

STAFF REPORT

TO: Hailey City Council

FROM: Mariel Platt, Planner 

RE: Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Article 2, Definitions; Article 4.2, Limited Residential; Article 4.3, General Residential; Article, 4.4, Neighborhood Business; Article 4.5, Limited Business; Article 4.6, Transitional; and Article 7, Bulk Regulations

HEARING: April 12, 2010

Note: Staff analysis is in lighter type

Notice

Notice for the public hearing was published in the Idaho Mountain Express and mailed to public agencies and area media on March 24, 2010.

Proposal

Attached are amendments to Article 2, Definitions and Article 4.2, Limited Residential District, 4.3, General Residential District, 4.5 Limited Business District, 4.6, Transitional District, and 7, Bulk Regulations of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, proposed by the City.

These amendments would allow for urban agriculture as a permitted use in all zoning districts that allow for residential uses and would establish bulk requirements for chicken coops.

Procedural History

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendments on January 20, 2009 and February 17, 2009 (please find the minutes from both meetings attached). The Commission recommended approval of the proposed amendments on February 17, 2009. The Council reviewed the proposed amendment on June 8, 2009.

The Planning Department has received numerous phone calls in the last year from residents who would like to house chickens on their property. Since the June 8th meeting, the Planning Department received phone calls from a few citizens asking if they can now have chickens in Hailey and wondering when the Council will review this subject again. The increasing interest in the concept of farming at or close to home is attractive for varying reasons – reducing carbon emissions, providing and inexpensive source of natural/organic and local foods, as well as securing food supply in the event of an emergency.

Staff has been informed that there are already backyard chickens being kept in Hailey, despite Hailey's current ordinance, which does not allow for urban agriculture. Without an amendment to the ordinance to allow backyard chickens, staff would have to address noncompliance issues and enforce the prohibition of chickens. Despite the current presence of backyard chickens in Hailey, staff has never received any complaints of nuisances or other issues pertaining to

residents keeping backyard chickens. Staff suggests that given the lack of complaints about existing backyard chickens, the lack of desire to instate additional enforcement, and the potential community benefits, the ordinance should be amended to allow backyard chickens.

Urban agriculture, such as keeping chickens for eggs, can have many community benefits:

- Reduces the vehicle miles traveled associated with food production and delivery - the average item of food in the U.S. travels 1,400 miles to the dinner table, this in turn reduces green house gas emissions.
- Promotes health by allowing individuals the choice to ensure their own foods are safe and high quality.
- Increases food security and potentially reduces individual food costs.
- Reduces waste - a chicken can consume nine pounds of kitchen waste a month and the chicken's waste can be used as garden fertilizer.

The value in small scale urban farming has been noticed by numerous municipalities. Boise and Nampa, ID; Portland, OR; San Francisco, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Santa Fe, NM; Salt Lake City, UT as well as over 100 other large and small municipalities throughout the U.S. allow "backyard chickens" to some extent. (See attached comparison of various chicken ordinances.)

On June 8, 2010, the Council's concerns centered on predation, noise, and the smell of keeping chickens within city limits. Staff has conducted further research on these issues to provide a more in-depth analysis on what other cities have experienced and what may be the likelihood that Hailey would be negatively affected by the proposed ordinance.

Portland, Oregon, allows up to three (3) chickens without a permit and there is no limit with a permit. The permit is a one-time \$31 fee. The following restrictions apply:

- Roosters are not allowed.
- Permits are required for more than three (3) chickens. If the request requires a permit, the applicant must notify your neighbors within 150 feet from your property, with a letter informing them that chickens will be kept on the property. (Attached is a sample letter and pictures of a coop, sent to the Planning Department from a past Hailey resident who now lives and keeps chickens in Portland, Oregon. The owner has proudly informed me that her coop will be part of Portland's 2010 Tour De Coops this year, where people from the community visit a handful of coops chosen for the tour and share their ideas and stories about their coops and experiences with chickens.)
- Coops must be at least 15 feet from any habitable dwelling.
- Chickens must be enclosed in a manner that confines the chickens to the property and not allowed to roam at large.

Salt Lake City, Utah, allows up to 15 chickens with a permit cost of \$5 per chicken, not to exceed \$40. The permit must be renewed annually. The following restrictions apply:

- Coops must be located in a rear yard, at least 25 feet from any dwelling located on an adjacent lot.
- Coops shall be predator-resistant.
- Chickens are only allowed in residential areas where the principle use is a single family or multi-family dwelling.

