

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome
 - 1.2 Call to Order
 - 1.3 Review of Agenda
-

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- 2.1 Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement - Blackfalds Town Council acknowledges that we are on Treaty Six territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.
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3. **PRESENTATIONS**

- 3.1 Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd. - Mark Dyer, Business Development Specialist – Western Canada Municipalities & Public Sector
- Jordan Lister, Environmental 360 Solutions
-

4. **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Request for Direction, Transfer Site Hours
 - 4.2 Request for Direction, Urban Hens Pilot Program Survey Results
-

5. **CONFIDENTIAL**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Future Meetings/Events:

- *Regular Council Meeting – January 28, 2025*
- *Standing Committee Meeting – February 18, 2025*

MEETING DATE: January 20, 2025

PRESENTED BY: Mark Dyer, Business Development Specialist – Western Canada
Municipalities & Public Sector

SUBJECT: **Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd.**


BACKGROUND

Mark Dyer from Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd. will present an overview of the services they provide to the Town to Standing Committee of Council.

ATTACHMENTS

- *E360S Environmental 360 Solutions Presentation*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer




BLACKFALDS

ALBERTA



Standing Council Presentation



By The numbers

- ❖ Over 404,000 residential pickups for waste and recycling annually
- ❖ 2,448 MT Of waste & 498 MT of Recycling
- ❖ 101,088 seasonal organics collections
- ❖ Over 9,000 Front Load services (173/week!)
- ❖ Roll-Off Waste > 550 Hauls with 1,093+ Metric Tonnes Hauled
- ❖ Roll-Off Recycling > 75 Hauls with 317+ Metric Tonnes Hauled



E360S Recycling

- ❖ Recycling is currently hauled to our Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Red Deer, and transported to Capital Paper, an E360S subsidiary, in Calgary
- ❖ Materials are sorted, baled and shipped via truck, rail car, or ship to both domestic and international mills
Continued life and recovery
- ❖ Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR). E360S Plans to be the continued hauling partner and processor
For all residential recycling materials for Blackfalds



Paper



Crushed Cardboard & Paperboard



Cardboard and paper beverage containers



Plastic Bottles & Containers



Plastic Bags & Shrink Wrap



Metal and Tin Cans





Q & A



BLACKFALDS
ALBERTA

MEETING DATE: January 20, 2025

PREPARED BY: Rick Yelland-Kewin, Public Works Manager

Presented By: Rick Yelland-Kewin, Public Works Manager

SUBJECT: **Transfer Site Hours**

BACKGROUND

Over the last several years there have been discussions whether it be on social media or directly with employees about why the town opted to close the transfer site on Sundays and not revert to pre-2020 hours of operation. This report outlines the neighboring landfills and transfer station hours for the Committee's information and action.

DISCUSSION

The hours for the Transfer Site pre-Covid were Wednesday to Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. In early 2020 the hours were changed to the present schedule of Tuesday to Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This new schedule aligns with neighboring communities, with no sites open on Sundays. E360, the town's contractor hauls waste bins from the transfer site to the City of Red Deer landfill. On a typical Saturday 3-4 bins are transported to the Red Deer landfill which accepts the bins until 4:00 p.m. to accommodate their closing time of 5:30 p.m. It should be noted that the City of Red Deer's landfill is not open on Sunday and it is the only approved landfill for the Town of Blackfalds at this time.

The process that was followed under the previous schedule was that on Sundays once the bins were full, the remaining waste would be staged at the transfer station on the landing adjacent to the corresponding bin. On Monday, the bins would be emptied, and Public Works would fill bins with the excess material, so the site was ready for Wednesday operations. Depending on the season, there would be 1-2 bins of excess material that needed to be hauled. This practice resulted in the double handling of materials and impacting Public Works' ability to complete other tasks. If weather conditions were unfavorable some loose material would blow throughout the site creating an unsightly mess. As the bins filled, Public Works would be called once or twice daily to crush the contents of the bins to maximize space. Five years ago, this practice was determined to be not only inefficient but environmentally concerning.

In addition to the above, the safety of the employee working alone factored in the change to the hours. As there were no other staff on shift at this time, the ability for the employee to address threatening and belligerent customers proved to be ineffective and would result in the need to call in another employee at overtime rates to assist with the situation. During the winter, Public Works has two operators working weekends with a summer student available during the busier summer season to assist.

In the event that Administration is instructed to change the hours, additional resources would be required or at minimum shifts to the current operations of the Public Works Department would be required to cover these additional hours. In addition, the inefficiency of double handling the materials

would once again be a factor. Further, with the Town of Blackfalds being the only site open on Sundays, the likelihood of other municipal users utilizing our site would be greatly increased.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council receive the Transfer Site Hours Report as information.

ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council refer the Transfer Site Hours Report back to Administration for more information.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Surrounding Area Transfer Site Hours*
- *Map – Surrounding Area Transfer Sites*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



Department Director/Author

SURROUNDING AREA TRANSFER SITE HOURS OF OPERATION

Town of Ponoka Transfer Station

Summer hours

Monday to Saturday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Winter hours

Tuesday to Saturday

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Town of Sylvan Lake Transfer Station

Summer hours

Monday to Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Summer hours

Wednesday - Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Prentiss Transfer Station/Landfill (City of Lacombe and County)

Monday to Saturday 9:00 am - 4:45 pm

Bentley and Alix Transfer Station

Thursday to Friday 9:00am - 4:45 pm

Saturday 1:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Eckville Transfer Station

Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am – 4:45 pm

Saturday 8:00 am – 4:45 pm

Town of Innisfail Transfer Station

Wednesday and Saturday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

City of Red Deer Landfill

Summer hours --April 1- October 31--

Monday to Friday 7:00 am – 6:30 pm

Saturday 7:00 am – 5:30 pm

Winter hours --November 1- March 31--

Monday to Saturday 7:00 am – 5:30 pm

Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission (LRWSC) Transfer Stations Hours of Operation

Bentley Transfer Station
NE-22-40-01-W5M
(403)748-3961
Thursday & Friday 9:00am to 4:45pm
Saturday 1:00pm to 4:45pm

