



136 North Monroe Street
Waterloo, Wisconsin 53594-1198

NOTICE OF A CITY OF WATERLOO PLAN COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given to the public and the news media, the following meeting will be held to consider the following:

MEETING: PLAN COMMISSION
DATE: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 **TIME: 6:00 p.m.**
LOCATION: 136 N. MONROE STREET, MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1) CHICKENS IN WATERLOO – The Plan Commission will have a public hearing on allowing chickens in Waterloo.
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Adjournment

PLAN COMMISSION REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- 1) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- 2) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: June 25, 2024
- 3) CITIZEN INPUT (3-Minute Time Limit)
- 4) OLD BUSINESS
- 5) NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Chickens Discussion
- 6) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 7) ADJOURNMENT

Jeanne Ritter, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

Members: Leisses, Quimby, Kuhl, Crosby, Chadwick, Empey & Renforth

Posted, Distributed & Emailed: 10/16/2024

PLEASE NOTE: It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may attend the above meeting(s) to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body other than that specifically noted. Also, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request such services please contact the clerk's office at the above location.

WATERLOO PLAN COMMISSION – Minutes June 25, 2024
[a digital meeting recording also serves as the official record]

PLAN COMMISSION REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- 1) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL. Mayor Quimby called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Commissioners attending: Crosby, Empey, Leisses, Chadwick and C. Kuhl. Remote: none Absent: Renforth. Others in attendance: J. Stippich and Clerk Ritter.
- 2) APPROVAL OF MEETING: May 28, 2024 Motion [Crosby/Leisses] VOICE VOTE: Motion carried.
- 3) CITIZEN INPUT - none
- 4) OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Division of Property/CSM Map 760 West Clarkson Road parcel 290-0813-0612-000 Motion to approve with engineer final approval. [Leisses/Empey] ROLL CALL: Yes-5 No 0 Motion carried. Renforth absent
- 5) NEW BUSINESS
- 6) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- 7) ADJOURNMENT (C. Kuhl/Empey] VOICE VOTE: Motion carried. Approximately 6:04 pm

Jeanne Ritter, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

City of Waterloo Public Hearing Announcement – Plan Commission

Subject: Public Hearing on Allowing Chickens in the City of Waterloo

Date: October 22, 2024

Time: 6p.m.

Location: Council Chambers Waterloo City Hall 136 N. Monroe St. Waterloo, WI

The City of Waterloo will hold a public hearing to gather community input on the proposed regulations regarding the keeping of chickens within city limits. This hearing provides an opportunity for residents to share their views, concerns, and suggestions regarding this issue.

All interested residents are encouraged to attend and participate. The City Council values your input in making decisions that effectively reflect the needs and desires of our community.

For additional information, please contact:

Jeanne Ritter

Waterloo City Clerk

920-478-3025

jritter@waterloowi.us



Hens in Waterloo

THE CASE FOR BACKYARD CHICKENS



DEFINITIONS

Free-Roam	allow to roam freely outdoors not confined to an enclosure
Chicken	any breed of female of the subspecies Gallus Domesticus
Coop	an enclosed and roofed roosting area
Run	enclosed area in which hens are allowed to walk and run
Chick	any chicken less than 6 months in age

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THANK YOU

for consideration

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SIGNATURES

from Waterloo residents

Online Petition

1. Gunther Knutson
2. Chris Schaefer
3. Ashley Corlett
4. Laurie Ward
5. Heather Rhynes
6. Jason Corlett
7. Kristi Yost
8. Holly Bah
9. Sarah Knutson
10. Karen Jiles
11. Eric Solberg
12. Shannon Smith
13. Jacob Woods
14. Leeann Woods
15. Margo L Fochs
16. Julie Schoenherr
17. Niki Schultz
18. Jordan Newby
19. Katey Bennin
20. Kendra Greenheck
21. Laura Bartaszewicz
22. Paula Jacob
23. Kate Abitz
24. Jessica Wredberg
25. Bailey Lawson

26. Nicole Solberg
27. Kathi Strohbusch
28. Larry Silha
29. Nancy Durig
30. Valerie Deegan
31. Thomas McBride
32. John Holzhueter
33. Cindy Jo Voelker
34. Rachel Edge
35. Billy Bagneski
36. Dakota Sturgill
37. Stephen Wineland
38. Rachel Woldt
39. Randi Amble
40. Hunter DeWitt
41. Alejandro Vega
42. Lexie Yelk
43. Jack Zbikowski
44. Jose Cruz
45. Kylie Staniszewski
46. Ashley Reise
47. Alex Morris
48. Miriam Schilling
49. Eric Schilling
50. Emily McGrane
51. Kate Tobias
52. Kelly Miller
53. Christina Labins
54. Taina Hosking
55. Melissa Rowin

56. Samantha Novak
57. Megan Smith
58. Teagan Ochoa
59. Heidi Leckel
60. Dan Capadona
61. Shelby Shelton
62. Samantha Shelton
63. Nicholas Lindert
64. Layne Jackson
65. Samantha Otte
66. Carly Smith
67. Rose Yost
68. Brian Coons
69. Chad DeCaluwe
70. Sarah Paust
71. Lisa Hirschert Hirschert
72. Erin Frank
73. Britanie Peaslee
74. Leah Van sliedrecht
75. Brandi Schultz

