



**AGENDA
CITY OF WINDCREST, TEXAS**

**CITIZEN CODE COMMITTEE MEETING
CITIZEN FORUM**

April 20, 2016

7:00 P.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE WINDCREST CITIZEN CODE COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT WINDCREST CITY HALL, 8601 MIDCROWN, WINDCREST, TEXAS ON THE 20th DAY OF APRIL 2016 STARTING AT 7:00 P.M. DURING THE MEETING THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED AND THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THE LISTED SUBJECTS.

THE CITIZEN CODE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE OPTION TO RECESS THE MEETING DURING THE EVENING OF APRIL 20, 2016 AND TO RECONVENE THE MEETING ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, APRIL 21, 2016 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE WINDCREST CITY HALL, 8601 MIDCROWN, WINDCREST, TEXAS.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MEMBERS OF OTHER CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES MAY ATTEND THE MEETING IN NUMBERS THAT MAY CONSTITUTE A QUORUM OF SUCH OTHER CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES, SO THAT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEETING IS ALSO A MEETING OF THE OTHER CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES WHOSE MEMBERS ARE IN ATTENDANCE. THE MEMBERS OF THE OTHER CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES MAY PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH OCCUR AT THE MEETING, BUT NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE OTHER COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES WHOSE MEMBERS ARE IN ATTENDANCE.

REQUEST ALL PAGERS AND CELL PHONES BE TURNED OFF, EXCEPT EMERGENCY ON-CALL PERSONNEL. CITIZENS ARE ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM TALKING DURING COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Meeting Chair: please remind each participant in your meeting that they must speak into a microphone; the recording is the Official Minutes of your meeting and all who speak must be recorded. All guest speakers and citizens to be heard must speak from podium. Please interrupt speakers during meeting if you recognize that they are not speaking into microphone and have them do so.

I. Call to Order

II. Citizen Forum

The Citizen Code Committee will receive public comments on a draft ordinance regarding the allowance of domestic chickens.

III. Old Business

1. Citizen Code Committee will review, discuss and may take action on a draft ordinance regarding the allowance of backyard hens in the City of Windcrest. (Ref: 06.15.15 RCCM http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1496 // 08.19.15 CCC http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1535&meta_id=32625 // 10.28.15 CCC http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1606 // 11.18.15 CCC http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1618 // 01.20.16 CCC http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1642 // 02.17.16 CCC http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1656 // 03.16.16 CCC http://windcresttx.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1672)

IV. New Business

None

IV. General Announcements & Future Agenda Items Requested

Per Ordinance No. 618, repealing Ordinance No. 593; Section 9: Every agenda shall include an item entry granting a member the opportunity to propose an item for consideration of future agendas for Regular or Special Meetings. Any member may request the inclusion of such items at any meeting.

V. Adjournment

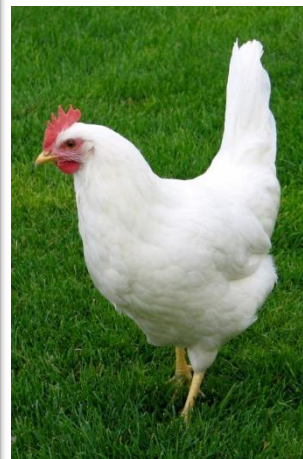
I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above Notice of Meeting of the Citizen Code Committee of the City of Windcrest is a true and correct copy of said Notice and was posted on the bulletin board at City Hall of said City in a convenient place to the public and said Notice was posted more than seventy-two hours prior to the meeting on April 20, 2016.

By: , City Secretary

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the City of Windcrest Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible, and accessible parking spaces are available. The City of Windcrest will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending the Citizen Code Committee. To better serve you, requests should be received 48 hours prior to the meetings. Please contact Kelly Rodriguez, City Secretary, at 210-655-0022 ext. 2150 or Fax 210-655-8776.

I certify that the attached notice and agenda of items to be considered by the Citizen Code Committee was removed by me from the City Hall bulletin board on the ____ day of _____, 2016.

