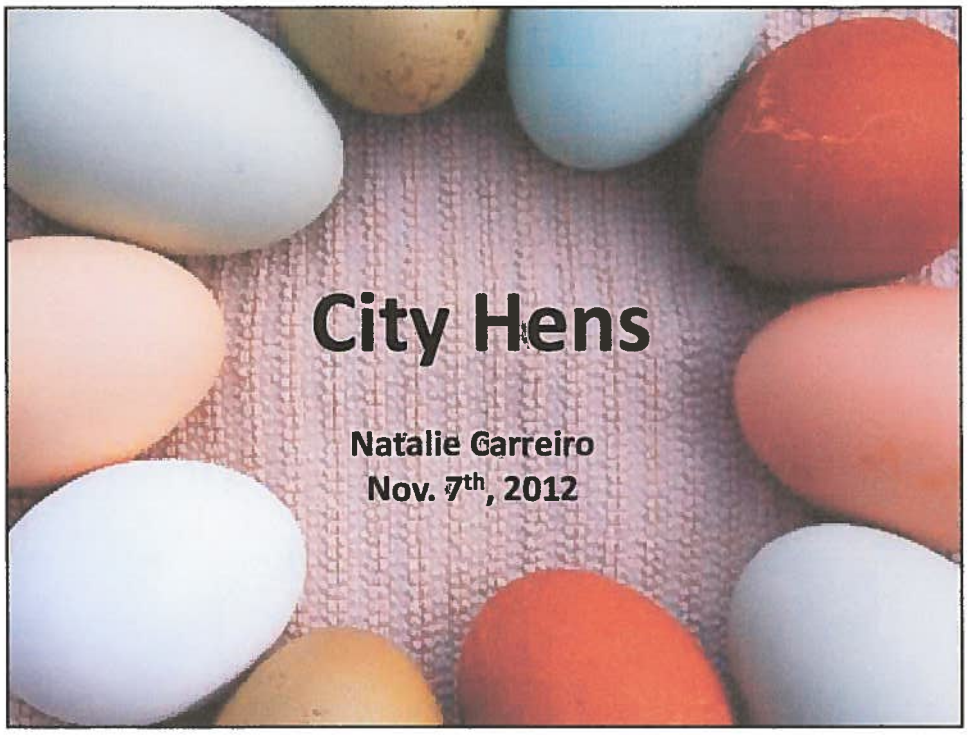


Quotes

- *"I can't say that I would have envisioned chickens as an issue, but I've heard from a lot of people about them, and it seems like it's something maybe we ought to pay a little attention to"*
  – Stacy Rye, City Councilwoman, Missoula MT (LaBadie, 2008, p.4)

- *"It seems like if we want to be a town that does its part for sustainability, this is something we ought to consider"*
  –John Engen, Mayor , Missoula MT (LaBadie, 2008, p. 14)

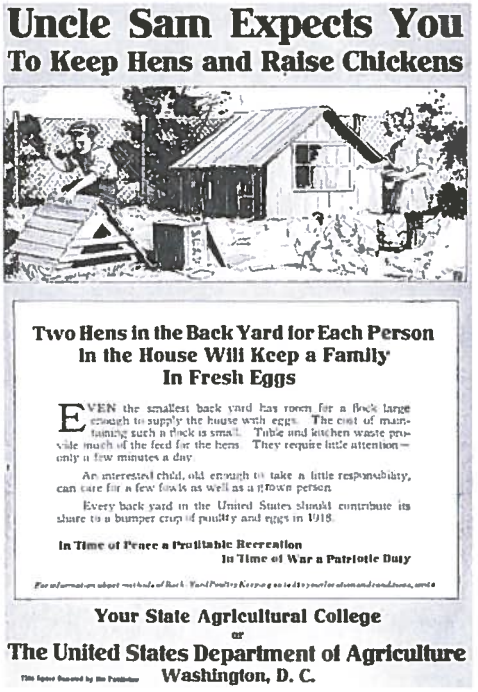


Myth #1: Keeping City Hens is a silly, new idea

Fact: Popular in many cities!