- Chickens shall be confined within a secure outdoor enclosed area.
- Chickens are allowed for egg production only.
- Roosters are not allowed.

According to chicken owners in Portland, chickens sleep in the evening and only make louder noises when laying eggs, which can last a few minutes. The noise made when laying eggs lessens with age and some breeds are quieter than others. If coops are left unattended and are not cleaned out periodically or their waste is not composted properly, the area can begin to smell. The owner of the chicken coop pictured in the attachment has five chickens and has never noticed a smell. The owner attributes the lack of smell to the use of wood shavings along the floor of the coop and run and cleaning the coop once a month during the winter and once a week during the summer.

Based on this research staff recommends up to three (3) chickens without a permit; the Commission recommended allowing five (5). Each hen will lay approximately one (1) egg a day, so five (5) hens produce 35 eggs a week and three (3) hens would produce 21 eggs a week. During the winter, egg production tends to drop below these numbers, more significantly in some breeds than others. By reducing the number of chickens from the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommended five (5) to three (3), it is expected that the potential for noise and smell impacts will be limited.

By requiring a coop to comply with the already established minimum setbacks the distance between a coop and a dwelling on an adjacent property would be a minimum of 20 feet (ten foot minimum rear and side yard setback for each property). This will help lessen any impacts felt by neighboring property owners.

Staff recommends the coop be predator-resistant. In researching predation issues associated with allowing chickens, there are ways to predator-proof a coop. A ½ inch by ½ inch hardware cloth, buried 12 inches into the ground then buried out 90 degrees for 12 inches will apparently keep predators out, compared to traditional chicken wire, which costs only slightly less (for a 5 foot by 15 foot enclosure, it is \$20 less). Communities with predation issues have apparently had little problems with coops that were built well. It is anticipated that those wanting to keep chickens will not want them taken by predation and will do their due diligence to ensure their chickens are protected.

The following changes have been made to the proposed ordinance (attached) since the June 8, 2009 meeting:

- Require the coop to be predator resistant
- Require the coop to be placed in the rear yard
- Limit the number of chickens allowed to three (3).

At the June 8th meeting, some Council members felt like greater control was need and discussed whether the appropriate method would be to required a conditional use permit, for at least one (1) year, until it can be determined what types of issues might arise.

Based on the research conducted, staff does not recommend a permitting system, but suggests that chickens be allowed without a permit with a statutory expiration of one year. Afterward,

staff could determine the success of the ordinance and the Council could assess whether a permit is needed. If, however, the Council decides that a permit is necessary at the onset, staff suggests a special permit with a \$50 fee for administrative review, instead of the traditional Conditional Use Permit, which requires a public hearing and a \$400 fee. This will allow the City to revoke a permit if violations occur and will ensure that the requirements are met. With permitting, compliance issues would be tracked closely for one (1) year. Following one (1) year, the tracked information could be reviewed to determine if a permit is still necessary and address compliance issues that may have arisen.

Standards of Evaluation

14.6 Criteria for Review. When evaluating any proposed amendment under this Article, the Hearing Examiner or Commission and Council shall make findings of fact on the following criteria:

1. The proposed amendment is in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan;

The Council should consider how the proposed amendments relate to the various policies and implementation items of the Comprehensive Plan, particularly the following:

Environment Section - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Goal: Strive to meet or exceed the Kyoto Protocol target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions seven percent below 1990 levels.

Implementation:

- a. Identify and implement cost-effective actions that will reduce the community's contribution to total global greenhouse gas emissions.*
- b. Integrate land use, building code, transportation and energy policies to support this goal.*

2. Essential public facilities and services are available to support the full range of proposed uses without creating excessive additional requirements at public cost for the public facilities and services;

If administrative review is required for urban agriculture, the \$50 fee is anticipated to cover the cost.

3. The proposed uses are compatible with the surrounding area; and

The proposed accessory use is compatible within the residential districts and the permit system would provide an additional layer of review and regulation.

4. The proposed amendment will promote the public health, safety and general welfare.

The proposed amendment will allow individuals and families the opportunity to produce local, fresh, food for themselves, while having a mechanisms whereby potential nuisances can be avoided through a review process.

Summary

The Council shall hold a public hearing and determine whether the proposed amendments are in accordance with the applicable standards of evaluation.