Paper Petition

76. Urszula North
77. Darrel North
78. Jordan Newby
79. Lucas Ward
80. Jim Schaefer

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 81. Alex Cummings | 124. Jacob Freson | 167. Jaime Parker |
| 82. Erica Garcia | 125. Lisa Bagnoski | 168. Berttina Romano |
| 83. Maria Gonzales | 126. Cody Claeys | 169. Brian Romano |
| 84. Andres Garcia | 127. Nicole Teeter | 170. Jacob Filter |
| 85. Kevin Gonzalez | 128. Jacob Woods | 171. August Granzig |
| 86. Jessy Gonzalez | 129. Rachel Weihert | 172. Coral Cramer-Carlson |
| 87. Drew Reedy | 130. Kelli Mountford | 173. Noah Schneider |
| 88. Judith Bernal | 131. Amanda Brueckner | 174. Kenneth Kulic |
| 89. Frank Bernal | 132. Lisa Farnsworth | 175. Rick Stokes |
| 90. Blake Kurkowski | 133. Evyn Reeves | 176. Eric Ray |
| 91. Karyme Martinez | 134. Kathy Kramer | 177. Rick Stokes |
| 92. Gregorio Ayala | 135. Keri Prevett | 178. Eric Ray |
| 93. Nicole Kurtz | 136. Chris Prevett | 179. Jamie Stock Retzloff |
| 94. Vanessa Ziehme | 137. Riley Bodoh | 180. Darlene Tucker |
| 95. Laurie Cooler | 138. Kasidi Dalton | 181. Jenn Hughes |
| 96. Debra Quinn | 139. Traci Beyer | 182. Marlene King |
| 97. Jenny Bowers | 140. Mike Beyer | 183. Corey Besl |
| 98. Kevin Seibert | 141. Sue Smith | 184. Kyle Uttech |
| 99. Susan Seibert | 142. David Smith | 185. Jeremy Uttech |
| 100. David Kurkowski | 143. Sara Dahlke | 186. Timothy Rounds |
| 101. Barb Houston | 144. Frank Woznick | 187. Frederick Yerges |
| 102. Michelle Williams | 145. Susan Teubert | 188. Jim Aubart |
| 103. Matt Williams | 146. Jaclyn Rennebohm | 189. Jason Kemnitz |
| 104. Christy Neumaier | 147. Marshall Laechelin | 190. Cheri Van Holten |
| 105. Chad Neumaier | 148. Maria Rojas | 191. Victoria Castillo |
| 106. Joya Gehler | 149. Jaquelne Gonzales | 192. Angela Zimdars |
| 107. Sonya Laechelia | 150. Marcelo Gonzales | 193. Tammy Abdon |
| 108. Ben Ponti | 151. Gabes Garcia | 194. David Krueger |
| 109. Cody Ponti | 152. Lionel Gonzales | 195. Norman Hunt |
| 110. Anthony Heller | 153. Maria Garcia | 196. Gwendolyn Carlson |
| 111. Duane Schoenherr | 154. Kayla Lanier | 197. Allan Kegler |
| 112. Jerry Detert | 155. Ashley Wolf | 198. Theron Retzloff |
| 113. Paul Petit | 156. Kevin Wolf | 199. Jeanne Otteson |
| 114. Dakota Gehin | 157. John Lanier | 200. Sharon Clayton |
| 115. Lucas Ellis | 158. Hailey Hanson | 201. Katie Capadona |
| 116. Urszula North | 159. Jim Schaefer | 202. Dan Capadona |
| 117. Darrel North | 160. Sarah Johnson | 203. Sharon Pochowski |
| 118. Jordan Newby | 161. Kerri Setz | 204. Gregory Johnson |
| 119. Lucas Ward | 162. Craig Setz | 205. Douglas Sullivan |
| 120. Alex Zastrow | 163. Kim Clayton | 206. Paul T. Sillnas |
| 121. Jennifer Billings | 164. Michelle Weihert | 207. Roxanne Stahnke |
| 122. Alycia Sill | 165. Susan Celley | 208. Theresa Peachey |
| 123. Laura Pare | 166. Corrine Hunta | |

BENEFITS

of backyard chickens

1

FRESH EGGS

- **Healthier eggs:** Fresh eggs from backyard chickens tend to have higher nutritional value, with more omega-3s and less cholesterol than store-bought eggs.
- **Quality control:** You control the chickens' diet, ensuring they're fed a healthy and organic diet, leading to cleaner, healthier eggs.

2

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- **Waste reduction:** Chickens eat food scraps, reducing household waste and cutting down on what goes to landfills.
- **Composting:** Chicken manure is an excellent fertilizer, rich in nitrogen, which can enhance compost and improve soil quality for gardens.
- **Pest control:** Chickens are natural pest controllers, eating bugs, slugs, and other pests in your yard, reducing the need for chemical pesticides.

3

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- **Food security:** Raising chickens provides a reliable source of eggs, and in some cases, meat, reducing reliance on grocery stores.
- **Gardening support:** Chickens contribute to a backyard ecosystem, providing natural fertilizers and tilling soil with their scratching.

4

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- **Learning for kids and adults:** Backyard chickens offer a hands-on opportunity for both children and adults to learn about responsibility, biology, and sustainability.
- **Connection to nature:** They allow city dwellers to engage more directly with nature and the cycle of food production, fostering a better understanding of where food comes from.

5

COST SAVINGS

- **Egg savings:** Over time, the cost of raising chickens can offset the price of buying eggs, especially if you consume a lot of them.
- **Fertilizer savings:** With free access to chicken manure, there's no need to buy chemical fertilizers for your garden.

6

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Neighborhood sharing:** Surplus eggs can be shared with neighbors, fostering a sense of community and potentially starting new friendships.
- **Educational workshops:** Backyard chickens can inspire others to adopt sustainable practices, lead to neighborhood workshops or collaborations.

7

THERAPEUTIC AND MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS

- **Calming presence:** Chickens are known to have a calming effect and watching them can reduce stress, anxiety, depression, and even lower blood pressure.
- **Routine and responsibility:** Caring for animals like chickens provides a daily routine and sense of purpose, which can have positive mental health effects.

8

IMPROVED YARD HEALTH

- **Aeration:** Chickens scratch the ground, helping to aerate the soil and improve its health naturally.
- **Weed control:** Chickens can help keep your yard free from weeds, as they enjoy eating unwanted plants.

9

BIODIVERSITY & CONSERVATION

- **Supporting rare breeds:** By keeping chickens, especially heritage or rare breeds, you help maintain genetic diversity and support conservation efforts.
- **Urban agriculture promotion:** Urban chicken-keeping supports the movement toward more localized, sustainable agriculture practices within cities.

10

EXERCISE AND OUTDOOR TIME

- **Physical activity:** Chicken care involves cleaning coops, feeding, and collecting eggs, which encourages physical activity.
- **Spending time outdoors:** Chicken keeping encourages more time spent outside, enjoying fresh air and sunshine, which promotes well-being.

11

ENJOYMENT

- **Chickens as pets:** Chickens can be fun and quirky pets with individual personalities, offering entertainment and companionship.

CONCERNS

and solutions

1

NOISE

- **Solution:** Hens are much quieter than roosters, which are the primary source of noise complaints. Hens typically make soft clucking sounds. A rule banning roosters could eliminate loud crowing, while limiting the number of hens (e.g., 4-6 per household) would keep noise to minimal.

2

ODOR

- **Solution:** A properly maintained chicken coop produces minimal odor. Chickens themselves do not smell. To mitigate any concerns we can require coops to be at a certain distance from neighboring lots (e.g. 10 feet). Fertilization of fields in the area bring more odor than coops ever could.

3

ATTRACTING PREDATORS

- **Resolution:** Predators are more attracted to roaming neighborhood cats, food left out, and garbage cans. Also, properly secured coops can prevent predators from being drawn to the area, nobody wants to lose their chickens to predators.

4

HEALTH AND ZONING REGULATIONS

- **Resolution:** The big disease outbreaks happen in large, commercial poultry operations, where there are thousands of birds kept in close quarters. Backyard chicken keepers usually don't bring in new chickens often, which reduces the risk of introducing diseases. Keeping hens under hygienic conditions poses minimal risk to public health, and any potential disease risks can be managed. A limit on the number of chickens (e.g., 4-6) can further mitigate health risks.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **Resolution:** Waste company that operates in Waterloo agreed to take chicken waste (please see email copy below for exact rules and limitations). But also, chicken waste can be composted and used as a rich fertilizer for gardens, promoting sustainability.

“

Gunther,

Per my operations manager, we will dispose of chicken poop/waste. It will need to be double bagged (regular trash bags) and “not large amount.” We would state that 3 bags of waste per weekly trash service.