_____ **Title:** _____



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension Program



PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION IS:



- To present the concept of “Backyard Basics”
- To create an awareness of the possibility of raising backyard chickens for:
 - Fresh eggs to eat & share
 - Natural insect control
 - Educational projects for kids
 - Extra income for kids & you
 - Adding a little “country” to your urban backyard



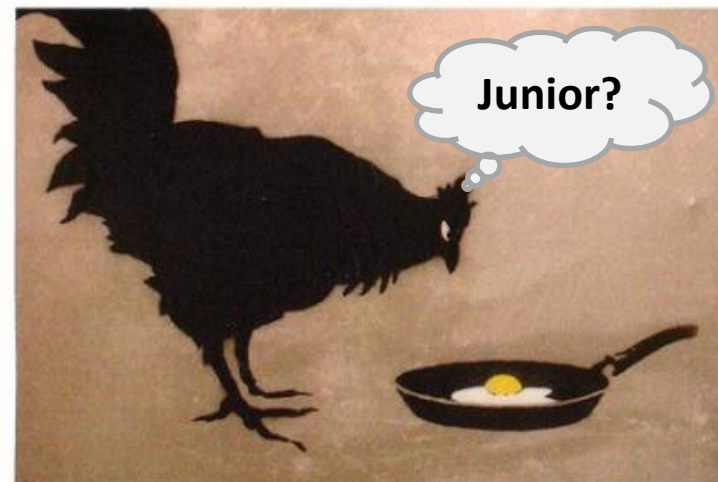


Raising small flock of backyard hens has become increasingly popular over the past couple of years.

- **Membership in Backyard Chickens went from 50 in 2007 to over 61,000 today.**
- **Cover article in Organic Gardening Magazine June/July 2010**
- **July 12, 2010 Time Magazine article covered the growing popularity of BYCs.**

THE TOP TEN REASONS FOR RAISING YOUR OWN CHICKENS

1. Taste & Freshness - Personal chickens are the ultimate source of truly fresh eggs, and nothing beats the flavor of home raised chickens



2. Educational - Your kids will acquire plenty of knowledge of life-cycles, feeding habits, animal characteristics, etc....



THE TOP TEN REASONS

3. Health & Safety - There's virtually no risk of antibiotic resistant bacteria living in home raised meat or eggs

4. Great Pets - Safer than dogs! Chickens make great pets that require little care, produce fertilizer, eat bugs, and are very cute





Not Much Difference in Favorite Pets





Hens as Pets with Benefits

- Many local chicken owners treat their chickens with the respect and tenderness one treats a pet dog or cat. Yet, hens also provide eggs.
- Some ordinances limit the number of hens per lot as well as stipulating that the hens may be kept as pets and for personal use only – no slaughtering, breeding, egg selling, fertilizer production or other commercial purpose.



THE TOP TEN REASONS

5. 4-H Kids in the City - Since chickens are smaller than cows, urban 4-H kids can keep poultry to learn about responsibility



6. Outlaws - Urbanites with chickens are an elite vanguard that gets to ignore stupid laws



THE TOP TEN REASONS

7. Variety - Genetically diverse small flocks preserve rare breeds, like ethically run companies maintain honest & accurate breeding stock



8. Cultural - You'll have something real to talk about instead of gossip, complaints, the neighbors, work, money, government, health.....



THE TOP TEN REASONS

9. Awakenings - If your flock has a rooster, nobody within a hundred yards will need an alarm clock



10. Fashionable - Keeping chickens is stylish no matter what else happens to you. Just ask Martha....





**Now, that's some
classy chicks!**



Celebrities w/ Pets

Miley Cyrus



Tori
Spelling



And:

Barbra Streisand
Reese Witherspoon
Hilary Swank

Queen Elizabeth
Chevy Chase
William Masey

Jamie
Olliver

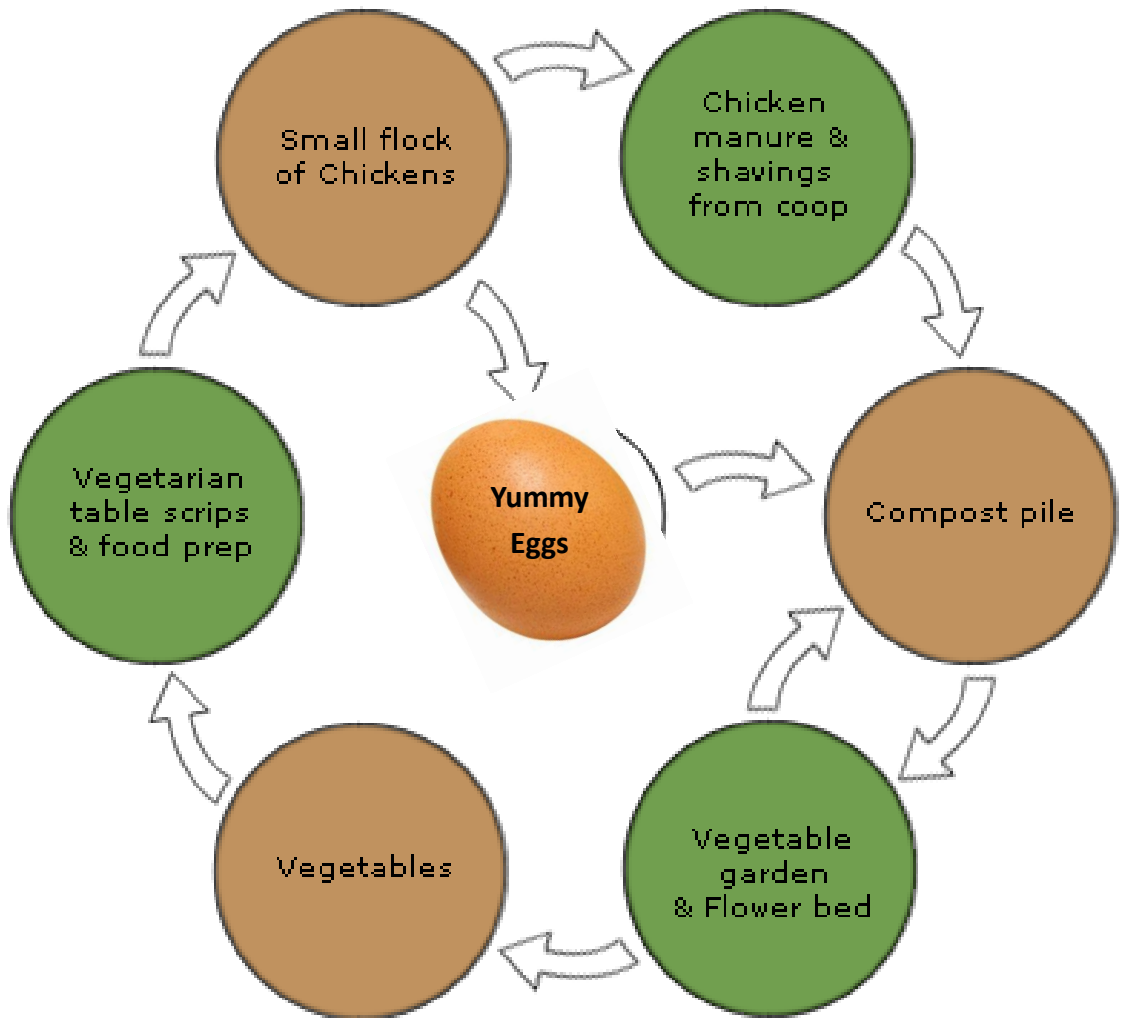




“My family’s interest in poultry goes back to my Great, Great, Great Grandmother – Queen Victoria.....” - Prince Charles

Sustainable Living

- Chickens close the loop for the home gardener, creating the micro ecosystem shown here.
- Eggs are not transported long distances in refrigerated trucks.
- Backyard chickens are raised humanely.



Required Equipment

- Waterer,
 - Standard →
 - Automatic
 - Harvested water ↓



Required Equipment

- Feeders,



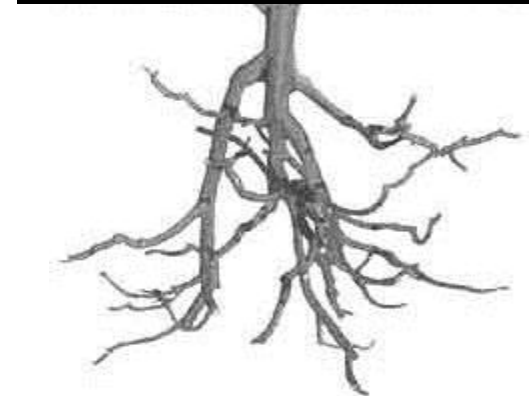
Required Equipment

- Nests,
 - Size - 1ft X 1ft X1ft



Required Equipment

- Roosts – Why:
 - That's what birds do
 - To get them off the ground
 - Create an obstacle for predators



Required Equipment

- Run – Why:
 - For chickens that are not let loose during the day
 - For constant security



Compatible with Urban Life











The Art of Doing
STUFF



And, Suburban Too!