Spruceville Transfer Station
NW-29-40-27-W4M
(403)782-2828
Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00am to 4:45pm
Saturday 8:00am to 11:45am

Prentiss Landfill/Transfer Station
NW-07-40-25-W4M
(403)782-5300
Monday to Saturday 9:00am to 4:45pm

Eckville Transfer Station
NW-34-39-03-W5M
(403)746-5740
Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00am to 4:45pm
Saturday 8:00am to 11:45am

Blackfalds Transfer Station
NE 4-27-39-22 W4M
(403) 510-0396
Tuesday to Saturday
8:30am to 4:30pm

Alix/Mirror Transfer Station
NW-24-40-23-W4M
(403)788-2365
Thursday to Friday 9:00am to 4:45pm
Saturdays 1:00pm to 4:45 pm

All transfer stations are closed on the following statutory holidays:
New Years Day, Thanksgiving, Good Friday, Remembrance Day,
Christmas & Boxing Day.



MEETING DATE: January 20, 2025
PREPARED BY: Jolene Tejkl, Planning & Development Manager
PRESENTED BY: Jolene Tejkl, Planning & Development Manager
SUBJECT: **Urban Hen Pilot Program Survey Results**

BACKGROUND

Urban Hen Bylaw 1286.23 received Third Reading at the July 11, 2023, Council meeting to allow hens in the Town as a pilot program; the Bylaw is set to expire on July 11, 2025. Now that the pilot program’s first year has come to a close, Council directed Administration to conduct public engagement on the program and report the findings back for consideration:

219/24 Councillor Appel moved That Council directs Administration to conduct public engagement pertaining to the Urban Hens Pilot Program and report the findings back to Council for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION

A public survey to gauge the community’s opinions on the program and the rules currently in place was open from September 10, 2024, until October 2, 2024. A total of 40 responses were received, with 6 of the responders stating they participated in the Urban Hen program, all of which indicated they plan on continuing with the program if it becomes permanent.

The following discussion captures the highlights of the responses received; a full copy of the responses is included in Attachment 1 of this report.

The survey asked if people should be allowed to continue to keep hens on their property. The following comments are summarized as:

| Favourable comments about the program | Unfavourable comments about the program |
|---|---|
| Enables people to produce their own food source | Annual license application fee of \$70 is too much |
| Hens provide educational opportunities | Livestock should not be allowed in the Town’s municipal boundary |
| Hens are great for pest control and fertilization | Hens are noisy and filthy |
| | Backyards in Town are not large enough to support hens |
| | Hens attract vermin and encourage predators |
| | The number of people who are participating in the program does not warrant any further time or money being spent on this initiative |

Respondents were also asked what they like about the rules for keeping hens in Blackfalds, which are:

- Limiting the number of hens

- Prohibiting roosters
- The fee to have hens
- Coop/outside area requirements
- Requiring that hens are always kept in their enclosure
- Limiting the size of the coop
- The clear rules
- Accountability

The survey also asked respondents what they would change about the rules, which necessitated further municipal research which can be reviewed in Attachment 2 of this report:

| What respondents would change | Administrative Response |
|---|---|
| Don't let hens in the Town | <p>The Urban Hen Bylaw is currently a temporary one for the Town to allow hens on a trial basis.</p> <p>In Administrations opinion, the program has been successful thus far and overall the feedback received from the survey was in favour of keeping the program going.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw suggested.</p> |
| Add rules to keep them safe in the winter | <p>The Town's Urban Hen Bylaw has a general rule that requires each Hen be provided with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, care, and opportunities for essential behaviours. This is consistent with the majority of municipalities researched.</p> <p>Alberta's Animal Protection Act requires that anyone who owns or is in charge of an animal cannot cause the animal to be in distress. The Act has a specific section requiring that animals must be provided with reasonable protection from heat and cold.</p> <p>In Administration's opinion, the current bylaw wording coupled with the requirements of the Animal Protection Act contains adequate requirements to ensure proper hen care in the winter.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw suggested.</p> |
| More should be allowed to have them | <p>The current Bylaw does not limit the number of Urban Hen Licenses the Town will issue, which is consistent with four (4) of the nine (9) number of municipalities researched on this matter.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw suggested.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Allow eggs to be sold</p> | <p>Allowing eggs to be sold is essentially introducing a business into the Town's residential areas.</p> <p>The Town of Olds is the only municipality researched that allows eggs to be sold. The other municipalities do not allow eggs to be sold as the intention of the program is to support urban hen keeping as a hobby and a non-commercial activity.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw is suggested.</p> |
| <p>Allow coops to be in the side yard of a property as long as it is behind a fence</p> | <p>The municipalities researched are split on whether they allow coops on side yards. Those that do allow them on side yards require coops to adhere to the accessory building setbacks from side yards prescribed in their respective Land Use Bylaws (LUB).</p> <p>The intent behind only allowing coops in rear yards is to reduce potential conflicts with hens and adjacent residents. Administration is learning that there is very little noise and smell produced by urban hens that are properly cared for, and is therefore suggesting that coops be allowed in the side yards as long as they adhere to side yard setback requirements for accessory buildings.</p> <p>Suggested Bylaw change: update Section 7.1.3 of the Bylaw to state that the coop and outdoor enclosure must be fully located within the side or rear yard of the property, in accordance with accessory building setbacks prescribed in the LUB.</p> |
| <p>Allow for larger coop sizes</p> | <p>The Town's current Bylaw does allow for a larger coop. If an applicant desires a larger coop, they would have to go through the Development Permit process. The bylaw isn't very clear on this though, so an update is proposed to clarify.</p> <p>The majority of municipalities researched do not allow larger coops, however Administration does not see any harm in allowing for larger coops aside from a concern they could get very tall and elaborate. Requiring larger coops to go through the Development Permit process will allow the Development Authority to place limits on the overall height and control the size if its unreasonable.</p> <p>Suggested Bylaw change: update Section 7.1.2 of the Bylaw to explicitly state that a larger coop could be</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>applied for through the Development Permit Application process.</p> |
| <p>Make the application process easier</p> | <p>People wanting to apply for an Urban Hen License are currently required to provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A completed application form, which requires the name, address, and contact information of the hen owner and anyone who may act as a temporary caregiver • Paying the annual \$70 license fee • Providing a site plan that shows the proposed location of the coop and outdoor enclosure • Providing a copy of their Premises Identification Number (PID), which is a provincially registered identification number that links poultry to land locations or premises • A copy of the Certificate of Land Title dated within 30 days of the application. If the applicant is not the registered landowner, written consent from the registered landowner is required to apply for an urban hen license <p>Administration believes the current application requirements balance the need for adequate information without making the process onerous.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw is suggested.</p> |
| <p>Don't be so restrictive with the rules</p> | <p>The rules around application requirements, coop and outdoor enclosure areas, and general hen keeping are consistent with researched municipalities. In reviewing the current rules with this 1-year pilot program investigation, Administration is generally comfortable with the rules previously imposed and does not feel they are onerous or unreasonable.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw is suggested.</p> |
| <p>Remove or reduce the application fee</p> | <p>The current annual application fee is \$70 and is not prorated. All the municipalities researched require an application fee to help offset the staff time and resources necessary to process applications and ensure the bylaw requirements are being met. The annual application fees for the researched municipalities range from \$25/year to \$75/year with an average fee of ~\$50/year. The Town of Blackfalds' annual application fee is on the higher end of researched municipalities; however Administration is not suggesting the fee is reduced.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>No change to the Bylaw is suggested.</p> |
| Allow for more hens | <p>Most municipalities researched have limited the number of hens on a property to four (4). The only two exceptions are the Town of Olds and the Village of Clive; both allow a maximum of six (6) hens. Olds capped their hen numbers at 6 due to a landowner already having 6 hens when they developed their Urban Hen Bylaw and there were no issues with the hens prior to the Bylaw coming in. At the time of writing this report, we had not heard back from the Village of Clive on why they allow up to 6 hens.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw is suggested.</p> |
| Neighbours should be notified of hen applications | <p>Majority of municipalities researched do require notification to neighbouring property owners. Despite this, Administration is not recommending neighbourhood notification should be required either prior to a decision or after due to the lack of complaints received from neighbouring property owners throughout the pilot program. If an Urban Hen License is issued and the neighbouring property owners are experiencing issues with them, the Bylaw has enforcement mechanisms built in.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw is suggested.</p> |
| Check in with neighbours of hen owners | <p>None of the researched municipalities check in with neighbours after a license has been issued. If there are issues with Urban Hens, neighbours are encouraged to report them with the Town so Administration can follow up.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw is suggested.</p> |
| Remove requirement for Certificate of Title to be provided at application stage | <p>The Certificate of Land Title is required to confirm who the registered landowner is, and if the registered landowner is different than the person(s) applying for an Urban Hen License, the applicant will need to provide written confirmation that the registered landowner is okay with the applicant applying for Hens on their property. Certificates of Land Titles are common requirements for applying for any permit in municipalities.</p> <p>No change to the Bylaw is suggested.</p> |

The survey was opened to general comments about the program. Responses were split between speaking to how much they like the program, to others requesting it be cancelled and hence no longer be allowed in the Town.

After careful consideration and analysis of the pilot program, Administration is supportive of continuing with the Urban Hen program on a permanent basis and is proposing that a new Urban Hen Bylaw be approved with some minor amendments that were discussed above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council recommend Council Bylaw 1324.25 Urban Hen Bylaw be brought to a future Regular Council Meeting for consideration.

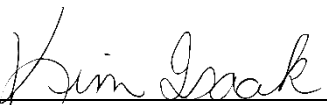
ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council recommend Bylaw 1324.25 Urban Hen Bylaw, be amended before being brought forward to a future Regular Council Meeting.
- b) That Standing Committee of Council recommend this item be brought back to Administration for more information.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Urban Hen Survey 1 Year Pilot Program Check in Responses*
- *Additional Municipal Research*
- *Bylaw 1324.25 (track changes version)*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative
Officer

Department Director/Author



URBAN HEN SURVEY

1 Year Pilot Program Checkin

Responses

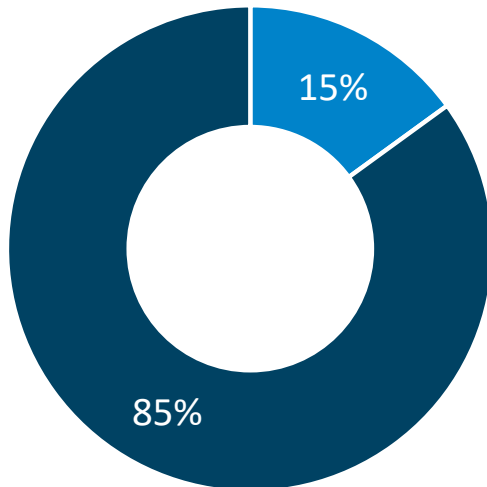
The following data was collected via the Urban Hen Survey which ran from September 10 - October 2, 2024.

Urban Hen Survey

1 Year Pilot Program Checkin

40 responses

Question 1 - Did you participate in the Urban Hen Pilot Program?

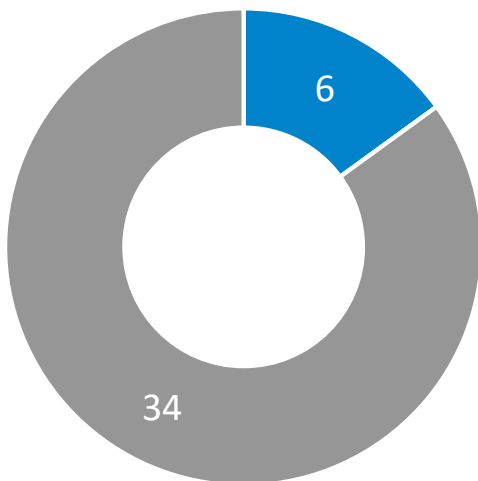


Yes - 6

No - 34

Unanswered - 0

Question 2 - Do you plan on continuing to keep hens on your property?



