



# BACKYARD CHICKEN PILOT PROGRAM WRAP-UP REPORT

JANUARY 13, 2016



# BY THE NUMBERS



15 APPLICANTS

11 PERMITS ISSUED

9 COOPS CONSTRUCTED

# BY THE NUMBERS



15 APPLICANTS

● 2 permit holders awaiting spring to complete coop

11 PERMITS ISSUED

● 4 participants did not move forward with coop construction for various reasons including HOA denial

9 COOPS CONSTRUCTED



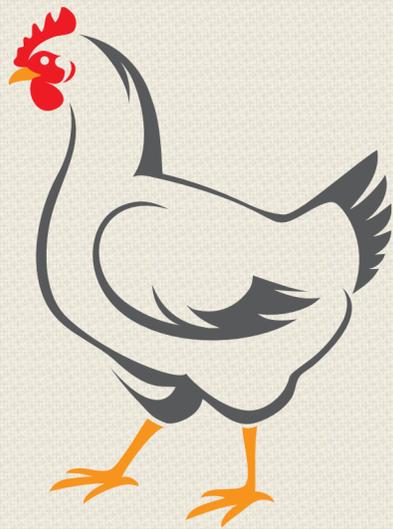
3

# BY THE NUMBERS

15 APPLICANTS

11 PERMITS ISSUED

9 COOPS CONSTRUCTED



X 36



COOP CONSTRUCTION: \$730

CHICKENS: \$3 - \$4 EACH

SUPPLIES: \$100

PERMIT FEE: \$95

**TOTAL AVERAGE COST: \$940**

# BY THE NUMBERS

PARTICIPANT ADDRESSES, NOT CITY AS A WHOLE

## 2 ANIMAL CONTROL CALLS (BOTH RESULTING IN NO FURTHER ACTION)

- Animal control #1: After loud music complaint and chickens were found on property, found to be a permitted address
- Animal control #2: Called to determine if chicken was actually a rooster. Rooster was removed.

# PERMITTING PROCESS



- Ease of permitting and building inspections
- Some challenges with HOA regulations and historic district requirements
- One HOA denied participation; historic district imposed stricter coop aesthetic requirements

# COOP CONSTRUCTION



- Varied by participant with several electing to build coop themselves rather than purchase prefabricated versions.
- Costs ranged from \$200 to \$1,300
- Construction takes longer than expected



06/10/2015

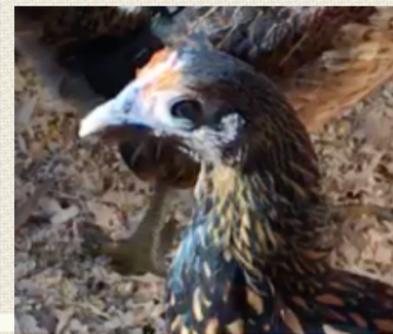
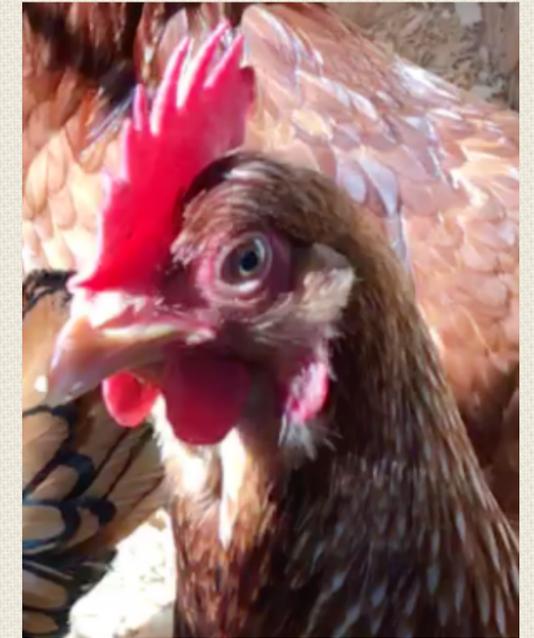






# CHICKENS

- Purchased from Tractor Supply or ordered online from farms or hatcheries
- Ranged from \$3 - \$8 per chicken
- Once egg laying begins, yielding from 1 to 24 eggs per week
- Participants reported no behavioral or noise issues, site visit found traffic in front of homes was typically more noisy than chickens
- Predators were minimal, raccoons or hawks; issues mitigated through solid coop construction









# NEIGHBOR REACTIONS



- Overall very positive or no reaction
- Some participants report than neighbors that were at first wary but now supportive
- Participants have been able to share eggs with neighbors



# OTHER REPORTED OUTCOMES



- Created a sense of community within Elgin for participants; pilot group formed friendships and used a private social media page to stay in touch and offer guidance and communicate
- Allowed for 100% of grass clippings and food scrap recycling for one participant, with all food scraps and yard waste going into pen, to compost, to vegetable garden.
- Increased awareness of backyard chickens amongst neighbors and community
- On-going communication amongst participants helped "self-police" other chicken enthusiasts that were not part of the pilot program

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue program with existing participants and permit limited number of additional homes

- Pilot program yielded very positive reactions
- Four participants did not move forward with coop construction for various reasons including HOA denial
- Recommending re-allocating unused licenses and issuing additional licenses based on applications.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## Allow for raising chicks indoors until fully-feathered

- Pilot encountered issue where chicks were purchased but unable to safely live outside
- Other communities' ordinances silent on raising chicks indoors but anecdotal evidence is that it is common
- Recommendation to allow permit holders to raise chicks indoors until such time that it is safe for the chicken to live outdoors (typically 6 - 8 weeks)

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Allow for anchor posts to be used as footing for coop

- Current regulations require posts to be placed at least 24 inches into the ground and tamped with dirt or gravel
- During the trial it was found that anchor posts can also be used as a suitable way to secure the coop to the ground



# POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