Traveling Coops







“Hide-A-Coops”



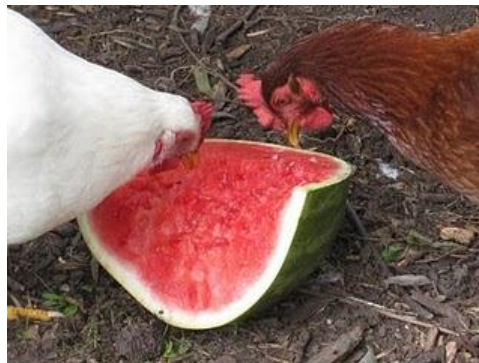
Placement of the Coop



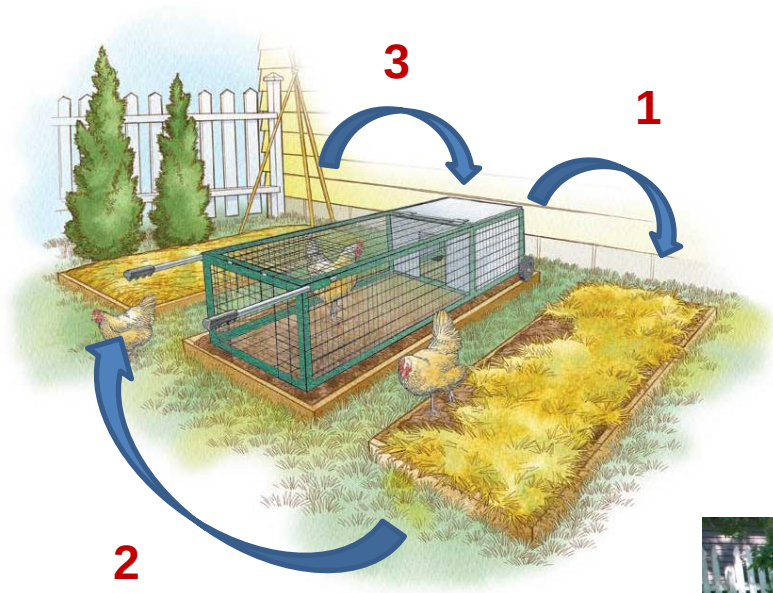
- The owners we visited placed their coops in their back yards.
- The coops were located anywhere from 20 feet to 100 feet from a neighbor's house
- Some municipalities require coops to be located in rear yards and specify the minimum distance a coop must be from a property line or neighboring structure

Toys for Chickens

- Dust boxes to keep them from digging in beds
- Dried herbs in nest to ward-off insects
- Treats to keep them occupied



Farming w/ Chickens



Chickens:

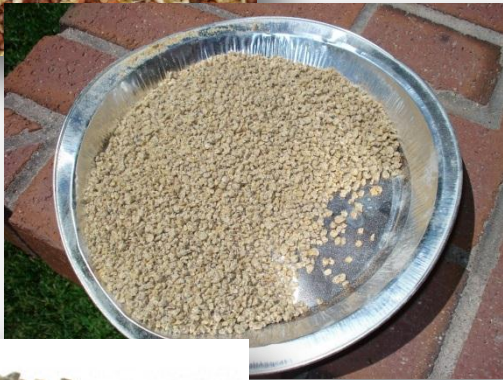
- Eat weeds
- Eat bugs
- Add manure



Farming w/ Chickens



Feeding Chickens



- Commercial feeds
 - General chicken feed
 - High protein laying mash
- Vegetables/fruit
- Grain
 - Cracked corn, popped corn
 - Grits, oat/oatmeal
 - Rice (cooked only)
 - Seeds – sunflower, pumpkin
- Grit - to grind food
 - Crushed oyster shell