Thank you,

Kaitlyn

proposal ORDINANCE *sample*

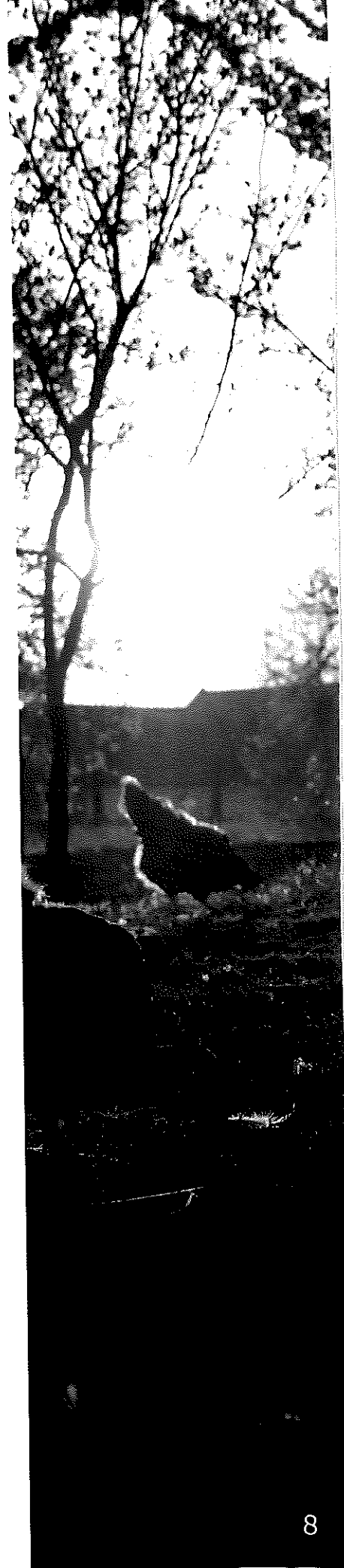
Licensing of chickens

- Notify others as required that you will be keeping chickens on the property. If the property is an owner occupied single family home, no notification is required. If the property is a single family home that is not owner occupied, notify and gain approval from the property owner and all residents of your dwelling unit. If the property is a two, three, or four family home, notify and gain approval from the property owner and all residents of the property in all dwelling units. If the property is a school or library, the applicant for the license must notify and gain approval from the owner or operator of the property if the applicant is not the owner or operator.
- The license year for the keeping of chickens shall commence on January 1st and end on December 31st each year. License must be obtained starting January 1st and ending March 31st. A late fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per-month shall be collected from any licensee that files for renewal after March 31st in any year. License must be obtained within 30 days of obtaining chickens. A late fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per-month shall be collected from any licensee that fails to obtain a license within 30 days of obtaining chickens. Applications for the annual renewal of chicken keeping licenses shall be filed with the city clerk on a form provided by the city, along with a non-refundable license fee.
- The holder of a chicken keeping license agrees to allow the city to enter and inspect the premises upon reasonable notice to assess compliance. If an operator that does not, within a reasonable timeframe, correct any deficiencies identified upon written notice from the city, the license can be revoked.
- Licensees must register with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. This registration is free. Either complete the form online, or print it and fill it out. Once registered, you will be given a registration number.



Keeping of chickens

- A maximum number of 8 chickens may be kept by residents who are eligible to obtain a license or by a school or library that has obtained a license. A license must be obtained in order to keep chickens (see Licensing of Chickens).
- Keeping of one or more roosters is prohibited.
- No slaughtering of chickens shall occur on the property.
- Chickens shall not be allowed to free-roam.
- The raising of chicks shall be permitted.
 - » Chicks do not count toward the size of the flock until the age of 6 months.
 - » Chicks are permitted to be raised in structures where chickens are prohibited (garages, basements, etc.)
- The sale of chickens, chicken meat, eggs or other chicken by-products is prohibited.
- Chicken coop and run is required.
- Chickens shall be kept in the coop or chicken run at all times unless under direct supervision.
- The coop shall be a stand-alone structure (i.e. moveable) with the following restrictions:
 - » Maximum height of 10 feet from the ground.
 - » Coop shall not exceed 48 square feet in area.
- The run shall be a stand-alone structure located adjacent to the coop with the following restrictions
 - » Maximum height of 8 feet from the ground.
 - » Shall not exceed 120 square feet in area.
- The coop and run will have the following location restrictions
 - » Located at least 10 feet from the principal living structure.
 - » Located at least 25 feet from the principal structure on an adjacent lot.
 - » Enclosure must be clean, dry, and odor-free as possible and shall be kept in a manner that will not disturb use or enjoyment of adjacent lots.
- Chickens shall not be permitted in any other structure on the lot, including garages, basements, and attics.
- Chickens shall be permitted to roam within a fenced area under direct supervision and be returned to the coop and run immediately when not under direct supervision.
- Failure to comply with this section shall be deemed a public nuisance. After three nuisances within a year's time, the license may be revoked by the city if directed.



data and STATISTICS

2

WEEKS TO GATHER SUPPORT

MORE THAN

200

SIGNATURES RECEIVED FROM SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTS

8%

OF ADULT POPULATION IN WATERLOO IS AWARE AND
IN FAVOR OF BACKYARD CHICKENS

99%

OF PEOPLE APPROACHED WERE APPROVING OF
BACKYARD CHICKENS IN WATERLOO

QUOTES

from the community



“I believe people should have the opportunity to be self sustaining if desired.”

~ Ashley Corlett

“I think everyone should be able to have chickens for eggs to support their families.”

~ Chris Schaefer

“We love chickens!”

~ Kayla Lanier

“A small flock of chickens is highly manageable and not a nuisance at all, especially without a rooster present. People should be able to provide food for their own families.”

~ Mara Paddock

“My wife and I would love to have chickens in the future, hope this can keep moving forward!”

~ Sloan Greenheck

“I like chickens and eggs and I know how to care for them. Also because private property should be able to be used for any purpose the owners decide and not subject to government infringement on property rights.”

~ Robert Schrock

“Why not allow the freedom and food?”

~ Douglas Sullivan

“I live in Waterloo, WI and would LOVE to have my own sustainable lifestyle, including chickens.”

~ Margo Fochs

“We’ve had plenty of time to see how it has gone in other communities and learn from their best practices. It’s past time we allowed chickens in Waterloo.”

~ Erin Forrest

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to consider the case for allowing backyard chickens in our community. We deeply appreciate your dedication to listening to the voices of your fellow citizens. By trusting in the responsibility and stewardship of our residents, we can work together to create a stronger, more sustainable city.



Feel free to read more comments, visit our facebook group, or even sign the petition by scanning the QR code.

Bird Flu Information

Overview:

Avian flu is spread by wild birds. "Waterfowl and shorebirds are natural hosts for the avian influenza virus. These birds will shed the virus, often without showing signs of illness." (Source 1). "Infected birds shed avian influenza viruses through their saliva, mucus and feces." (Source 3).