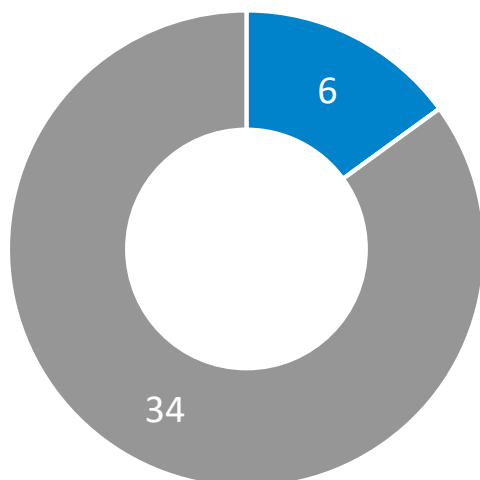
Yes - 6

No - 0

Unanswered - 34

- But annual fees are quite high for no apparent reason and I think they should be more inline with pet licensing fees.
- I'd like to but not cost effective due to all the charges that the town requires.

Question 3 - Did you find the documents provided along with your Urban Hen License to be helpful?



Yes - 6

No - 0

Unanswered - 34

Question 4 - You chose "no".

Please provide us with any suggestions you may have that will help us provide more valuable information to future hen keepers if this program becomes permanent.

- No responses received.

Question 5 - Do you think residents should be allowed to continue to keep hens on their residential property? Please explain why or why not.

- No, if they want livestock, they should be on an acreage
- Yes, there has been absolutely zero concerns with chickens and I get to produce my own food source
- No, farm animals have no place in urban areas. I did not enjoy the sound or smell from the ones my neighbor kept.
- No problem as long as not in the vicinity of our property. Fortunately no sign of hens in our neighborhood.
- Yes
- Absolutely!! Residential hens serve so many wonderful populations! They provide educational opportunities to children, food for families or donated to the food banks, they are great for agriculture and pets control and they are adorable.
- Yes
- No
- No, would be noisy, I used to live on a farm growing up and we always had chickens.
- I think it's a great idea, food is expensive. Also you know exactly what you feed your hens so you know what is in your eggs

- Yes, it provides farm fresh ready eggs for a cheaper value
- Yes
- Yes!
- Yes absolutely
- No .. I'm not convinced about raising chickens in town .Coming from the country it's hard to fathom raising chickens in Blackfalds's. Our yards are not big enough to support chickens.
- Only a few and must be well.kept
- Yes. As long as the rules are being followed and it's not interrupting anyone else's lives. I don't see the harm in continuing the program.
- No. This initiative is a wast of time.
- Yes
- Hens provide fresh eggs, control pests, fertilize gardens, and teach children about animal care. While there may be concerns about noise or odor, these can be mitigated with proper care.
- I have not heard of any concerns with any residents that were approved for hens. I believe giving people the chance to raise hens for eggs for food within their property is a great idea. People can garden in their property for food why not allow production of eggs as well. I agree with the cap on the amount of hens and the prohibition of roosters as well.
- No they attract mice and I believe this could be problematic
- No. I personally think with the amount of loose cats and dogs in the area all it's going to take is one eating someone's hens to cause another uproar. I know I don't want chickens beside me If people wants chickens,buy land and have a farm. Not needed in an urban setting
- Absolutely not. They are noisy, the filth of excrement and they encourage predators into town, coyotes etc. We already have more than enough problems with the town allowing over population of the geese and their filth being left everywhere.
- Yes, fresh eggs, organic fertilizer, scrap organic waste ie- greens etc, valuable learning experience
- Yes I do
- Yes. and should be able to sell eggs and birds
- The number of applicants to the program doesn't warrant any further time or money to be spent by the town to amend bylaws, or implement snd management an urban hen license/program. The cost simply outweighs the benefit at this point.
- No, smell and noise.
- Yes. I have not witnessed any negative impact the past two years as a neighbor. Families that are willing to do the chores should benefit from the reward their chickens bring.

- No, people are too irresponsible.
- Yea because it is important to keep the hens in a good spot where they can be taken care of and fed.
- No, they are a nuisance.
- Yes. Considering no complaints have been made in the first year - the pilot has been going even better than expected!
- No. There are already people breaking the rules such as letting their chickens free roam in the yard and having much more hens than allowed.
- Yes! With the ongoing inflation it helps families with cost of food, and also allows people to care for the animals their food comes from in a much more Humane way then factory farming.
- Yes, because they are less of a disturbance than other animals that are allowed.
- Yes!!! Food is expensive, we should be allowed to use are lots for whatever we would like, especially with getting eggs; and making sure we have promised food. I'm so happy we have this problem.
- Yes, there has been absolutely no issues
- Yes

Question 6 - What do you like about the rules for keeping hens in Blackfalds?

- That there is a limited number of animals and I hope there is a limited number of participants. Can you imagine if every resident wanted urban hens !!! Also I'm happy that the hens stay in their coop
- It helps everyone to know the expectations
- I like no roosters and maximums on number of hens. As well, the fee to have them.
- Not a fan. They belong on farms, not in Blackfalds.
- Did not look at them
- I think up to 6 should be allowed, for the safety of the animals, owners must have a fenced yard that is large enough for the hens to roam and owners need to ensure they have proper storage and means to purchase feed.
- Coop / outside area requirments keep people from not having "bad" housing and 4 is a reasonable limit so they dont get too noisy or stinky.
- Not enough.
- That you are allowed up to the size of your pen for hens.
- Freedom
- Great if they are controlled and kept.
- The rules are clear a.
- Nothing.
- No roosters

- That we are allowed an opportunity to keep chickens to help feed our children as well as the benefits to our yard.
- That only 4 hens are allowed and that no roosters are permitted. I also like that they have to remain in their enclosure at all times to keep them safe from predators.
- I don't
- I don't
- The rules aren't needed if the program doesn't continue
- Clear rules
- Accountability.
- Why does the town have to be so restrictive
- Limits on hens allowed per applicant.
- I don't
- The limit, so that there isn't an unreasonable amount of hens at one property.
- I don't know honestly
- At least there are rules and a process for complaints.
- I love the limit of 4 and the consideration of the animal's well-being.
- I like the rules when they are followed, but they are not being followed.
- The minimum coop size to insure they are taken care of
- Food, free groceries, it's a win win
- Their contained
- Yes

Question 7 - What would you change about the rules for keeping hens in Blackfalds?