Only within the last few decades, have chickens not been permitted within some cities (Pollock, et. al, 2012, 734)

1. **Victoria, BC**
2. **North Vancouver, BC**
3. **Niagara Falls, Ontario**
4. **Whitehorse, Yukon**
5. **Guelph, Ontario**
6. **Burlington, Vermont**
7. **Miami, Florida**
8. **Los Angeles, California**
9. **Minneapolis, Minnesota**
10. **Portland, Oregon**
11. **San Francisco, California**
12. **Nashville, Tennessee**
13. **San Diego, California**
14. **Seattle, Washington**
15. **New York, New York**



Uncle Sam Expects You
To Keep Hens and Raise Chickens

Two Hens in the Back Yard for Each Person In the House Will Keep a Family In Fresh Eggs

EVEN the smallest back yard has room for a flock large enough to supply the house with eggs. The cost of maintaining such a flock is small. Table and kitchen waste provide much of the feed for the hens. They require little attention—only a few minutes a day.

An interested child, old enough to take a little responsibility, can care for a few fowls as well as a grown person.

Every back yard in the United States should contribute its share to a bumper crop of poultry and eggs in 1918.

In Time of Peace a Profitable Recreation
In Time of War a Patriotic Duty

Your State Agricultural College
or
The United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

85+ Major North American Cities Who encourage Back Yard Hens

1. North Vancouver, British Columbia
2. Victoria, British Columbia
3. Whitehorse, Yukon
4. Niagara Falls, Ontario
5. Kamloops, BC
6. Guelph, Ontario
7. Anaheim, California
8. Ann Arbor, Michigan
9. Albuquerque, New Mexico
10. Asheville, North Carolina
11. Atlanta, Georgia
12. Austin, Texas
13. Baltimore City, Maryland
14. Baton Rouge, Louisiana
15. Belmont, Massachusetts
16. Berkely, California
17. Boise, Idaho
18. Brockton, Massachusetts
19. Burlington, Vermont
20. Cambridge, Massachusetts
21. Camden, Maine
22. Caspet Wyoming
23. Chapel Hill, South Carolina
24. Charlottesville, Virginia
25. Chicago, Illinois
26. Colorado Springs, Colorado
27. Dallas, Texas
28. Davis, California
29. District of Columbia
30. Denver, Colorado
31. Des Moines, Iowa
32. Evansville, Indiana
33. Fayetteville, Arkansas
34. Flagstaff, Arizona
35. Fort Collins, Colorado
36. Gig Harbor, Washington
37. Gilbert, Arizona
38. Grand Forks, North Dakota
39. Hamstead, New Hampshire
40. Houston, Texas
41. Honolulu, Hawaii
42. Irvine, California
43. Lakewood, California
44. Lansing, Michigan
45. Lawrence, Kansas
46. Laramie, Wyoming
47. Laredo, Texas
48. Las Vegas, Nevada
49. Little Rock, Arkansas
50. Long Beach, California
51. Los Altos, California
52. Los Angeles, California
53. Louisville, Kentucky
54. Madison, Wisconsin
55. Miami, Florida
56. Minneapolis, Minnesota
57. Mission Viejo, California
58. Missoula, Montana
59. Mobile, Alabama
60. Nashville, Tennessee
61. New Orleans, Louisiana
62. New York City, New York
63. Oakland, California
64. Olympia, Washington
65. Omaha, Nebraska
66. Portland, Maine
67. Portland, Oregon
68. Raleigh, North Carolina
69. Richmond, Virginia
70. Sacramento, California
71. San Francisco, California
72. Santa Fe, New Mexico
73. Saint Louis, Missouri
74. Saint Paul, Minnesota
75. Salt Lake City, Utah
76. San Antonio, Texas
77. San Diego, California
78. Seattle, Washington
79. Sioux City, Iowa
80. Spokane, Washington
81. Syracuse, New York
82. Tacoma, Washington
83. Tampa, Florida
84. Topeka, Kansas
85. Syracuse, New York
86. Vancouver, Washington
87. Wichita, Kansas



Myth #2: Chickens are Dirty, Smelly and they attract rodents

Fact: It's all about the management

- Comparing factory farms to Backyard coops = inappropriate & unfair
- Not born dirty...it's the environment!
  - Clean coop often
  - Store feed indoors
  - Rodent-proof coops



Waste Generated/day		
Animal	Pounds/day	Ounces/day
1 Dog (40 pound)	0.75 ¥	12 ¥*
1 chicken	0.09 *	1.5 *
10 chickens	0.66 ¥	10.5 ¥

¥ P.Foreman, 2010, 381
*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backyard_chickens

Myth #3: Hens will be too noisy

Fact: Roosters are the culprits for noise, NOT hens

Noise from...	Decibel Level
Regular Human Conversation	60 decibels¥
Washing Machine	70 decibels*
Chicken	70 decibels¥
Average Traffic	85 decibels*
Dog Barking, Rooster Crow	90+ decibels¥
Lawn Mower	90+ decibels¥, 105 decibels *
Children yelling while playing	110+ decibels*



NO ROOSTERS!

