

Urban Chicken Farming

South Jordan, Utah

- ❖ Do I have the resources?
- ❖ Do I have the time?
- ❖ Do I want the responsibility?
- ❖ What do I get out of the work?
- ❖ What do I do if it doesn't work out?

South Jordan City

- **17.130.020.005: STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL CHICKENS:**
- The community development department may approve requests for the raising of residential chickens and egg production for family food production based upon the following standards being met:
 - A. Residential Land Use Requirement: The raising of chickens in residentially zoned areas is permitted, subject to the regulations established herein, **for minimum ten thousand (10,000) square foot residential lots within single-family residential "R" zones**, including lots located in PUD subdivisions. Standards for raising chickens on agriculturally zoned properties are regulated based upon animal requirements under the A-1 and A-5 zones set forth in this chapter.
 - B. Number And Type Of Chickens Allowed: **Up to six (6) chickens per residential lot may be kept for the purpose of family food production.** The keeping of roosters in residential zones is expressly prohibited. Roosters, as part of pullet stock, may be kept temporarily until such stock is four (4) months old.

- C. Coop Size And Location: The size, height, and location of chicken coops shall be adequate to house the number of chickens on the property and shall meet the requirements for accessory buildings in the underlying zone, including setbacks and rear lot coverage. In addition to said requirements, chicken coops (or the portion of a larger accessory structure used for the raising of chickens) shall be located at least ten feet (10') from the on site dwelling, five feet (5') from the property line of an adjoining neighbor, and forty feet (40') from a dwelling on an adjoining property.
- D. Chicken Care And Maintenance Guidelines: The raising of residential chickens and egg production shall be done in such a way that the use is clearly subordinate to the residential character of the property with no significant impacts or nuisances being created for the residential neighborhood in general and adjoining property owners in particular.
 - 1. Education And Awareness: Residents interested in residential chickens and egg production are strongly encouraged to educate themselves as to appropriate chicken raising methods, Salt Lake County board of health requirements, and city ordinances before purchasing chickens and equipment, constructing facilities, and obtaining applicable city permits. Residents are also encouraged to discuss their family food production plans with adjoining neighbors. Regardless of approvals by the city, the keeping of residential chickens may be further restricted civilly by homeowners' associations and recorded restrictive covenants.

- 2. Slaughtering: The slaughtering or processing of chickens outdoors for food production is expressly prohibited in residential zones.
- 3. Feed Containers: The storage and accessibility of chicken feed shall be so handled to discourage rodents, other vermin, and predators.
- 4. Nuisance: Property owners will ensure that the raising of residential chickens and egg production is properly conducted and monitored to not create impacts to neighbors. Approval to raise residential chickens shall include the construction and maintenance of adequate and comely coops, pens, enclosures, and property fencing that will confine chickens to the property and that do not adversely affect neighborhood property values. The maintenance and cleanliness of facilities and equipment shall be the ongoing responsibility of the property owner. If and when nuisance issues arise, property owners will work with neighbors, and city staff as necessary, to amicably resolve concerns. Complaints shall be considered prima facie nuisances with the burden upon property owners to resolve the same. (Ord. 2012-02, 2-21-2012)

Start up costs

- Chicks: \$2.00-4.00 each
- Feed: \$17.00 (50 lbs bag)
 - 6-8 chickens will eat about 50 lbs a month of laying feed
 - Subsidize their diet with scratch (mix of corn, wheat, oats)
 - Also feed them bread, vegetables, fruit, bugs, grass
 - Many subsidize their diet with oyster shell. This helps with calcium creating strong shells
- Equipment: \$15.00-150.00 (light, feeder, water container, chicken wire, box, time)
- Coop: \$250.00-1,000.00
- Electricity: \$8.70 month (125 watt bulb)

Chick Definitions

- Straight run: when you order chicks, whatever is hatched is what you receive (no male/female determination)
- Pullet: adolescent hen (10 weeks to 1 yr old)
- Cockerel: adolescent rooster (10 weeks to maturity)
- Capon: castrated cockerel
- Hen: female chicken
- Rooster: male chicken
- Sex-link: breed of chicken that hatches chicks which are color identifiable between male/female

Chicks to HENS

- New chicks can be any where from 2 days old to a week old.
 - 95 degrees to start decreasing 5 degrees until temps in surrounding area increases or until 10 weeks old.
 - Water and food must be maintained daily
 - Use straw or wood bedding, change regularly
- 16-18 weeks to mature
- Most breeds live between 8-10 years
- Many will lay for up to 7/8 years. Most lose ability or slow down after 3/4 years
- Production will stop during molting
 - The period in fall when hens replace feathers
- As weather cools for winter so does production
 - Need 16 hours a day of UV light to optimal production

Coops

- Any size or style you like
- Recommendation
 - 4 sq ft of outdoor space per chicken
 - 1 laying box for every 2/3 chickens
 - Ability to enter to clean
 - Predator protection (dogs, cats, snakes, birds)
- Place for food and water (frozen water)
- Roosting rods-chickens love to roost



Egg Comparison

Store bought WHITE egg



Home grown BROWN egg



Harvesting

- ❖ Gather Daily-sometimes twice
- ❖ Color/Size
- ❖ Cleaning
 - ❖ Use warm water
 - ❖ Soak-if necessary
 - ❖ Lightly brush
 - ❖ Air dry
- ❖ “BLOOM”- a protective coating around a laid egg. Protects from bacteria entering shell
- ❖ Storage
 - ❖ Save egg cartons
 - ❖ Tradition is in refrigerator, no evidence that this is necessary.
 - ❖ Date eggs with a marker/pencil so you know when harvested.
- ❖ Home grown expiration
 - ❖ Most believe 2 months
 - ❖ Store bought are several weeks old already
- ❖ Don't let freeze
- ❖ Don't let your hens eat YOUR eggs



Popular Breeds

- ***White Leghorn***: yellow chick, white hen, white egg. Production 220-300 per year
- ***Brown Leghorn***: multi-color chick, mostly brown hen, white egg. Production 220-300 per year
- ***Buff Orpington***: yellow chick, golden hen, brown egg. Production 200-280
- ***Rhode Island Red***: golden chick, dark red hen, brown egg. Production 200-280 per year
- ***Red Star Sex Link***: tan chick, light brown/white mix hen, brown egg. Production 220-300 per year

- www.sjc.utah.gov
- www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/
- www.cacklehatchery.com
- www.mcmurrayhatchery.com
- www.backyardchickens.com
- www.almanac.com
- IFA stores
- Cal-Ranch

Electrical Cost Usage

- ✓ $\text{Appliance Wattage} / 1000 = \text{kilowatts}$
- ✓ $\text{kilowatts} * \text{hours appliance runs} = \text{kilowatt hr}$
- ✓ $\text{Kilowatt hr} * \text{cost per kWh} = \text{electrical cost}$
 - $250 \text{ watt bulb} / 1000 = .25 \text{ kilowatts}$
 - $.25 \text{ kilowatts} * 24 \text{ hours} = 6 \text{ kilowatt hours}$
 - $6 \text{ kilowatt hrs} * \$.0994 \text{ cents} = \$.5964 \text{ cents per day or } \17.89 per month