- Not being allowed in Blackfalds
- Nothing
- Just to keep them safe in winter
- Nothing
- More should be allowed to have them
- Nothing
- eliminate hens in the town.
- Allow eggs to be sold. There is a limit on the hens allowed, so let people sell their extra eggs.
- Allowing for more allowance to have a chicken coop in the he side yard as long as it is behind a fence.
- Maybe bigger coop sizes to provide the hens with more space.
- I would not allow hens in the town of blackfalds
- Don't allow them
- I wouldn't allow hens within town limits
- Make it a bit easier on the application process.

- Drop or lower license fee don't be so restrictive on laws
- Neighbors should be notified upon an application received.
- 0 hens allowed
- Nothing.
- Not allowing them.
- I would like hens to be atleast taken of by more people including the community
- I would prefer no urban hens
- Nothing, unless a bunch of complaints begin coming in about an aspect of the program.
- Check ins with neighbors of hen owners.
- Being able to have more than 4 hens and be able to sell if you have too many eggs.
- More of them!
- Land tittle requirement could go, and the yearly fee could be lessened
- No

Question 8 - Please share any other comments you have about the Urban Hen Pilot Program

- My family has really enjoyed having our chickens however, if the yearly fees continue, I will not be able to keep up to the cost of having hens
- I do not want it to be continued. Or, at least 1 random check per year to ensure all regulations are being adhered to.
- Cancel the program
- I believe it is a good thing
- I wish it was still open to have joun and obtain chickens at this point!
- No one would want hens next door to them in town,
- I have no other comments
- Love it
- Even though not a fan of this .Hope the ones who do go through with them obey the rules and keep their neighbouring families happy with the noise and keeping yards clean .
- A supreme wast of time.
- I think it should become permanent as many other cities and towns have been allowing them for a long time.
- I disagree with this program
- Please stop with this program. I really don't want them in Blackfalds
- I hope this keeps going. It has worked well in other communities.
- Good program allows people to lessen cost of living.
- I recall hearing the town had not received any complaints. I would like to know if Bylaw Enforcement initiated any communication with neighboring home owners to discuss any pros or cons that they may have. Also if any verification was conducted to ensure

applicants were adhering to the pilot program, # of hens, adequate facilities, humane handling etc.

- Waste of money
- “Thank you Town of Blackfalds for considering new ideas for your residents. Can the next be green bin compost recycling (hint hint nudge nudge)? Even if it means households opting in and bringing their waste to a central drop-off for processing? Or to a compost bin located at community gardens by chance?”
- If council is going to approve to keep the program long term, safety measures need to be put in place for the hens.
- Good things happen when new ideas are piloted! Great job, Blackfalds!!!
- I am hoping the program becomes permanent.
- It’s perfect, please keep it going!
- I enjoy having my hens, but the fees are too high in order to keep them