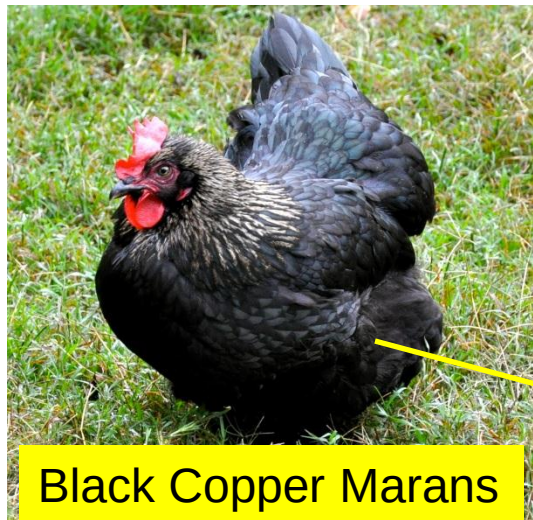
Food - Not for the Chickens

Raw green potato peels	Toxic substance called Solanine.
Anything real salty	Can cause salt poisoning in small bodies such as chickens.
Citrus	Too much citric acid &/or Vitamin C may cause feather plucking in some sensitive chickens
Dried or undercooked Beans	Raw, or dry beans, contain a poison called hemagglutinin which is toxic to birds.
Avocado Skin and Pit	Skin and pit have low levels of toxicity.
Raw eggs	You don't want to introduce your chickens to the tastiness of eggs which may be waiting to be collected in the nests.
Candy, Chocolate, Sugar	Their teeth will rot... No, it's just bad for their systems, and chocolate can be poisonous to most pets.

“Breeds for Backyards”



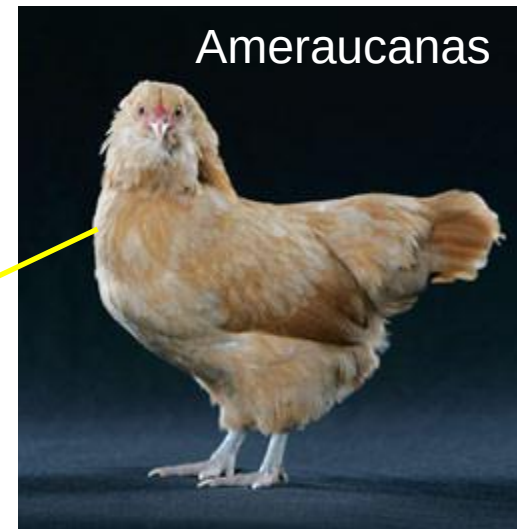
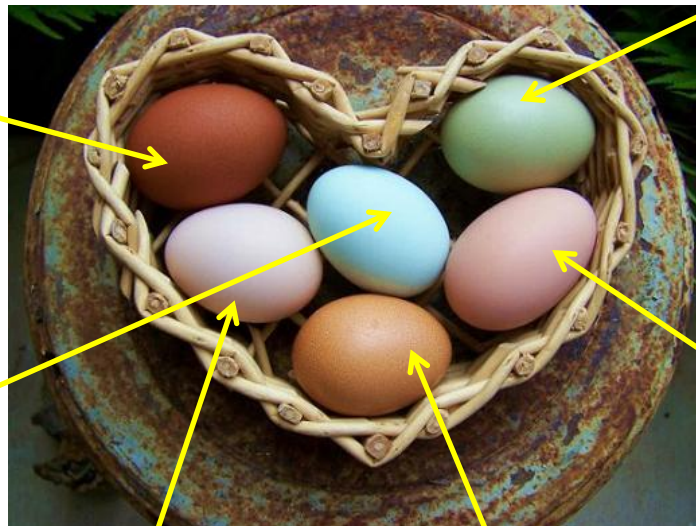
“Breeds for Backyards”



Black Copper Marans



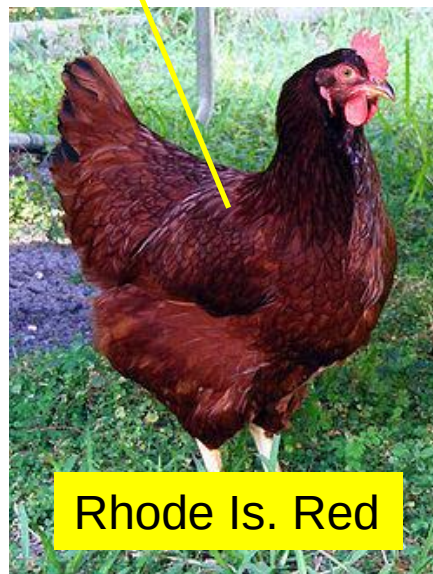
Blue Araucana



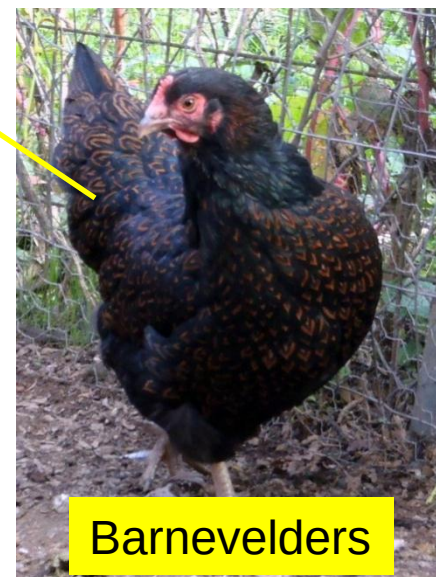
Ameraucanas



Aseel
or Asil



Rhode Is. Red



Barnevelders

“Breeds for Backyards”