The Council shall make a decision, with **findings on the four standards of evaluation** noted above. If the proposed change is approved, the Council shall pass an ordinance making said amendment part of Hailey Zoning Ordinance #532. The draft ordinance is attached.

Motion Language

Motion to approve the proposed amendments to Articles 2.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.5.2, 4.6.2, and 7.1, finding that the amendments are in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, that essential public facilities and services are available to support the full range of proposed uses without creating excessive additional requirements at public cost for the public facilities and services, that the proposed uses are compatible with the surrounding area, and that the proposed amendment will promote the public health, safety and general welfare and adopt Ordinance No. _____ and authorize the mayor to conduct the first reading by title only.

Denial:

Motion to deny the proposed amendments to Articles 2.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.5.2, 4.6.2, and 7.1, finding that _____ [the Council should cite which standards are not met and provided the reason why each identified standard is not met].

Continuation:

Motion to continue the public hearing upon the proposed amendment to Articles 2.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.5.2, 4.6.2, and 7.1 to _____ [the Council should specify a date].

Table:

Motion to table the public hearing upon the proposed amendment to Articles 2.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.5.2, 4.6.2, and 7.1.

HAILEY ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HAILEY, IDAHO, AMENDING ARTICLE 2 OF HAILEY'S ZONING ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 532, BY AMENDING SECTION 2.2, TO ADD THE DEFINITION OF CHICKEN COOP AND URBAN AGRICULTURE; AMENDING ARTICLE 4 OF HAILEY'S ZONING ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 532, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.5.2, AND 4.6.2, TO ALLOW FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AS A PERMITTED USE; AND AMENDING ARTICLE 7 OF HAILEY'S ZONING ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 523, BY AMENDING SECTION 7.1, TO ESTABLISH BULK REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR CHICKEN COOPS; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE UPON PASSAGE, APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION ACCORDING TO LAW.

WHEREAS, the Hailey City Council has found that the following amendment to the Hailey Zoning Ordinance conform to the Hailey Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS, essential public facilities and services are available to support the full range of proposed uses without creating excessive additional requirements at public cost for the public facilities and services;

WHEREAS, the uses are compatible with the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the amendment will promote the public health, safety and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAILEY, IDAHO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 2.2, Definitions, of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, is hereby amended by the addition of the underlined language as follows:

Chicken Coop. A building or enclosed structure, which houses hens.

Urban Agriculture. The production of vegetables, fruits and eggs by residents for personal consumption and may include production by members of a neighborhood on one or more vacant lots for personal consumption.

Section 2. Section 4.3.2, General Residential District, of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, is hereby amended by the addition of the underlined language as follows:

4.3.2 Permitted Uses.

Permitted uses for the GR District are limited to the following:

- a. Parks.
- b. Single Family Dwellings.
- c. Multi-Family Dwellings.
- d. Churches.
- e. Schools.
- f. Home Occupations.

- g. Day Care Homes.
- h. Day Care Facilities.
- i. Manufactured Homes.
- j. Urban Agriculture.

Section 3. Section 4.5.2, Limited Business District, of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, is hereby amended by the deletion addition of the underlined language as follows:

4.5.2 Permitted Uses.

Permitted uses in the LB District are limited to the following:

- a. Single Family Dwelling.
- b. Multiple-Family Dwellings.
- c. Dwelling Units within Mixed Use Buildings.
- d. Home Occupations.
- e. Lodging Establishments.
- f. Professional Offices, excluding veterinarians.
- g. Churches.
- h. Schools and other educational services.
- i. Health care and social assistance.
- j. Real estate and property management companies.
- k. Catering Services.
- l. Arts, entertainment and recreation uses (indoor and outdoor).
- m. Personal Services where retail sales are clearly incidental to the principal use and no outside storage yard or facility is required.
- n. All Day Care Businesses.
- o. Manufactured Homes.
- p. Semi-Public Uses.
- q. PWSF's or WCF's, attached to street poles, upon the issuance of a Wireless Permit in accordance with the provisions of Article VIIIA of this Ordinance.
- r. Government offices and public administration, except correctional institutions.
- s. Parks.
- t. Urban Agriculture.

Section 4. Section 4.6.2, Transitional District, of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, is hereby amended by the addition of the underlined language as follows:

4.6.2 Permitted Uses.

Permitted uses for the TN District are limited to the following:

- a. Single Family Dwellings.
- b. Mixed Use Buildings.
- c. Home Occupations.
- d. Professional Offices
- e. Day Care Homes.
- f. Day Care Facilities.
- g. Manufactured Homes.
- h. Churches.