Attachment 2

| Municipality (Population in 2023) | Do Municipalities have specific rules to keep hens safe in the winter. If, so what are they? | Do they allow eggs to be sold? | If yes, is DP required and under what use(Home bsse Buniess) or is a valid Hen License all they need? | Maximum # of Licenses Issued | Allow coops to be in the side yard of property | Maximum Coop Size | Maximum # of Hens allowed | Notification to Neighbours | How are they notified/Who sends Nofitcartion and at what stage (application or decision stage) | What happens if a neighbour states they don't want the hens next door/ is the application refused? | Are municipalites checking in with the neighbours to see how the hen license is working/not working | Fee |
|--|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| City of Lacombe (14,344) | No. However, the bylaw states that the owner must provide adequate shelter for the hens regardless of the weather/time of year. | No | N/A | No limit | No | The maximum coop size allowed is 10 m ² in floor area, and no more than 2.4 m in height. Larger coops are not allowed. | 4 | Yes. Notification is sent to adjacent properties, before a decision. | During the application process, the city mails out letters to the neighbouring properties. Prior to a decision being made. | If more than 50% of the neighbours are against the application, it will be denied. | No | \$50 one time fee but required to renew every year. |
| Town of Sylvan Lake (17,146) | No. However, the Town provides a brochure, with helpful information on what to expect including making adjustments to the coop for cooler and warmer weather. | No | N/A | No limit | No | No maximums | 4 | No | N/A | N/A | No | \$60 annually, valid from January 1st to December 31st. Fee is not prorated. |
| City of Red Deer (109,234) | No. However, the bylaw states that the owner must provide adequate shelter for the hens regardless of the weather/time of year. | No | N/A | No limit | Yes, however must adhere to the setback distance requirements of an accessory building in a residential district | The maximum coop size allowed is 10 m ² in floor area, and no more than 2.4 m in height. Larger coops are not allowed. | 4 | No | N/A | N/A | No | \$28 annually, valid from January 1st to December 31st. Fee is not prorated. |
| Town of Innisfail (8450) | Applicant must complete training that offers information on raising hens including how to provide adequate shelter for the hens regardless of the weather/time of year. | No | N/A | 20 | No | The maximum coop size allowed is 10 m ² in floor area, and no more than 2m in height. Larger coops are not allowed. | Minimum 2 hens to a maximum of 4 hens | Yes | The town notifies adjacent neighbours after the license is issued as a courtesy. | N/A | No | \$65 annually, valid from January 1st to December 31st. Fee is not prorated. |
| Town of Penhold (3706) | No. Applicant is to take a course on safe handling of hens, prior to issuance of a license. | No | N/A | 25 | Yes, they can be in side yards with no setbacks. | The maximum coop size allowed is 100 ft ² and 1.8m in height. Larger coops are not allowed. | 4 | The applicant is to provide a separate form signed by the shared property boundary owners. It is not notification but a acknowledgement the applicant has spoken with the neighbours. | N/A | The Town of Penhold has the discretion and authority to deny a request for permit due to documentation of medical concerns from neighbouring properties and/or any other concerns. This would be on a complaint base or through the Neighbour Acknowledgement form. | No | \$70 annually, valid from January 1st to December 31st. Fee is not prorated. |
| Village of Alix (822) | No. However, the bylaw states that the owner must provide adequate shelter for the hens regardless of the weather/time of year. | No | N/A | 15 | Yes, however must adhere to the setback distance requirements of an accessory building in a residential district | The maximum coop size allowed is 10 m ² in floor area, and no more than 2.4 m in height. Larger coops are not allowed. | 4 | Yes, Notification is sent to adjacent property, before a decision. | Notice of Decision is given to adjacent land owners and applicant at the time of permit approval as well as the notice being posted on the Village office window and on our Village website, the 21 day appeal period applies. | There is no minimum amount of neighbour support required, however neighbours have the the 21 day appeal period if applicant has to apply for a DP. | No | \$25 annually, valid from January 1st to December 31st. Fee is not prorated. |
| Town of Olds (9696) | No. Applicant is to take a course on safe handling of hens, prior to issuance of a license. | Yes | Additional permits are not required. | 40 | Yes, however must adhere to the setback distance requirements of an accessory building in a residential district | The maximum coop size allowed is 10 m ² in floor area, and no more than 2 m in height. Larger coops are not allowed. | 6 | Yes. Notice of Development is sent to adjacent landowners, and within 20m of the property prior to a decision being made. | Notice of Decision is given to adjacent land owners and applicant at the time of permit approval as well as the notice being posted on the website, the 21 day appeal period applies. | any comments received from neighbours during the permit process are included with the package for Council's consideration | No | \$35 annually, valid from January 1st to December 31st. After June 30, fee will be charged at 50% of fee. |
| Town of Rocky Mountain House (7425) | No | No | N/A | No limit | No | The maximum coop size allowed is 9.29 m ² (100 ft ²), and no more than 2 m (6.56 ft) in height. Larger coops are not allowed. | 4 | No | N/A | N/A | No | \$75.00 annually, valid from January 1st to December 31st. Fee is reduced to \$50 if paid prior to January 31st of the calender year. |
| Village of Clive (862) | No. However, the bylaw states that the owner must provide adequate shelter for the hens regardless of the weather/time of year. | No | N/A | 10 | No | Each hen must have a minimum of 0.37 m ² (3.99 ft ²) of interior floor area within the coop. Can apply for larger coop through the Development Permit process. | 6 | No. The applicant is to provide 2 letters of permission consent from adjacent porperty owners with their applicant , if this is not provided at the time of application the application is refused. | N/A | Fifty percent or more of the neighbours, having contiguous boundaries with the property where the Hens will be kept, are not in support of the application, the application is refused. | No | \$25 annually, valid April 1st to March 31st. Fee is not prorated. |

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA FOR THE LICENSING, REGULATION, AND CONTROL OF URBAN HENS

A Bylaw of the Town of Blackfalds, in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, being Chapter M 26.1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000 and amendments thereto, to authorize the regulation, licensing, and control of urban hens within the Town of Blackfalds.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7 of the MGA, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, the Council of a municipality may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting: the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property; wild and domestic animals and activities in relation to them; and the enforcement of bylaws; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8 of the MGA, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, a municipality shall pass bylaws regulating, prohibiting, and providing for a system of licenses, permits or approvals, including any and all of the matters listed herein.

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of the Town of Blackfalds, duly assembled, hereby enacts:

PART 1 – TITLE

1.1 That this Bylaw shall be cited as the “**Urban Hen Bylaw**”.

1.2 That Schedule ‘A’, as attached, form part of this Bylaw.

PART 2 – DEFINITIONS

2.1 In this Bylaw:

(a) “**Chief Administrative Officer**” or “**CAO**” means the person appointed to the position established under Bylaw 1170.14.

(b) “**Coop**” means a fully enclosed weatherproof structure used for the keeping of Urban Hens that is no larger than 10.0 m² in floor area, and no more than 2.4 m in height.

(b)(c) “**Development Permit**” means a document that is issued under the Land Use Bylaw and authorizes a development.

(e)(d) “**Urban Hen**” means a domesticated female chicken that is at least 16 weeks of age.

(d)(e) “**Municipal Ticket**” means a municipal ticket issued on behalf of the Town for a violation under this Bylaw.

(e)(f) “**Officer**” includes an Animal Control Officer, a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, a Peace Officer, a Special Constable and a Member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

(f)(g) “**Outdoor Enclosure**” means a security enclosed outdoor area attached to a Coop for Urban Hens to roam.

(g)(h) “**Owner**” includes any person, partnership, association, or corporation:

- a. Owning, possessing, having charge of, or control over, any Urban Hen;
- b. Harboring any Urban Hen;
- c. Suffering or permitting any Urban Hen to remain about their house or premises; and
- d. Any person to whom an Urban Hen License has been issued under this Bylaw.

(h)(i) “**Principal Building**” means a building which is considered the principal use of the lot on which it is erected.

(j) “**Projection**” means any portion of a building or structure which extends into a required setback.

~~(j)~~(k) **“Rear Yard”** means the portion of a lot or site abutting the rear property line extending across the full width of the Subject Property, situated between the rear property line and the nearest wall of the Principal Building. Where there is no Principal Building, the Rear Yard shall be determined at the minimum Rear Yard prescribed in the land use district the Subject Property is located on.

~~(j)~~(l) **“Rooster”** means a domesticated male chicken.

