conduct.
- e. The Traditional Authorities / Land Owners may refuse renewal of cattle herding land allocation permit if a case of misconduct is established against the grantee.
- f. Land allocation permit for the purpose of grazing shall target areas with no or fewer crop farms.
- g. If a cattle herd is found grazing in the District without the requisite cattle herding land allocation permit, the herder(s) shall be arrested and the owner(s) made to pay a fine based on the number of animals and the severity of the offence.

3. Cattle Herding Committee

- (a). The District shall constitute a Cattle Herding Committee to coordinate and spearhead regulation of cattle herding in the District.
- (b). The Cattle Herding Committee shall be composed of representatives of the Traditional Authorities, District Assembly, district office of the National Disaster Management

Organization (NADMO), Department of Agriculture, the security agencies, cattle owners/herders, farmers and any other group or person that the Committee deems relevant for the execution of its mandate.

- (c). The functions of the Cattle Herding Committee shall include:
- i. Registering cattle, herders and owners in the District.
 - ii. Receiving and assessing herding permit applications.
 - iii. Granting cattle herding permits.
 - iv. Mediating payments of compensation for crop damage or cattle killing.
 - v. Issuing of identification vests to approved herders.
 - vi. Any other functions necessary to ensure peaceful cattle herding in the District.
- (d). The Cattle Herding Committee's work shall be funded by the District Assembly.

4. Acquisition of Cattle Herding Permit

- (a). After obtaining cattle herding land allocation permit from the relevant Traditional Authorities / Land owners or their agents, cattle owners/herders are required to register their cattle herds with the District Assembly Cattle Herding Committee and thereafter be issued with cattle herding permits.
- (b). The Cattle Herding Committee shall issue herding permits and herding ID cards to cattle owners/herders after approving their applications and receiving payment of a specified fee to the District Assembly.
- (c). Possession of cattle herding land allocation permit from the relevant land owners or their agents is a prerequisite for the District Assembly cattle registration and issuance of cattle herding permit.
- (d). The cattle registration will capture whether the herd is sedentary or migratory, the number of cattle, the identity of herders and owners, etc.
- (e). The cattle herding permits shall indicate the following:
- i. The location of the land, e.g. land marks
 - ii. The duration of the access granted
 - iii. The expected conduct of the herder(s) and the herd(s)
 - iv. Conditions for permit renewal
 - v. Forfeiture of permit if a case of misconduct is established against the grantee.
- (f). Cattle herding permits granted shall be subject to annual renewal.
- (g). Renewal of cattle herding permits shall be subject to good conduct. The Cattle Herding Committee may refuse permit renewal if a case of misconduct is established against the grantee.
- (h). If a cattle herd is found grazing in the District without the requisite cattle herding permit, the herder(s) shall be arrested and the owner(s) made to pay a fine based on the number of animals and the severity of the offence.

5. Introduction of herders/owners to allocated communities.

Upon obtaining cattle herding land allocation permit and cattle herding permit, the herder(s) must be introduced by the Cattle Herding Committee to the local leaders responsible for the area allocated (Chiefs/Elders, Assembly Member(s), Unit Committee, etc.).

6. Period for migratory cattle herding

Transhumance (migratory) herding in the District is restricted to the period between December and March. In years that the rainy/dry season starts/ends too early or too late, the Cattle Herding Committee can alter the period for the migratory cattle herding to ensure that it does not clash with the peak crop farming and harvesting periods.

7. Number of herders assigned to a herd

There must be at least two (2) herders when the cattle herd is more than 50 cattle but not more than 100 cattle; and at least three (3) herders when the herd is more than 100 cattle; to limit straying and its associated crop destruction.

8. Identification vests

The Cattle Herding Committee shall issue identification vests with identification numbers to registered herders in the District. It is mandatory for herders to wear the identification vests when grazing their animals.

9. Prohibition of night grazing

- (a). Night grazing is prohibited in the Sekyere Afram Plains District.
- (b). If a cattle herd is found grazing in the night (from 7:00 pm to 05: 30 am), the herder(s) shall be arrested and the owner(s) made to pay a fine based on the severity of the offence.

10. Compensation for damage to crops and animals

- (a). Herders whose animals destroy crops shall pay a determined compensation amount to the crop owner(s)
- (b). If a person (farmer or otherwise) kills or injures cattle without authorisation, the person shall pay a determined compensation to the cattle owner/herder(s).
- (c). In the event of crop destruction by cattle or cattle killing by community members, the matter should be reported to the District Assembly Cattle Herding Committee to determine the compensation to pay with the professional assistance of the Security Agencies and the Department of Agriculture.
- (d). If crops are damaged by unidentified cattle, the cost of the damage shall be paid for by cattle owners/herders who graze their cattle in the area.

11. Prohibition of transfer of cattle herding permits

- (a). Cattle herding permits are not transferable.
- (b). A herder with cattle herding permit shall not admit another cattle herd.

12. Prohibition of illegal weapons

- (a). Farmers and herders are not allowed to carry illegal weapons such as AK 47 rifles.
- (b). Illegal weapons in the possession of farmers and herders shall be confiscated by the security agencies; and the culprit punished as prescribed by the laws of Ghana.

13. The District Assembly shall, acting alone or in consultation with the security agencies, the traditional authorities or any relevant bodies or person(s), take the necessary measures to regulate or sanction any herder or farmer who engages in acts deemed to be injurious to crop

farming or livestock rearing or their security but which are not explicitly captured by this bylaw.

14. Penalty

- (a) A person who contravenes any provision in this bylaw commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not less than **200** Penalty Units and not more than **1000** Penalty Units; or a term of imprisonment of not less than **two** months and not more than **24** months; or both. If the offence involves damage to crops, cattle or property, the sanction may include payment of compensation for the damage caused.
- (b) Straying cattle whose owner(s)/herder(s) cannot be found shall be taken care of by the security agencies after three days of announcements on the straying cattle and as directed by the District Cattle Herding Committee.

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