- i. Parks.
- j. Urban Agriculture.

Section 5. Section 4.2.2, Limited Residential District, of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, is hereby amended by the addition of the underlined language as follows:

4.2.2 Permitted Uses.

Permitted uses for the LR District are limited to the following:

- a. Parks.
- b. Single Family Dwellings.
- c. Churches.
- d. Home Occupations.
- e. Day Care Homes.
- f. Manufactured Homes.
- g. Urban Agriculture

Section 6. Section 7.1, Supplementary Yard Setback Requirements, of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, is hereby amended by the addition of the underlined language as follows:

7.1 Supplementary Yard Setback Requirements.

- 7.1.1 Cornices, canopies, eaves or similar roof overhang features and cantilevered balconies may extend into a required yard setback not more than three (3) feet.
- 7.1.2 Fire escapes required by the IBC or IRC may extend into a required yard setback not more than six (6) feet.
- 7.1.3 All portions of a chimney shall not extend into a required yard setback by more than two (2) feet.
- 7.1.4 Bay windows shall not extend into a required yard setback by more than two (2) feet. Such windows shall be a minimum of two (2) feet from the top of the interior floor.
- 7.1.5 Pergolas. Supporting columns for Pergolas shall meet required yard setbacks. The roof of a pergola shall not extend into a required yard setback by more than five (5) feet.
- 7.1.6 Where the required front yard setback exceeds the side yard setback in the zoning district in which a lot is located, the side yard setback along the street of a normal corner lot (not reverse corner lot) shall be not less than two thirds (2/3) the front yard setback requirement.
- 7.1.7 The yard setbacks along the street side(s) of a reverse corner lot shall be not less than the front yard requirement for the zoning district in which the lot is located.
- 7.1.8 Accessory Structures with a floor area of 120 square feet or less:
 - a. Except as otherwise provided herein, Accessory Structures with a floor area of 120 square feet or less are allowed to be setback a minimum of three (3) feet from the side and/or rear property line.

1. On Normal Corner Lots, Accessory Structures with a floor area of 120 square feet or less shall have a minimum side yard setback of two thirds (2/3) the front yard setback requirement for the zoning district in which the lot is located.
 2. Except in the Business District, in the case where an alley is located along the side or rear lot line of the property, a six (6) foot setback is required for Accessory Structures with a floor area of 120 square feet or less.
 3. Within the Business District, Accessory Structures may be built to the property line.
- b. Accessory Structures with a floor area of 120 square feet or less and are located a minimum of three (3) feet from the side and/or rear property line shall have a maximum bearing wall height of eight feet and a maximum building height of 12 feet.
- c. Accessory Structures with a floor area of 120 square feet or less shall comply with all applicable Building Code requirements.
- (Ord. 1006, §2, 05-28-08)

7.1.9 No part of a yard setback required for a building complying with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be included as a yard for another building.

- 7.1.10 Chicken Coops. Lots with Single Family Dwellings are allowed up to three hens (roosters are prohibited), provided the following Chicken Coop requirements are met:
- a. A predator-resistant Chicken Coop is provided.
 - b. Any Chicken Coop shall be located in the rear yard only and is subject to the setback requirement for the zoning district in which the lot is located.
 - c. The Chicken Coop or the property must be fenced in some manner that the hens are confined to the boundaries of the property.

Section 7. Severability Clause. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 8. Repealer Clause. All City of Hailey ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof, which are in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

Section 9. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the required three (3) readings, approval, and publication according to law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE HAILEY CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2010.

Richard L. Davis, Mayor, City of Hailey

Attest:

Mary Cone, City Clerk

New Business

Various Zoning Districts Relating to the Sustainability of the Hailey Zoning Ord. No. 532

A city initiated text amendment to various zoning district articles of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, including but not limited to, establishing standards for solar panels and small wind energy systems, allowing a maximum of three chickens per lot within certain districts, and allowing accessory dwelling units within the Limited Residential (LR) district.

Planner Platt presented an overview of background information related to each of the proposed amendments.

