



Frequently Asked Questions



FAQ's

Is my property eligible for the backyard hens?

Properties zoned as Residential – Low Density (R1) or Residential – Rural (R5) are allowed to keep hens. Hens must be registered with the Town of Creston. Properties zoned as Agriculture (AG) are permitted to keep chickens in accordance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act, and any Regulations or Orders enacted thereunder and do not have to register hens with the Town of Creston.

How many hens may I have?

A program participant may keep up to six (6) hens.

How do I Licence my hens?

Residents interested in keeping backyard hens must licence their hens with the Town of Creston by submitting a Hen Licence form. Forms are available online at: <https://www.creston.ca/backyard-hen-licences> or for pick up at Town Hall at 238 10th Ave. North.

In addition, a Provincial Premises Identification Program number is also required to register with the Town. The BC Provincial Government requires this form for all properties keeping livestock to ensure the protection of livestock. In an emergency, premises ID information improves our ability to notify animal owners rapidly, contain pest and animal disease outbreaks, and respond more effectively to natural disasters like floods or fires. The form is available at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/premises-id>

Where on my property may I keep hens?

Your coop and run may only be constructed in your rear yard. It must also comply with all the required accessory building setbacks for your zone, and all requirements outlined in the Town's Animal Care and Responsibility Bylaw.

Are roosters allowed?

No, roosters are not permitted.

May I slaughter my hens on my property?

No, the slaughtering of hens is not permitted on your property. Options for the slaughtering of hens include veterinarians, farms, livestock auctions, or abattoirs.



May I sell eggs?

No, eggs produced by your backyard hens are for personal use only.

What do I do with the organic matter produced from my hens?

Properties choosing to keep backyard hens are responsible for managing their organic matter. For example, manure from backyard hens may be composted for private use in gardens. Alternatively, the curbside compost program does accept manure produced from backyard hens. Manure may not be sold for commercial purposes.

Do my hens need to be kept in a coop or run at all times?

Yes, hens must be kept in their run at all times and must be kept in the coop from sunset to 7am or sunset to sunrise, whichever comes first.

What should a Creston resident do if they want to submit a complaint?

If a resident is concerned about backyard hens in violation of bylaw regulations, please contact the Town of Creston's Public Safety and Compliance Officer at 250-428-2214 ext. 441.

How will backyard hen health be protected?

Owners must comply with the Town of Creston Animal Care and Responsibility Bylaw and provincial and federal standards for care. The Town of Creston has developed coop and run regulations that are consistent with space guidelines identified by various government agencies, humane organizations, and popular backyard chicken activist websites. <https://humanecanada.ca/2017/06/16/five-freedoms-of-animal-welfare/>

How will public health be protected?

The Town of Creston has taken several steps to ensure the protection of public health. Firstly, all hens will have to be licenced with the Town of Creston and the Provincial Government through Provincial Premises Identification Program. Secondly, the Town prohibits the sale of eggs to reduce the risk of contracting and transmitting salmonella. Town is not permitting the slaughter of hens on backyard hen properties. Additionally, backyard hens will be required to be kept within their coop or run at all times to remove hen contact between neighbouring properties and wild birds.

Resources:

Federal Government - Health of Animals Act - 1990, c. 21 - This Act outlines steps that may be taken by inspectors in the case where diseases (e.g. avian flu) or if toxic substances are suspected of being on a site that may affect animals or that may be transmitted by animals to persons. Prohibitions in this act include: concealment, keeping diseased animals and selling or disposing of diseased animals. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/h-3.3/>

Canadian Food Inspection Agency - The agency develops and delivers programs and services designed to protect Canadians from preventable food safety hazards and ensure that food safety emergencies are effectively managed and that the public is aware of and contributes to food safety through administration of the Federal Act such as Canadian Agricultural Products Act, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act & Feeds Act. - <https://inspection.canada.ca/>

Federal Government – How to prevent and detect disease in small flocks and pet birds - Provides useful information on how to prevent disease among your flock. Includes videos, infographics , and additional resources <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/backyard-flocks-and-pet-birds/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>

The BC Government - provides useful Fact Sheets on different subjects regarding Best Management Practices - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-production/poultry>

BC Provincial Public Health Act - Provides health officers the authority to order preventative measures to control a health hazard (e.g. Avian Flu outbreak) <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/legislation/public-health-act>

BC Provincial Animal Disease Control Act - Veterinarians and Physicians are obligated to report known or suspected animals or persons that are suffering from or have died from a communicable disease. https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/consol18/consol18/00_96014_01

BC Integrated Pest Management Act - This Act mainly regulates pesticide use, but also gives authority to the Minister to order an Integrated Pest Management Plan for managing pest populations (including rats and insects) and reduce damage caused by pests. https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00_03058_01



BC Environmental Management Act - The Ministry of Environment regulates issues regarding organic matter (manure) and recycling for larger retail grade practices through this act.

https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/03053_04

Wild Safe BC – Wild Safe BC is a provincial leader in preventing conflict with wildlife through collaboration, education and community solutions. In 2014, Wild Safe BC released a Position Paper on the Raising of Urban Livestock.

<https://wildsafebc.com/learn/grow/>

World Health Organization – WHO includes the world's leading public health experts, including doctors, epidemiologists, scientists and managers. WHO coordinates the world's response to health emergencies, promotes well-being, prevents disease, and expand access to health care. The Avian Influenza Fact Sheet includes key AI information.

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/avian_influenza/en/

Interior Health – Interior Health provides a range of integrated health-care programs and services across BC's Southern Interior. Interior Health's Public Health sector developed a document to guide council's review of the health implications of community residents raising chickens in their backyards for egg production.

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/HealthyLiving/FoodSecurity/Documents/Food-UrbanHens.pdf>