Stats:

"Total Reported Human Cases in the United States: 17 (since 2022) 6 following exposure to dairy, 10 following exposure to poultry (reported between 4/28/2022 and 7/25/2024), 1 with no immediately known animal exposure. States with Reported Case(s): 5" (Source 4). These states include Colorado (10), Texas (1), Michigan (2), Missouri (1), California (1).

Prevention:

The main preventative measure to protect backyard chickens from bird flu is to "bring pet birds indoors or ensure areas where backyard birds are kept are fully enclosed, away from wild birds and their droppings." (Source 2).

Argument:

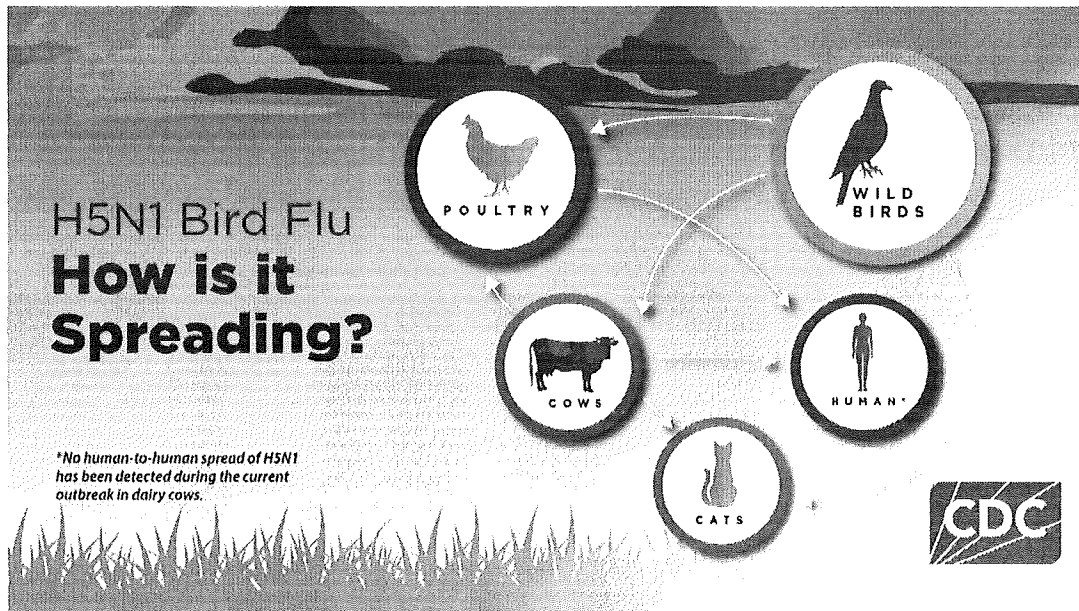
I have never seen a goose, duck, or similar on my property and I have never seen droppings from these birds on my property. The only time I do see these birds around Waterloo is flying high up in the sky or near standing water (like near the Waterloo Utilities building). Those near water sources that do attract geese and ducks (ponds for example) would need to be extra vigilant to keep an eye out for bird flu and ensure they are taking the preventive measures necessary to keep chickens and wild birds separated. Requiring coops to be built a certain distance away from water sources would help to keep wild birds and backyard chickens separated thereby reducing the risk of chickens getting infected.

Even if birds get bird flu, the chances of it spreading to people is incredibly slim. 17 cases since 2022 / 33.3million = 00.00005% chance of getting bird flu. 0.0018 of a person would have gotten bird flu over the last 2 years assuming any chickens would have gotten it in the first place. It makes sense that large bird farms would have major issues with the avian flu. All it takes is one infected dropping from a wild bird flying overhead to land in the very large area of that farm or a chance encounter with these wild birds (more chickens, more chance of interaction) to infect the flock. With backyard chickens, confining them to a coop and run / fenced in an area greatly decreases their chances of interaction with wild birds and their droppings. Also, if they do end up getting it, the fact that they are contained decreases the chance of it spreading to other backyard chicken owners' chickens. Bird flu kills chickens quickly as well so if they do get it then they won't have much time to spread it.

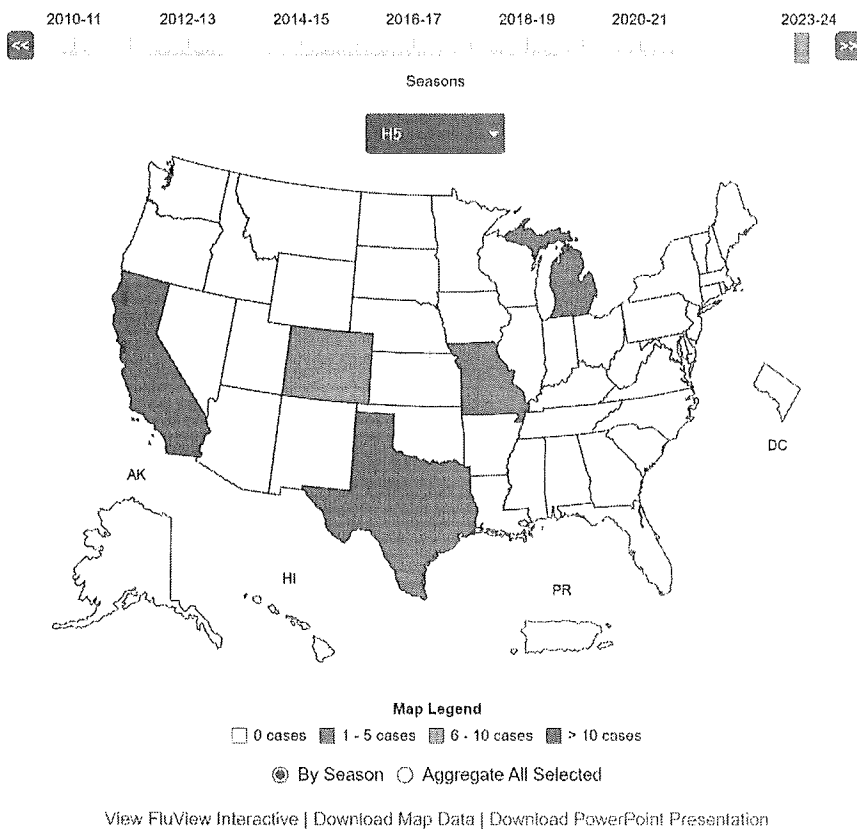
Conclusion:

Based on my research, bird flu should have little impact on backyard chickens and the decision to allow them.