- Rhode Island Reds
- New Hampshire Reds
- Golden Comets
- Delawares

These favorites all are known for quick maturity, and egg production begins at the ages of 18-24 weeks.



Exotics



Silkie

Appenzeller Hobenfitzer



Flying Cambodian



The Bantams



Getting Started – the egg comes first!

- Fertile eggs – if you have an incubator “setting” your own eggs is fun, cheap and educational
- Young chicks – purchased from a local feed stores, mail-order or on the web
- Pullets (young chickens that haven’t started laying
- Mature hens – purchased from farmers, 4H/FFA youth, or even from animal shelters

What Neighbors Think - Informal Survey

(7 “urban chicken” families interviewed in the
Batavia Community of Illinois)

Results Summary:

- Average number of chickens: 8
- Average number of years: 4
- Distance to the nearest neighbor: 20'-100'
- Average noise rating: 3
(stalking cat = 1, yapping dog = 10)
- Average distance that any smell was detected:
2'. The range was 0' – 7'.

Informal Survey Results

- In general, neighbors liked having chickens next door.
- No one complained of odor or smell.
- No one complained of sound yet most mentioned they could, at times, hear them.
- Two neighbors were strongly opposed. Their concerns were:
 - It is illegal in urban areas
 - They felt chickens should not be in an urban setting.
 - One woman said she did not like to see them and was concerned about possible health risks.
 - In both situations, the chickens were new to the neighborhood & the neighbors anticipated that problems *may* arise.
- **Not one neighbor of a chicken owner of one year or longer had a complaint.**

Sounds of Hens

- Hens are quieter than most dogs or large pet birds. Normally, noises are not audible past 25 feet.
- Batavia owners reported a sound level, pertaining to hens, of “3” with “0” being silent and “10” being a yappy dog.
- Only one neighbor mentioned the chicken clucking.
- Many municipalities limit the raising of poultry to hens in residential areas. Some municipalities have dealt with perceptible chicken noise that is loud enough to be heard at the property boundaries and is found to be disturbing to a reasonable person to be a possible Code violation.





Caring for your Girls



- Most urban chickens are treated as pets and cared for in a similar fashion.
- Chickens do not smell if the coop and surrounding areas are properly tended.
- We interviewed 7 chicken owners . The average distance where odor was detected was less than 2 feet from the coop.
- None of the neighbors interviewed reported noticing any smell at all.
- Municipalities may include in their ordinance a requirement that chicken coops and runs be cleaned regularly and refuse disposed of in a sanitary fashion.

Protecting your Girls



- Responsible chicken owners ensure that their chickens are kept in a secure chicken coop and run



- Local chicken owners reported to us that they have not had significant problems with predators.
- During rainy summer periods the coop may attract flies

Protecting your Girls

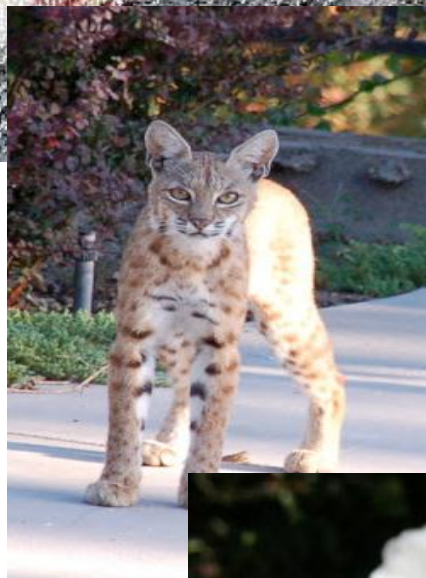


- Maintaining free range chickens may actually help to reduce the number of small rodents and insects



- Municipalities often require chickens to be kept in a sturdy, well designed enclosure and secured in a henhouse during non-daylight hours. During daylight hours, the chickens are often permitted to be outside of their pens in a fenced area if supervised