~~(m)~~ **“Side Yard”** means that portion of a lot or site abutting a side property line extending from the front yard to the Rear Yard. The Side Yard is situated between the side lot line and the nearest wall of the Principal Building, not including Projections. Where there is no Principal Building, the Side Yard shall be determined at the minimum Side Yard prescribed in the land use district the parcel is located in.

~~(k)~~(n) **“Subject Property”** means a lot or parcel of land in respect of which an Urban Hen License is sought or has been issued.

~~(j)~~(o) **“Temporary Caregiver”** means a person who has been authorized by the Owner to provide care to their Hens in the event the Owner is temporarily unable to do so.

~~(m)~~(p) **“Town”** means the Town of Blackfalds.

~~(n)~~(q) **“Urban Area”** means lands located within the Town’s municipal jurisdiction on which agricultural operations, including but not limited to the keeping of livestock are neither a permitted nor discretionary use under the Town’s Land Use Bylaw.

~~(o)~~(r) **“Urban Hen License”** means a license issued by the CAO or designate pursuant to this Bylaw authorizing the license holder to keep Urban Hens on a Subject Property.

~~(p)~~(s) **“Violation Ticket”** means the ticket issued by the Town to a person who has committed an offence under this Bylaw.

PART 3 – PROHIBITIONS

3.1 In the Urban Area, no person shall:

3.1.1 Keep a Rooster; or

3.1.2 Keep a hen, other than an Urban Hen for which a valid Urban Hen License has been issued.

PART 4 – PILOT PROGRAM REGULATIONS

~~4.1 The duration of the Urban Hen pilot program shall be two (2) years, effective July 11, 2023.~~

~~4.1.1 Participants must acknowledge the pilot program as a trial.~~

~~4.1.2 Should the pilot program not result in the implementation of a formal Municipal Urban Hen program, participants will have ninety (90) days from the end of the pilot program to re-home Urban Hens.~~

~~4.1.3 Should the pilot program not result in the implementation of a formal Municipal Urban Hen program, the annual Urban Hen License fee shall not be prorated.~~

PART 5 – LICENSING PROVISIONS

5.1 A person may apply to keep a maximum of four (4) Urban Hens by:

5.1.1 Submitting a completed application, on the form approved by the Chief Administrative Officer;

5.1.2 Paying the annual Urban Hen License fee of \$70.00, which shall not be prorated;

- 5.1.3 Providing a site plan including a drawing that shows the proposed location and dimensions of the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure and the proposed setbacks from the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure to the side and rear property lines;
- 5.1.4 Providing a copy of the Premises Identification (PID) Number applicable to the Subject Property; and
- 5.1.5 Any other information reasonably required by the CAO, or designate, including but not limited to:
- 5.1.5.1 The name, address and contact information of the Owner and any person(s) who may act as a Temporary Caregiver;
 - 5.1.5.2 A copy of the Certificate of Title for the Subject Property dated within thirty (30) days of the date of application; and
 - 5.1.5.3 Written consent to keep Hens on the Subject Property, from the registered landowners of the Subject Property as shown on the Certificate of Title, if the Owner is not the registered landowner.
- 5.2 The CAO, or designate, may issue or renew an Urban Hen License if they are satisfied:
- 5.2.1 The applicant is the Owner of the Subject Property on which the Urban Hens will be kept, or that the Owner of the Subject Property has provided written consent to the application;
 - 5.2.2 The applicant resides on the Subject Property on which the Urban Hens will be kept;
 - 5.2.3 The land use district of the Subject Property allows the placement of a Coop for the keeping of Urban Hen(s);
 - 5.2.4 The applicable fee has been paid; and
 - 5.2.5 All required information has been provided.
- 5.3 The CAO, or designate, may refuse to grant or renew an Urban Hen License for any of the following reasons:
- 5.3.1 The applicant or Owner:
 - 5.3.1.1 Does not or no longer meets the requirements of this Bylaw;
 - 5.3.1.2 Provides false information or misrepresents any fact or circumstance to the CAO, or designate, or an Officer;
 - 5.3.1.3 Has, in the opinion of the CAO, or designate, based on reasonable grounds, contravened this Bylaw whether or not the contravention has been prosecuted;
 - 5.3.1.4 Has been convicted of any offence involving abuse, mistreatment or negligent treatment or keeping of animals;
 - 5.3.1.5 Has previously been the holder of an Urban Hen License that was revoked for non-compliance with this Bylaw, or in respect of which an order has been made under Section 645 of the *Municipal Government Act*;
 - 5.3.1.6 Has not complied with all other Provincial or Federal regulations for the keeping of livestock;
 - 5.3.1.7 Fails to pay a fine imposed by a court for a contravention of this Bylaw or any other applicable Bylaw related to the keeping of Urban Hens;
 - 5.3.1.8 Fails to pay any fee required by this or any applicable Bylaw; or
 - 5.3.2 In the opinion of the CAO, or designate, based on reasonable grounds, it is in the

best interests of the public to do so.

- 5.4 An Urban Hen License is valid only for the period July 11th to July 10th in the year for which it is issued.
- 5.5 An Urban Hen License is not transferable from one person to another person nor from one property to another.
- 5.6 A person to whom an Urban Hen License has been issued shall produce the license at the demand of the CAO, or designate, or an Officer.