Images:

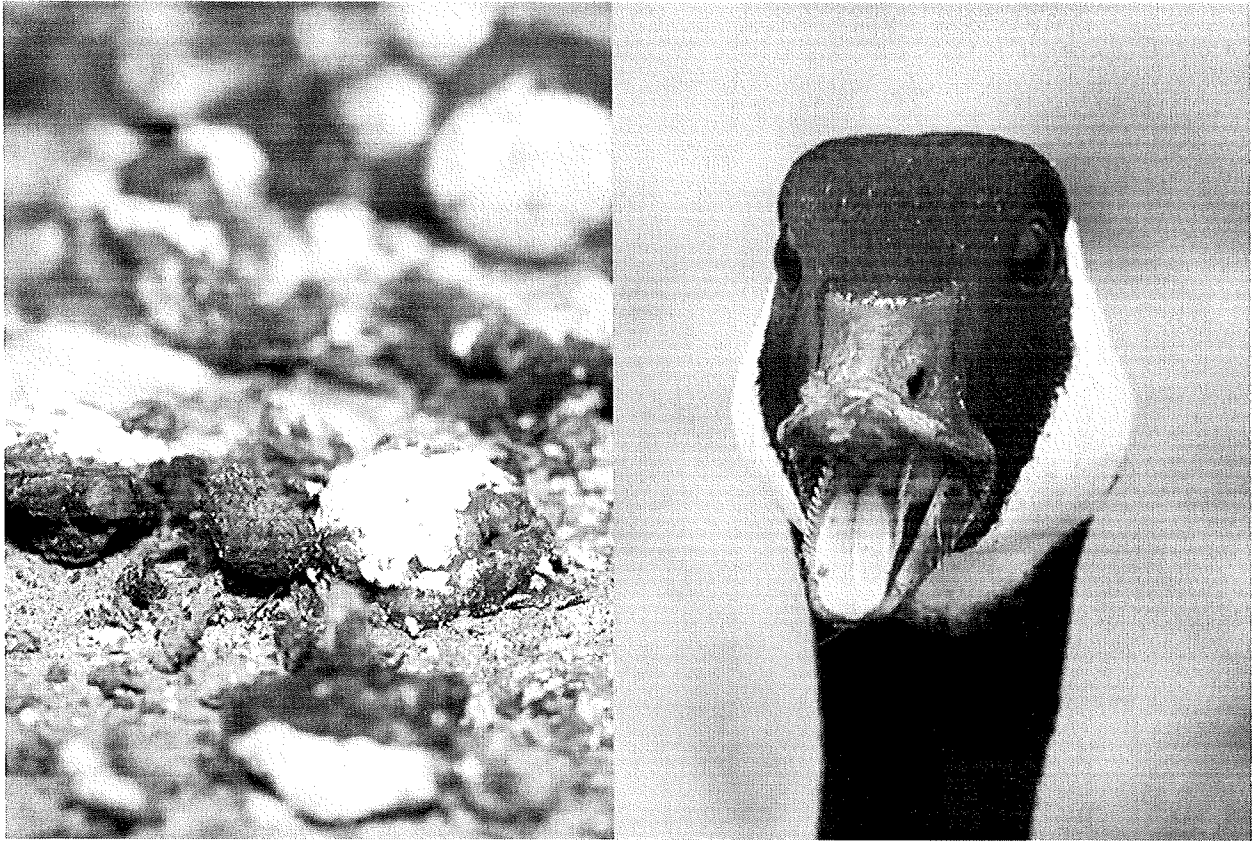


(Source 4)



(Source 5)

Geese Droppings:



(Source 6)

References:

1. <https://extension.umn.edu/poultry-health/avian-influenza-basics-noncommercial-poultry-flock-owners#history-of-avian-influenza-825964>
2. <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-health/avian-influenza/avian-influenza-companion-animals>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/virus-transmission/avian-in-humans.html>
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/index.html>
5. <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/h5-monitoring/index.html>
6. <https://www.brainerddispatch.com/news/goose-poop-prompts-park-service-officials-to-consider-letting-the-dogs-out>

The State of Chicken Affairs

Insights and Analysis from Local Municipal Surveys

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Author: Gunther Knutson

Data Gathered: 10/4/2024 - 10/22/2024

Presented To: Plan Commission Meeting | 6 PM | 10/22/2024 | Waterloo, WI

Summary

After October 3rd's Public and Health and Safety committee meeting, the main concerns were bird flu, predators, and enforcement. Because of this, I decided to reach out to local municipalities to gain some insight on these issues. Below is the summary of the responses.

General

Overall, chicken ownership is generally low (at most 0.29%) compared to population (see data). Waterloo, based on that data, could expect an average 4-5 licenses and a maximum 10-11 licenses.

In most municipalities (13/16), backyard chickens have either had a positive or neutral impact.

Note: N/A or unknown counted as neutral. Common issues among communities are residents not knowing licenses are required, roosters crowing, and chickens running at large which boils down to residents not knowing the ordinances. A couple (2/16) of municipalities, McFarland and Middleton, reported issues involving predators.

Bird Flu

All communities reported that they don't track bird flu or that they were not aware of any issues regarding bird flu.

Predators

Most communities (13/16) municipalities reported that there was no increase or that they were unaware of any increases. Note: this included N/A and unknown responses. A few, (3/16), reported an increase. One of these three, Whitewater, reported that the increase was unrelated to chickens. The other two, Middleton and McFarland reported an increase in predator complaints related to chickens.

Enforcement

Enforcement of ordinances, in general, is handled by the enforcer first notifying the resident of violations via letter. After a certain time period, if violations are not fixed, ordinances are enforced. This is similar to how Waterloo handles weed and icy sidewalk issues. Violations are reported based on complaints. Some communities do inspections for new coops and for newly licensed residents.

Ordinances are enforced by a variety of positions and vary municipality to municipality. These include 3rd party enforcement, building inspectors, zoning department positions, and the police. In general, the number of violations is minimal year to year and the time taken for most municipalities is minimal and insignificant. Windsor, an exception, deals with an above average number of ordinance violations. Residents simply don't know the ordinances, or believe the ordinances are similar to that of Madison, or live in a subdivision that has an HOA that has rules that negate the city chicken ordinances. McFarland reported that most time is spent in the spring during initial inspections.

Conclusions

1. **General:** Overall, a majority of municipalities reported that chickens have a positive or neutral effect on communities rather than a negative one. I would expect Waterloo to be positive or neutral as well. The number of licenses to population is very low so I would expect Waterloo to have ~10 or less homes with chickens based on the data (see below).
2. **Bird Flu:** After my own research on bird flu and looking at the responses, I believe that bird flu should not be a large concern. The way bird flu spreads is contact with wild birds (geese, ducks, etc). Those near standing water would have a much higher risk of contact and might be something to consider. For a majority of Waterloo residents, this would not be a concern. For how many licenses that will actually be handed out (based on the data), the effect of any owner getting bird flu would be minimal. Even if a resident's birds did get bird flu, it tends to kill chickens quickly, which means there would not be a lot of time to spread, and spreading would be hard seeing as how chickens would not be allowed to free range.
3. **Predators:** It is my opinion that predators should not be a concern. Most communities do not have any issues with an increase in predators and those that do, see an increase in complaints from neighbors of residents who own chickens. Middleton and McFarland are the two communities that reported predator issues. Looking at both of these communities, they are larger than Waterloo (more licenses and chickens) and they have habitats integrated between subdivisions. Middleton has Pheasant Branch and Owen's Conservation Park. McFarland has Indian Mound Park and Grandview Park among others. I work in McFarland and we have foxes that nest in the small woods right beside the building and we are right off Hwy 51. Being bigger communities (more chickens), having habit interspersed between subdivisions, and the fact they are right along a lake are similarities between McFarland and Middleton and are reasons that I believe these communities have larger issues with predators than others.
4. **Enforcement:** In general, most communities reported that chickens take a minimal amount of time to enforce. Windsor seemed to have trouble specifically related to ordinances and violations, however, they do not have a proper licensing system. I believe that if we have the ordinances clearly written on the licensing paperwork so that residents know what they are when they apply for chickens, it would alleviate those issues. Also, if I remember correctly, paperwork gets set out to residents yearly with the trash schedule and a reminder to renew dog licenses. Mentioning that chickens need a license and that licenses need to be renewed yearly would let all residents know that licenses are required for chickens (something else Windsor is having issues with).
5. **Other:** It was also brought up in the last meeting that Beaver Dam previously allowed chickens but then revoked their ordinances / pilot program to no longer allow chickens. I reached out and they responded that they have never allowed chickens.