Predators of Hens



- Foxes
- Coyotes
- Hawks
- Bobcats
- Dogs

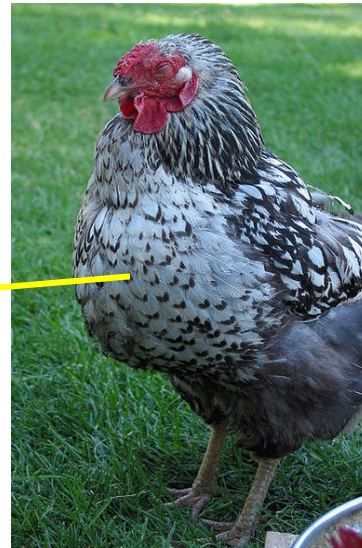
Predators of Eggs

- Snakes
- Opossums
- Raccoons
- Skunks
- Dogs
- Weasels

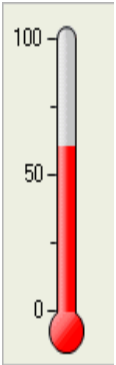
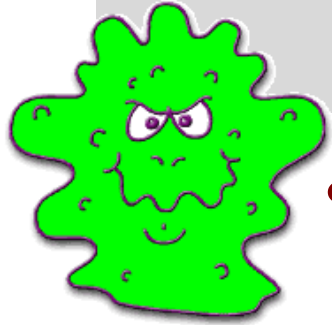


Diseases of Chickens

- Avian Pox – virus
 - No control
 - Vaccination used
- Impacted Crop
 - Undigested food
 - Operate!
- Respiratory
 - Caused by viral, bacterial and parasite infections
 - Proper diagnosis is needed prior to treatment



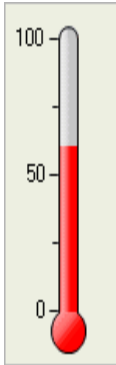
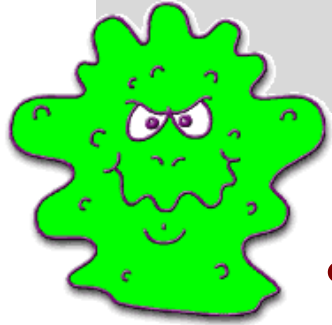
Protecting the Health of Your Family and Flock



- **Salmonella**

- may be spread by pet chickens as well as pet birds, reptiles and
- supermarket foods such as eggs, peanut butter, tomatoes, peppers, etc.
- Remember the organic spinach from California.
- The Center of Disease Control recommends that all persons follow good hygiene and food handling practices at all times in order to prevent salmonella.

Protecting the Health of Your Family and Flock



- Avian flu
 - Avian flu is not in the United States.
 - There is no need at present to not raise chickens or remove a flock of chickens because of concerns regarding avian flu
- No municipality in the US has reported a public health outbreak relating to backyard chickens

Your Request to Municipality

Permission to have backyard laying hens.

- Up to 8 laying hens
- No roosters
- No slaughter
- Must be kept in contained coop and run
- Food must be in rodent proof containers
- Waste must be disposed of safely
- Coop at least 20' from nearest neighboring residential building



Nutritional Benefits

Pastured eggs from chickens fed garden scraps and allowed outside to peck produce healthier eggs:

- $\frac{1}{3}$ less cholesterol
- $\frac{1}{4}$ less saturated fat
- $\frac{2}{3}$ more vitamin A
- two times more omega-3 fatty acids
- three times more vitamin E
- seven times more beta carotene



Questions ?



*Thank
You!*



Compiled by: Vince Mannino, CED-Fort Bend
Edited by: Dr. Dale Fritz, DEA-SE District 9
Dr. Kellye Thompson, Program Specialist -AGNR,
Cooperative Extension Program, PVAMU



Roy Flora

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San Antonio, TX 78230-4818
210 467-6575
roy.flora@ag.tamu.edu

Kelly Rodriguez

From: Gary Davis <cad220@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 11:12 PM
To: Kelly Rodriguez
Subject: Re: Backyard Hens

Kelly

In response to your E-Mail, I have some public health concerns regarding chickens in a housing area I have experienced a similar situation in another city and frankly it was a mess. There are several things you should consider.