PART 6 – APPEALS

- 6.1 An appeal lies from a decision of the CAO, or designate, to:
- 6.1.1 Impose conditions on an Urban Hen License, if the appellant is the applicant who applied for the Urban Hen License;
 - 6.1.2 Refuse an Urban Hen License, if the appellant is the applicant for the Urban Hen License; or
 - 6.1.3 Revoke an Urban Hen License, if the appellant is the holder of the Urban Hen License that was revoked.
- 6.2 An appeal under Section 6.1 shall be in writing, addressed to the Chief Administrative Officer, and must be received not later than fourteen (14) days after the decision subject to the appeal is issued.
- 6.3 As soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event not more than fourteen (14) after receiving a notice of appeal the Chief Administrative Officer shall appoint an Appeal Committee for the purpose of hearing the appeal, and apart from appointing the Appeal Committee and providing it with administrative support, the Chief Administrative Officer shall not be involved in the appeal process.
- 6.4 The Appeal Committee shall consist of three (3) members, none of whom is an employee or Council Member of the Town and that the Chief Administrative Officer may appoint members as deemed appropriate..
- 6.5 The Appeal Committee shall schedule the appeal hearing within thirty (30) days after the notice of appeal.
- 6.6 The Appeal Committee shall provide its decision in writing, with reasons, within seven (7) days of the appeal hearing. The Appeal Committee may:
- 6.6.1 Uphold the decision of the CAO, or designate;
 - 6.6.2 Vary the decision of the CAO, or designate, including imposing conditions on an Urban Hen License that differ from any conditions imposed by the CAO, or designate; or
 - 6.6.3 Overturn the decision of the CAO, or designate.
- 6.7 The decision of the Appeal Committee is final and binding and is not subject to appeal to a Court.

PART 7 – KEEPING OF URBAN HENS

- 7.1 An Owner shall:
- 7.1.1 Have a valid Urban Hen License;
 - 7.1.2 Provide each Urban Hen with at least 0.37 m² (4.0 ft²) of interior floor area within the Coop to a maximum Coop size of 10.0 m² in floor area, and at least 0.92 m² (9.9 ft²) of Outdoor Enclosure. If a larger Coop is desired, the Owner is required to apply for a Development Permit;
 - 7.1.3 Locate the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure fully within the Side Yard or the Rear Yard of the Subject Property, in accordance with the residential accessory building

setbacks prescribed in the Land Use Bylaw;

- 7.1.4 Provide and maintain, in the Coop, at least one nest box per Coop and one perch per Urban Hen, that is at least 15 cm long;
 - 7.1.5 Keep each Urban Hen in the Coop or Outdoor Enclosure at all times;
 - 7.1.6 Provide each Urban Hen with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, all sufficient to maintain the Urban Hen in good health;
 - 7.1.7 Maintain the Coop in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances;
 - 7.1.8 Construct and maintain the Coop to prevent any rodent from harbouring underneath or within it or within its walls, and to prevent entrance by any other animal;
 - 7.1.9 Keep a food container and a water container in the Coop;
 - 7.1.10 Keep the Coop secured from sunset to sunrise;
 - 7.1.11 Remove left over feed, trash, and manure in a timely manner;
 - 7.1.12 Store feed within a fully enclosed container;
 - 7.1.13 Store manure within the fully enclosed container, and store no more than 3 cubic feet of manure at a time;
 - 7.1.14 Remove all other manure not used for composting or fertilizing and dispose of manure in accordance with Town bylaws;
 - 7.1.15 Follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to reduce potential for disease outbreak;
 - 7.1.16 Register all Urban Hens with the Province through the Premise Identification (PID) Program and/or any other registration system required by Provincial or Federal regulation or legislation; and
 - 7.1.17 Keep Urban Hens for personal use only.
- 7.2 An Owner shall not:
- 7.2.1 Sell eggs, manure, meat or other products derived from Urban Hens;
 - 7.2.2 Slaughter an Urban Hen on the Subject Property;
 - 7.2.3 Dispose of an Urban Hen except by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, or other operation that is lawfully permitted to dispose of Urban Hens; and
 - 7.2.4 Keep an Urban Hen in a cage, kennel, or any shelter other than a Coop.

PART 8 – MUNICIPAL TICKETS AND VIOLATION TICKETS

- 8.1 Where an Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw:
- 8.1.1 They may serve upon the person a Municipal Ticket allowing payment of the specified fine as set out in Schedule 'A' of this Bylaw, which payment will be accepted by the Town or the Contractor on behalf of the Town in lieu of prosecution for the offence if paid within 21 days of the date of service; or
 - 8.1.2 They may issue and serve a Violation Ticket in accordance with the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, RSA 2000, c. P-34 and amendments thereto, allowing a voluntary payment or requiring a person to appear in court, without the alternative of making a voluntary payment.

8.2 An Officer may, but is not required to, issue a Municipal Ticket before issuing a Violation Ticket under the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.

8.3 A Municipal Ticket shall be deemed to be sufficiently served if:

8.3.1 Served personally on the Owner, or left at the Owner’s residence; or

8.3.2 Mailed to the address of the Owner.

8.4 Penalties for a second, third or subsequent offences will be applicable, where those offense occur within 1 year of the first offence.

PART 9 – OBSTRUCTION

9.1 No Owner or person shall obstruct or hinder any person in the exercise or performance of the person’s powers pursuant to this Bylaw.

PART 10 – DATE OF FORCE

10.1 That this Bylaw shall come into effect, upon the date on which it is finally read and passed.

READ for the first time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES.)

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO KIM ISAAK

READ for the second time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES.)

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO KIM ISAAK

READ for the third and final time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES.)

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO KIM ISAAK

SCHEDULE 'A'

| General Penalties | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Description | Section | Fine Amount | | |
| | | 1st Offence | 2nd Offence | 3rd Offence and subsequent offences |
| Keeping of an Urban Hen without a valid Urban Hen License | 3.1.2 | \$100 | \$250 | \$500 |
| Keeping of a Rooster | 3.1.1 | \$250 | \$500 | \$1000 |
| Failing to construct, maintain, or keep coops in accordance with bylaw requirements | Part 7 | \$100 | \$250 | \$500 |
| Improper disposal or storage of manure | 7.1.13, and 7.1.14 | \$250 | \$500 | \$1000 |
| Failure to follow Canadian Food Inspection Agency procedures to reduce potential for disease outbreak | 7.1.15 | \$100 | \$250 | \$500 |
| Failure to register flock with the province through PID and/or any other registration required by provincial or federal legislation | 7.1.16 | \$100 | \$250 | \$500 |
| Failing to keep Urban Hens for personal use only | 7.1.17 | \$250 | \$500 | \$1000 |
| Slaughter of an Urban Hen on the Subject Property | 7.2.2 | \$250 | \$500 | \$1000 |