Data

Licenses / Population

City	Total Licenses	Licenses (2024)	Population	Total Licenses %	Licenses %
Juneau	6	6	2,495	0.24%	0.24%
Johnson Creek	10	10	3,421	0.29%	0.29%
Lake Mills	9	9	6,439	0.14%	0.14%
Madison	114	114	272,903	0.04%	0.04%
McFarland	25	25	9,597	0.26%	0.26%
Middleton	25	4	22,328	0.11%	0.02%
Oconomowoc	18	3	16,847	0.11%	0.02%
Sun Prairie	12	12	36,653	0.03%	0.03%
Watertown	48	5	24,451	0.20%	0.02%
Waunakee	3	3	14,998	0.02%	0.02%
Whitewater	2	2	15,638	0.01%	0.01%
Average	24.73	17.55	38,706	0.13%	0.10%
Max	114	114	272,903	0.29%	0.29%
Min	2	2	2,495	0.01%	0.01%
Waterloo Average	4.8	3.62	3,628	0.13%	0.10%
Waterloo Max	10.61	10.61	3,628	0.29%	0.29%
Waterloo Min	0.0001	0.46	3,628	0.01%	0.01%

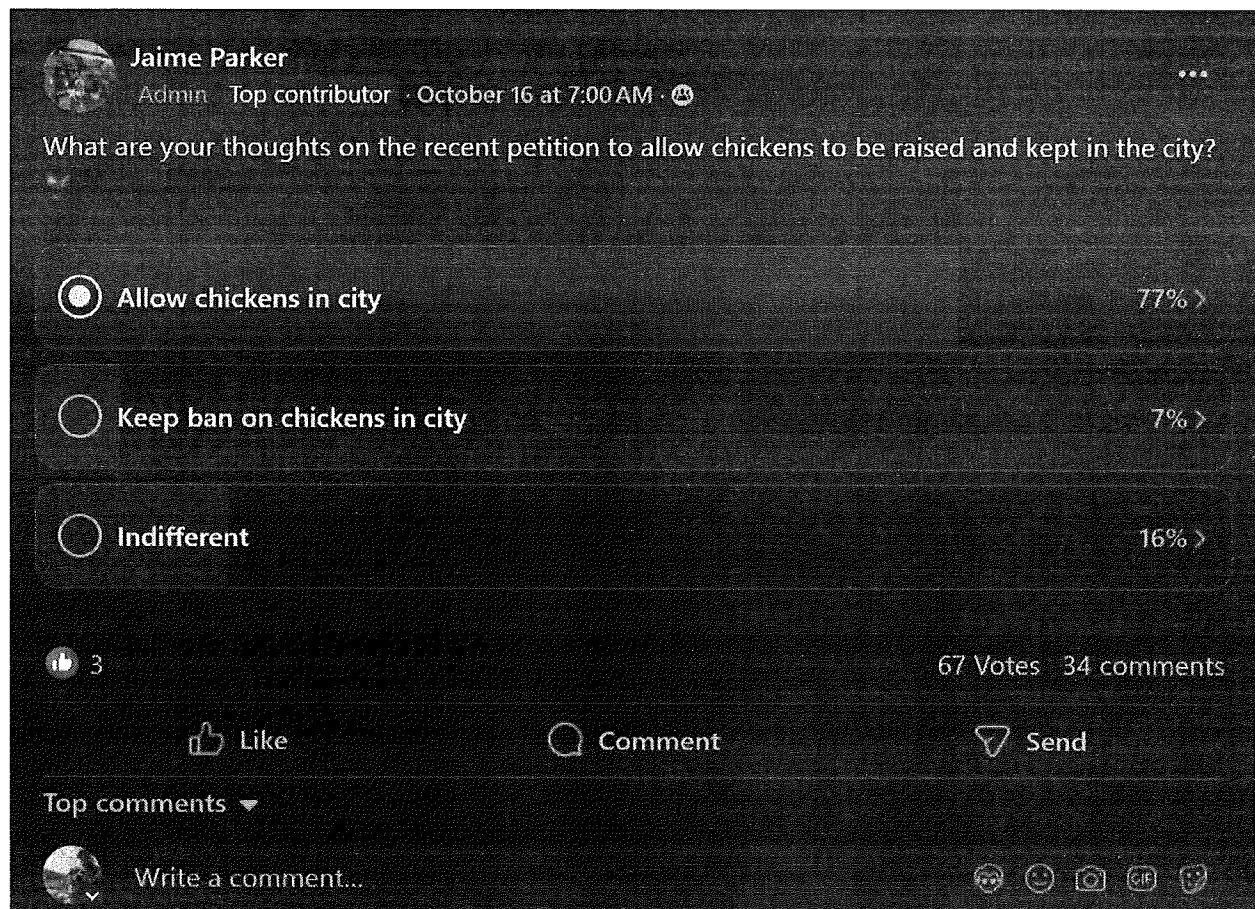
Summary: From the municipalities that replied, the average number of licenses per municipality compared to the population is 0.13%. Using that, Waterloo could expect about 5 licenses handed out (3,628 population in 2022 * 0.13% = 4.8). Looking at Johnson Creek, a similar size municipality, Waterloo could expect 10 licenses/households to be handed out yearly. It is also worth noting that this does not take into account housing types per municipality which varies. Madison, for example, has a lot of apartment buildings so the actual single family resident owning a license percentage could be higher than what is shown but in general, the amount of people in a population seeking to own chickens is low.