1. Chickens make noise, particularly with a Rooster.
2. Fecal Material. Chickens eliminate frequently. People walk in the material and bring it into the house. It also smells and offends the neighbors.
3. Predators. Chickens are attractive to many predators.
4. Fleas and other pest could be possible,

I think one chicken would not present a health Hazard, but a visit periodically to a veterinarian would be needed.

I would be available to discuss this issue

Gary W. Davis, R.S.
Health Official

On Oct 22, 2015, at 2:47 PM, Kelly Rodriguez <krodriguez@windcrest-tx.gov> wrote:

Sorry Gary, I finally found the correct email for you. Please read the email below.

From: Kelly Rodriguez
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 3:20 PM
To: 'gdavis@publichealthconsult.com'
Subject: FW: Backyard Hens

From: Kelly Rodriguez
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 3:12 PM
To: Gary (gdavis49@sabx.rr.com)
Subject: Backyard Hens

Article 00 - Domestic Chickens (Fowl)

Sec 00-000 – Registration and permits for Domestic Chickens.

- (1) It shall be mandatory for every resident who keeps chickens in any residential district in the city of Windcrest to have registered such chickens which are to be possessed, harbored, or kept in a residential district in the city.
- (2) No person shall bring into a residential district of the city limits any domestic chickens for the purpose of possessing, harboring, or keeping the same in the city without having first applied for a permit to do so with the animal control officer and demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this Code.
- (3) Application. A written application for a permit shall include the name, address and phone number of the applicant, the number of domestic chickens to be permitted (maximum of four, roosters are prohibited), a description of the domestic chickens to include banding or chipping with-in 30 days of permit issuance, a detailed site plan to include the location and size of the coop. An annual domestic chicken registration fee shall be due with the application. Coop size will not exceed 144 square feet of interior space.
- (4) Upon acceptance of the permit application, the city animal control officer, or his designee, shall require applicant to certify in writing, under oath, that the premises where the domestic chickens are to be kept are in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances and regulations. If applicant refuses to certify such compliance, the animal control officer or his designee may deny the permit of the refusing applicant.
- (5) Upon acceptance of the application, fee and certification by applicant, as required, a permit shall be issued which must be maintained by the owner for inspection upon request by the animal control officer or his designee.
- (6) It shall be a condition of the permit that the city animal control officer be permitted to inspect all domestic chickens and the premises where they are kept whether or not a complaint has been filed with the city complaining of unsanitary condition or violation of any law, statute, ordinance, rule or regulation. If permission for such inspection is refused, the permit of the refusing owner may be revoked.
- (7) If not revoked, the permit period shall begin the day the permit is issued and shall run for one year.
- (8) It shall be the duty of the owner to obtain a duplicate permit from the city in the event the original permit is lost or destroyed. There will be a fee for each replacement permit.
- (9) If, at the time of the inspection, the premises is not being maintained in the proper sanitary condition; the premises is not in compliance with the provisions of the city code, or any other law, statute, ordinance, rule or regulation, then a written notice shall be given to the owner of

the premises to correct the deficiencies with-in three days. A re-inspection shall be made at the end of the three days, and if the condition is not corrected, the permit shall be revoked. Any person maintaining such domestic chickens without a permit or after a permit is revoked will be subject to the penalties set forth in this code, each day will constitute a separate offense.

Sec 00-000 – Escape-proof enclosures.

It shall be unlawful to keep domestic chickens with-in the city unless they are kept in an enclosure from which they cannot escape.

Sec 00-000 – Location and condition of enclosures for domestic Chickens.

It shall be the duty of every person raising or keeping domestic chickens, to keep them in a coop or enclosure which shall be a distance of at least 30 feet from every building or structure used for sleeping, dining or living, other than that of the owner, shall be kept in a sanitary condition and shall also be kept in such a condition as will be reasonably calculated to not become offensive to the senses of the neighbors or to the public. All coops must have rodent proof feeders specifically designed for chickens. All chicken waste will be either composted or disposed of properly.

Sec 00-000 – Impoundment

Any domestic chicken subject to the provisions of this code, found to be running at large shall be taken up and impounded in a place suitable for that purpose at the owner's expense.

Sec 00-000 – Recapturing as a defense.

In those cases where a person(s) is charged with violating this article and can prove that such person did not willfully or carelessly permit such domestic chickens to run at large, it shall be an absolute defense to a municipal court action by the city if such person can further show that immediately after becoming aware of the fact the domestic chicken or any number of them were at large or after such person was notified of this fact by anyone, such person recaptured such domestic chicken.