Video: "How Much Noise Do Backyard Chickens Make?" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaySNFTJRM8

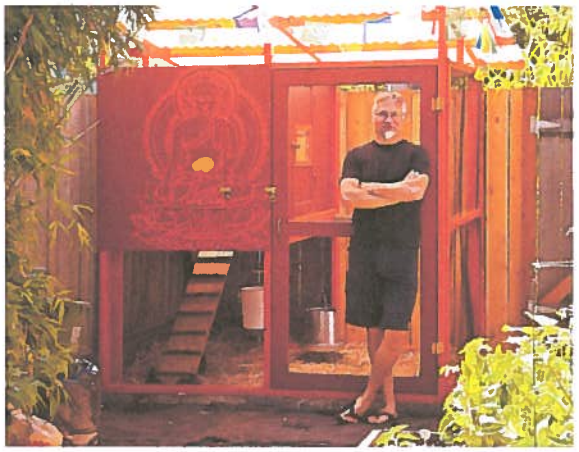
¥ P.Foreman, 2010, 381
* American Tinnitus Association (ATA) at http://www.wotwaste.com/waste-articles/communications-waste/noise-pollution-and-screaming-children

Myth #4: Hen coops will be an eye sore

Fact: Urban Coops are typically small, clean & attractive

- People live close to their coops = want to manage them well
- Sense of pride
- Just like play structures, swing sets, pigeon coops

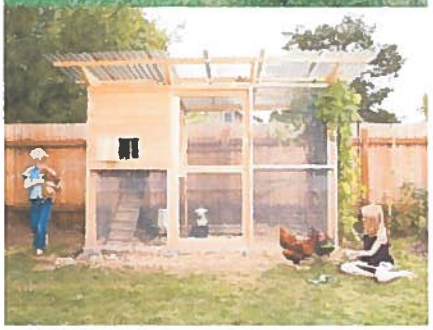




City Hen keepers take pride in their Coops!









Myth #5: Chickens Create Health Hazards

Fact:

- The risk of Avian influenza is low or negligible in North America.
- BYC are not the problem, but a solution to Avian Influenza
- Small flocks can remain disease free by practicing simple guidelines outlined by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/newsroom/multimedia-gallery/animal-health-videos/video-bird-health-basics/eng/1320092234079/1322158553549



Myth#6: Allowing Hens Will significantly increase Animal Services Workload

Fact:

Other cities have not experienced significant increases in workload, nor have extra funds been needed due to allowing backyard hens.

"We're at 6500 calls for the year so far. We don't even get ten calls a year about chickens"
- Raj Gill, Bylaw officer, Animal Control, Kamloops, BC.

"Very minimal part of our work, almost nothing at all, maybe five calls a year"
- Victoria Simpson, Pound and Adoption Specialist, Animal Control Services, Victoria, BC

""We have had pretty good success. [...] The bylaw has actually helped prevent problems we had in the past, to be honest." - Jay Desrochers, Executive Director, Niagara Falls Humane Society

"There were more problems when we didn't have a bylaw in place"
- John, Animal Control Officer, Minneapolis



Myth#7: Backyard Laying Hens will take away from local egg farmers

Fact: Some people grow their own tomatoes, and some don't have time/the desire to grow their own

- Same for laying hens (it's not for everyone)
- Winter (decreased sunshine) = will stop laying
  - ➢Concerned for flock health
  - ➢Allow hens to rest
  - ➢Likely to still buy eggs





City Hens:

- Food Security (complete meal from own backyard)
- Waste management strategy (table scraps)
- Natural insect & weed control
- Safe compost/fertilizer for gardeners
- Great Hypoallergenic pet & Teaching tool





Thank-You!
Comments? Questions?