License Cost & Number of Chickens Allowed

City	License?	Annual?	Cost	Initial Cost	Chicken #
Arlington	Yes	Yes	\$5	\$20	5
Cottage Grove	No	-	-	-	4
Columbus	Yes	Yes	\$25	\$25	4
Dane	Yes	Yes	\$50	\$100	5
DeForest	Yes	Yes	\$15	-	4
Deerfield	Yes	Yes	\$15	-	4
Edgerton	Yes	Yes	\$10	-	6
Eagle	No	-	-	-	4
Fitchburg	No	-	-	-	25/acre
Fort Atkinson	No	-	-	-	6
Horicon	Yes	No	-	-	6
Jefferson	No	-	-	-	4
Johnson Creek	Yes	Yes	\$20 open coop \$10 enclosed coop	-	4 open coop 6 enclosed coop
Juneau	Yes	Yes	\$50	-	6
Lake Mills	Yes	Yes	\$10	-	6
Lodi	Yes	Yes	-	-	5
Madison	Yes	Yes	\$10	-	8
McFarland	Yes	Yes	\$20	-	4
Middleton	Yes	No	-	\$25	-
Mayville	Yes	Yes	\$25	-	6
Neosho	Yes	Yes	\$20/chicken	-	4
Oconomowoc	Yes	No	-	\$100	4
Stoughton	Yes	Yes	-	\$25	6
Sun Prairie	Yes	Yes	\$15	\$35	4
Verona	Yes	Yes	\$20	-	4
Waunakee	Yes	Yes	\$15	-	4
Watertown	Yes	No	-	\$105	4
Whitewater	Yes	Yes	\$10	-	6
Windsor	No	-	-	-	6
Wyocena	Yes	Yes	-	-	6
Yes	24	20	Averages		
No	6	4	\$20	\$54	5

Waterloo Facebook Votes

[9:27 PM 10/21/2024]



Allow chickens in city : $77\% * 67 \text{ votes} = 51 \text{ votes}$

Keep ban on chickens in city : $7\% * 67 \text{ votes} = 5 \text{ votes}$

Indifferent : $16\% * 67 \text{ votes} = 11 \text{ votes}$

Questionnaire Email

Please forward this to the correct department if I have not sent this to the right place.

Hello,

My name is Gunther Knutson. I live in Waterloo, WI and am working with other residents of Waterloo to change our city ordinances to allow for backyard chickens. We just had a meeting with our Public Health and Safety Committee and they brought up some concerns which is why I am reaching out. Fortunately, the committee didn't vote it down and it is moving to a public hearing on October 22nd. Before that happens, I am trying to gather information to either validate or refute the committee's concerns. If you wouldn't mind answering some or all of the questions below, I would be very helpful to our cause.

General

1. What percentage of households own chickens?
2. How many residents own chickens / how many licenses have been handed out this year?
3. In general, what has been the effect of backyard chickens on your community? Positive, negative, neutral?
4. What, if any, are the issues that allowing backyard chickens have caused since allowing them?
5. Is there any other information you would like to share regarding backyard chickens besides the questions below?

Bird Flu

1. How, if at all, has bird flu affected backyard chickens in your community?
2. If it has, to what effect (was it widespread, how many birds died, etc)?

Predators

1. Has there been an increase in predators in your community after allowing backyard chickens?
2. If so, has that caused any issues?

Enforcement

1. How do you handle enforcement of your chicken ordinances?
2. Who does the enforcing?
3. How many violations related to chickens are there per year?
4. Do backyard chicken ordinances take a large amount of the enforcers time?

Thank you for taking the time to answer these!

Gunther Knutson

Response Tracker

Responded:

Fitchburg: Emailed administrator
Fort Atkinson: Emailed administrator
Jefferson: Contact form on main page
Johnson Creek: Contact page email
Juneau: Emailed mayor
Lake Mills: Contact form on main page
Madison: Online form where selected subject was Raising Chickens
McFarland: Emailed administrator
Middleton: Emailed administrator
Oconomowoc: Emailed administrator
Sun Prairie: Emailed Clerk
Verona: Emailed administrator
Waunakee: Emailed front desk from "Email" link on main page
Watertown: Emailed City Clerk
Whitewater: Emailed city clerk
Windsor: Emailed administrator
*Wyocena: Emailed main city email from main page**

Did Not Respond:

Arlington: Emailed clerk
Cottage Grove: Emailed Deputy Administrator
Columbus: Emailed Mayor
Dane: Emailed clerk
DeForest: Emailed administrator
Deerfield: Contact form on main page
Edgerton: Emailed administrator
Eagle: Contact form from main page
Horicon: Emailed "Connect: Email" on main page
Lodi: Emailed administrator
Mayville: Emailed administrator
Neosho: Email found on contact page
Stoughton: Emailed city clerk

**Contact was on vacation and information could not be provided at this time*

Responses Consolidated

General

What percentage of households own chickens?

- Fitchburg - N/A. Not tracked.
- Fort Atkinson - N/A. Not tracked.
- Jefferson - N/A. Not tracked.
- Johnson Creek - 10 out of 1765
- Juneau - 6 annual limit
- Lake Mills - 9 permits
- Madison - 114 licenses / 134,512 households
- McFarland - 25 (2024) / 9,676 people (3,672 households)
- Middleton - Guess of 25-30 households.
- Oconomowoc - 18 total since 2021. 2021 - 6, 2022 - 6, 2023 - 3, 2024 - 3
- Sun Prairie - 32 licenses since 2017
- Verona - A few
- Watertown - 48 permits on file without needing to reapply unless there is a 2 year lapse in ownership and the licensee would like chickens again.
- Waunakee - .00032% of households
- Whitewater - <20 permits issues since 2013
- Windsor - N/A. Not tracked.

How many residents own chickens / how many licenses have been handed out this year?

- Fitchburg - N/A. Not tracked
- Fort Atkinson - N/A. Not tracked.
- Jefferson - N/A. Not tracked.
- Johnson Creek - 10
- Juneau - 6
- Lake Mills - 9
- Madison - 114 annual licenses as of March 2023
- McFarland - 25
- Middleton - 4
- Oconomowoc - 3 in 2024
- Sun Prairie - 12 renewed
- Verona - A few
- Watertown - 5
- Waunakee - 2 + 1 pending (as of 10/7/2024)
- Whitewater - 2
- Windsor - N/A. Not tracked.

In general, what has been the effect of backyard chickens on your community? Positive, negative, neutral?

- Fitchburg - Not aware of any negative side effects so either positive or neutral.
- Fort Atkinson - Positive / Neutral.
- Jefferson - Unknown / Neutral.
- Johnson Creek - Positive
- Juneau - N/A
- Lake Mills - Unknown / Neutral.
- Madison - Neutral / Positive
- McFarland - Neutral / Positive for those who want chickens. Negative for those who think they don't belong on residential properties (based on calls and complaints).
- Middleton - Mixed Some positive, some negative.
- Oconomowoc - Neutral
- Sun Prairie - Believes it is positive
- Verona - No issues so neutral.
- Watertown - Neutral
- Waunakee - Neutral other than negative at the start due to neighbors complaining about coop placement (not up to code) and not being licensed.
- Whitewater - Neutral
- Windsor - Negative. Top five zoning violations.

What, if any, are the issues that allowing backyard chickens have caused since allowing them?

