

# Backyard/Urban Chicken Program

## Introduction

Currently, Sturgeon County bylaw in point A.1. regulating livestock does not take into account any acreages in CR-2 zones below 1.0 hectare (2.74 acre). Looking around into successful backyard/urban chicken programs in cities such as Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa, Toronto etc., I would like to propose to initiate such a program in our county subdivisions.

## Sustainable Lifestyle

There are many ways to create sustainable lifestyle. For example creating bike lanes to encourage bike use and reduce pollution. And recycling to reduce garbage waste.

That is why supporting a sustainable lifestyle is becoming more accepted in urban environments. That would include growing your own vegetables in a small garden or having your own hens in your backyard.

Pictures<sup>1</sup>

## Reduce the Food Waste

Huge food waste is another issue in our society. A 2014 study conducted by Value Chain Management International found that Canadians waste \$31 billion worth of food annually<sup>2</sup>. This works out to be about \$1,500 a year per household<sup>3</sup>.

Pictures<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gardensdecor.com/8467/garden/stylish-beautiful-veggie-gardens-plan-a-beautiful-vegetable-garden/>. See also <http://www.invisibleinkradio.com/popular-backyard-chicken-coop-designs/>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canada-food-waste-1.3813965>. See also <http://vcm-international.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Food-Waste-in-Canada-27-Billion-Revisited-Dec-10-2014.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/careers/business-education/canadians-waste-seven-billion-kilograms-of-food-a-year/article19923151/>.

<sup>4</sup>

[https://www.google.ca/search?rlz=1C1AOHY\\_enCA709CA713&tbm=isch&sa=1&ei=dIYbWoegHpTyjwPd6leoDA&q](https://www.google.ca/search?rlz=1C1AOHY_enCA709CA713&tbm=isch&sa=1&ei=dIYbWoegHpTyjwPd6leoDA&q)

There are a few ways to address food waste, and one of them is to recycle: Food that is unfit for human consumption can be fed to livestock and/or composted<sup>5</sup>. Having a backyard chicken program in place would be one of these initiatives.

And it doesn't stop there! Properly composted chicken manure makes a great organic fertilizer for your garden.

Pictures<sup>6</sup>

## **Health Benefits**

In implementing the backyard chicken program, we are not only reducing the waste of food but making great healthy food more affordable. We all know how important good nutrition and healthy diet is in our life. We also know that good organic food is very expensive.

For example, free range eggs contain

- 1/3 less cholesterol
- 1/4 less saturated fat
- 2/3 more vitamin A
- Two times more omega-3 fatty acids
- Three times more vitamin E
- Seven times more beta carotene
- Three to six times more vitamin D<sup>7</sup>

So you can clearly see the benefit from consuming free range eggs as opposed to their store bought counterparts.

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[=food+waste&og=food+waste&gs\\_l=psy-ab.3..0l10.417160.419465.0.420059.10.9.0.1.1.0.170.1066.0j9.9.0...0...1c.1.64.psy-ab..0.10.1056...0i67k1.0.lEclYt-KNs#imgrc=yOGclqT991EG2M](#): See also <http://www.corenow.org/eu-actions-food-waste/>. See also <http://www.phillyvoice.com/food-waste-costs-billions-impacts-climate-change/>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://tfpc.to/food-waste-landing/food-waste-theissue>.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.groworganic.com/organic-gardening/articles/how-to-make-your-own-high-quality-compost-for-compost-tea>. See also <https://www.williams-sonoma.com/products/farmer-d-cedar-composter/>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.motherearthnews.com/natural-health/free-range-eggs-zmaz09fmzraw>.

## **Wellbeing of Hens**

Making a difference on a small scale starts a huge change. Backyard chicken programs refer to a small flock of hens at a time. But would you rather see those hens [insert picture]<sup>8</sup> that are happy and healthy or continue on treating animals like egg laying machines and keep them in cages? [other picture]<sup>9</sup>.

It is the owner's responsibility to educate themselves about chicken health issues and how to deal with them.

## **Summary/Closing**

As any hobby, there are rules, regulations and responsibilities for the owners, for example ensuring the welfare of the chickens through adequate food and housing. Making sure that their health is in good standing. Another responsibility includes following rules about noise and smell control.

Pictures<sup>10</sup>

References

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<sup>8</sup> <http://ouroneacrefarm.com/4-benefits-mixed-flock-backyard-chickens/>. See also <https://www.dnv.org/programs-services/backyard-chicken-hen-permit>. See also [https://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/initiatives\\_innovation/food\\_and\\_agriculture/urban-hens-project.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/initiatives_innovation/food_and_agriculture/urban-hens-project.aspx).

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.canarianweekly.com/egg-production-horror-battery-caged-chickens/>. See also <https://www.quora.com/Which-is-healthier-to-eat-cage-free-chicken-or-other-chicken>. See also <https://www.alternet.org/food/what-does-cage-free-really-mean-chickens>.

<sup>10</sup> <http://holmbush.farm/free-range-eggs/>. See also <https://www.livinghomegrown.com/keeping-chickens-in-city/>.