

A stylized graphic featuring a yellow sun with rays and a green leaf, both partially obscured by a light blue curved shape.

Urban Chicken Keeping Regulations

BCC workshop 12-17-2019



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Current Regulations

- Raising of poultry
 - Allowed by-right in Agricultural (AG)
 - Previously allowed in Agriculture Estates (AE)
 - Conditional Use in Residential Single Family (RSF)
 - Must be associated with 4H, FFA, or similar program

Reason for Discussion

- Citizens requesting urban chicken keeping
- Cyclical, requests for this use occur every two-three years
- Board request for discussion

What do our neighbors do?

- Allowed:
 - City of North Port, City of Fort Myers, Sarasota County, City of Sarasota, Manatee County
- Not Allowed:
 - City of Bradenton, City of Venice, Longboat Key, Lee County, City of Punta Gorda, City of Cape Coral

What do our neighbors do?

- All jurisdictions that allow them have specific standards
 - Number of chickens
 - Hens only, no roosters
 - Structure setbacks
 - Other slight variations

Possible options

- Do nothing - urban chicken keeping is not allowed
- Allow as a special exception use with requirements - will include notification process to surrounding neighbors
- Allow as a conditional use with site requirements such as fencing, set backs, limited numbers etc.

Internal Experts

- Holly Bates – Poultry Hobbyist and former 4-H Poultry Club Leader. Holly is active in raising poultry with practical expertise on incubation, brooding and pest management.
- Ralph Mitchell – County Extension Director and Horticultural Agent- Ralph has 8 years of poultry experience with the University of Rhode Island and Peace Corps
- Beth Carey-Kovach - Biological Specialist with Public Works. Beth raises poultry for the Sentinel Chicken/Mosquito-borne Disease Monitoring program and actively works with these birds from chick to adult displaying great practical backyard husbandry experience

Questions?