- Fitchburg - Rare complaints of chickens running free or roosters crowing.
- Fort Atkinson - None that are known of.
- Jefferson - None.
- Johnson Creek - None.
- Juneau - Minimal issues.
- Lake Mills - Individuals not knowing that a license is required, occasional loose roaming chicken, and occasional rooster.
- Madison - Roosters. Rodents due to unsecure food and food waste.
- McFarland - Residents not following ordinances: chickens to run at large (causing dogs to bark and noise complaints), residents getting other animals that aren't allowed, roosters. Concern about home value decreases. Increase in predators.
- Middleton - Orders, noise, rodents, predators.
- Oconomowoc - Not aware of any issues.
- Sun Prairie - N/A
- Verona - No issues.
- Watertown - None
- Waunakee - None

- Whitewater - Individuals not knowing that roosters are not allowed.
- Windsor - residents don't follow ordinance for lot size: number of chickens, no roosters, inadequate chicken coops, proximity to neighboring households, etc.

Is there any other information you would like to share regarding backyard chickens besides the questions below?

- Fitchburg - None
- Fort Atkinson - None
- Jefferson - N/A
- Johnson Creek - None
- Juneau - None
- Lake Mills - N/A
- Madison - 5-6 chickens is no different than 4 in terms of effect (noise, etc). No increase in issues since increasing the limit to 8.
- McFarland - 4 hens, no roosters, no slaughter of chicken, livestock premises registration is required
- Middleton - None
- Sun Prairie - N/A
- Verona - N/A
- Watertown - None at this time
- Waunakee - None
- Whitewater - None
- Windsor - Make sure you have the staff and enforcement procedures to enforce any ordinance you create.

Bird Flu

How, if at all, has bird flu affected backyard chickens in your community?

- Fitchburg - Unaware of any bird flu issues.
- Fort Atkinson - No effect known.
- Jefferson - N/A
- Johnson Creek - Not at all
- Juneau - Not aware of any cases.
- Lake Mills - N/A
- Middleton - Not yet. State handled.
- Madison - Unaware of any issues.
- McFarland - Some residents preemptively removed chickens.
- Oconomowoc - None
- Sun Prairie - N/A
- Verona - N/A
- Watertown - The City of Watertown does not monitor this.
- Waunakee - N/A
- Whitewater - Unknown
- Windsor - Unknown

If it has, to what effect (was it widespread, how many birds died, etc)?

- Fitchburg - Unaware of any bird flu issues.
- Fort Atkinson - No effect known.
- Jefferson - N/A
- Johnson Creek - None
- Juneau - Not aware of any cases.
- Lake Mills - N/A
- Madison - Unaware of any issues.
- McFarland - None indicated.
- Middleton - N/A
- Oconomowoc - None
- Verona - N/A
- Sun Prairie - N/A
- Watertown - The City of Watertown does not monitor this.
- Waunakee - N/A
- Whitewater - Unknown
- Windsor - Unknown

Predators

Has there been an increase in predators in your community after allowing backyard chickens?

- Fitchburg - Unaware of an increase in predators.
- Fort Atkinson - None that are known.
- Jefferson - N/A
- Johnson Creek - NO
- Juneau - Not aware of issues.
- Lake Mills - Unknown
- Madison - No data that suggests an increase in predators.
- McFarland - Yes. Racoons, Fox, Predatory Birds, and Coyote
- Middleton - Yes. Racoons and foxes.
- Oconomowoc - None
- Sun Prairie - N/A
- Verona - No issues.
- Watertown - Not that we are aware of.
- Waunakee - N/A
- Whitewater - Yes, not related to chickens
- Windsor - Unknown

If so, has that caused any issues?

- Fitchburg - Unaware of an increase in predators.
- Fort Atkinson - None that are known.
- Jefferson - N/A
- Johnson Creek, N/A
- Juneau - Not aware of issues.
- Lake Mills - Unknown
- Madison - No data that suggests an increase in predators.
- McFarland - Neighbors upset about problems with the predators: some property damage and some safety concerns/complaints related to pets and children. Some who have had chickens indicated their chickens were killed by foxes, raccoons, hawks, and other animals.
- Middleton - None as of yet. Some complaints and calls from citizens.
- Oconomowoc - None
- Sun Prairie - N/A
- Verona - N/A
- Watertown - N/A
- Waunakee - N/A
- Whitewater - Not at this time.
- Windsor - Unknown

Enforcement

How do you handle enforcement of your chicken ordinances?

- Fitchburg- Complaint based.
- Fort Atkinson - Complaint basis only.
- Jefferson - N/A
- Johnson Creek - Yearly permit fee and registering.
- Juneau - Complaints (assumed).
- Lake Mills - Enforcers contact residents with an education letter.
- Madison - Complaint based.
- McFarland - New coops inspected. Letters sent to chicken owners if there are violations. Complaints are investigated.
- Middleton - Building inspection department.
- Oconomowoc - Complaint based (assumed).
- Sun Prairie - Complaint based.
- Verona - N/A
- Watertown - Combination of proactive and reactive approach. Inspections and licensing for proactive. Reactive by sending letters to homeowners and handling complaints.
- Waunakee - Complaint based.
- Whitewater - 3rd party firm
- Windsor - Complaint based.

Who does the enforcing?

- Fitchburg - Planning & Zoning Department with support of Building Inspectors
- Fort Atkinson - Police Department
- Jefferson - N/A
- Johnson Creek - Administration check coop on license.
- Juneau - Building Inspector & Police Chief
- Lake Mills - Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator, Police Department if needed, or Neighborhood Service Officer
- Madison - Zoning enforcement and public health enforcement staff
- McFarland - Property Maintenance Officer
- Middleton - Building Inspection Director and Code Enforcement Office (when on staff).
- Oconomowoc - City Zoning Administrator.
- Sun Prairie - Building Inspection Division
- Verona - N/A
- Watertown - City of Watertown Building Inspectors and Code Enforcement Officers
- Wauankee - Zoning Administrator and then Police Department if needed.
- Whitewater - 3rd party firm
- Windsor - Contract with a consultant.

How many violations related to chickens are there per year?

- Fitchburg - N/A
- Fort Atkinson - Typically do not have complaints. 3 this year. 2 were loose chickens.
- Jefferson - N/A
- Johnson Creek - So far 0.
- Juneau - N/A.
- Lake Mills - N/A
- Madison - Unknown but not a large number.
- Middleton - 2 complaints but no permits issued. Several complained and lots of enforcement hours but prior to ordinance implementation.
- McFarland - 6-10 on average (generally due to not renewing)
- Oconomowoc - One issue.
- Sun Prairie - N/A
- Verona - N/A
- Watertown - Avg 5 complainants / year
- Waunakee - None
- Whitewater - 2-3 due to lack of permit or roosters
- Windsor - A dozen if not more.

Do backyard chicken ordinances take a large amount of the enforcers time?

- Fitchburg - N/A
- Fort Atkinson - In general, not their experience.
- Jefferson - N/A
- Johnson Creek - No
- Juneau - N/A
- Lake Mills - Insignificant
- Madison - No.
- McFarland - In spring due to renewals and inspections.
- Middleton - Depends on complaints and how ordinances are written.
- Oconomowoc - No. Very small amount of time.
- Sun Prairie - N/A
- Verona - N/A
- Watertown - No
- Waunakee - Not currently but still new
- Whitewater - No
- Windsor - Yes