Commissioner Moore mentioned that he is not in favor of towers which is noted in tab 6 and expressed concern regarding accessory dwelling units in the Woodside and Limited Residential areas. He noted that ADUs are only permitted in the Townsite Overlay. He thought there should be standards developed for ADUs. Director Robrahn stated the planning department reviews all building permits for compliance with the bulk regulations of the zoning ordinance. Commissioner Moore was concerned with access to and from the ADU. Planner Platt stated the only bulk requirement that would be changed is the size of the lot. Commissioner Moore stated he was in favor of the amendment related to ADUs.

Commissioner Pogue asked how the 15' setback for the chicken coop was determined. Planner Platt stated she viewed other ordinances that allowed chickens. Commissioner Pogue asked what the goal for the additional setback was and asked if it would be clear that a chicken coop would have to meet the setback requirement. He was also concerned about noise abatement. Planner Platt passed out a letter from a resident of Hailey in favor of allowing chickens. She also mentioned that the department has received a couple of phone calls inquiring about if chickens are allowed. She stated three chickens are enough to provide eggs for a family of four.

Commissioner Spears said he had no concerns as long as the setback requirements are met and mentioned he was not concerned about noise abatement given the noise the dogs make in the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Johnstone said that a chicken coop is not necessarily a structure. It could be chicken wire held up by 2x4 posts.

Commissioner Scanlon suggested restricting the size of an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). Commissioner Moore stated ADUs currently have a size restriction with a minimum of 300 and a maximum of 950.

Public Hearing Opened

Peter Lobb, 403 Carbonate Street East, did not think there was any savings to having chickens given that the coops would have to be heated in the winter. He said that a couple of years ago there were a lot of meetings held regarding LR within the Townsite Overlay and a lot of decisions were made at that time and one of those was no ADUs were to be permitted in the LR district. They could be allowed in GR within a lot of 7,000 sq. ft. He mentioned that an ADU in the Limited Residential district would extend into the alleyways. He said an ADU would add more people and asked if the city wanted to infill the city with ADUs? He urged the Commission to not allow this change. Lobb accused the staff of having too much time on their hands.

Public Hearing Closed

Director Robrahn asked Lobb if his objection was only in reference to the Limited Residential area within the Townsite Overlay. Lobb replied yes.

Planner Platt stated any zoning within the Townsite Overlay does allow ADUs. Director Robrahn's thought on lot size was a 6,000 sq ft lot with access off the alley provided adequate room for parking in back; not having a backyard may be the tradeoff.

Commissioner Moore did not anticipate a rapid buildout of ADUs and did not have an issue with this.

Commissioner Pogue stated that he lives within the Townsite Overlay and wanted to retain the feel and design characteristics of that area. He said he would hate to see the lot coverage increase. He said he was okay with the ADU amendment.

Commissioner Johnstone concurred with Commissioner Pogue and did not think in this economy that people would be building much. He said maybe an occasional ADU on top of a garage might be built. He said he was in favor of the DU amendment.

Commissioner Spears thought ADUs could help the affordable housing effort. He felt it was an laudable goal.

Commissioner Scanlon did not think the lot sizes needed to be reduced for ADUs. He said if a chicken coop is defined as an enclosed structure then there needed to be setback requirements.

Director Robrahn advised the Commission that a decision does not have to be made tonight. She said staff could do more research. She said it was a separate issue of allowing an ADU in the Limited Residential district and whether or not to reduce limited lot size. She said when development applications are slow is a good time to plan for the future and discuss more progressive ordinance amendments.

Commissioner Spears reiterated how affordable housing could be addressed through ADUs.

Commissioner Spears moved to continue the public hearing to a date certain of February 2, 2009. Commissioner Pogue seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Article 6A Sustainability of Hailey Zoning Ord. No. 532

A city initiated text amendment to Article 6A, Design Review of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, including but not limited to, requiring landscape plantings used in multi-family and non-residential developments to be drought tolerant species, exempting small scale wind energy systems from screening standards, and clarifying the standard for increasing energy efficiency in buildings.

Planner Platt reviewed the proposed amendments.

Commissioner Spears felt the building design language should be relatively specific.

Director Robrahn redirected the Commission to the Public Hearing Procedure before the Commission continued with the public hearing and discussion on this amendment.

**Minutes of the
Hailey Planning & Zoning Commission
February 17, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commission Chair Owen Scanlon. Commissioners present were Geoff Moore, Mike Pogue, Mark Johnstone, and David Lloyd. Staff present included Planner Mariel Platt and Planning Assistant Becky Mead.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2009
- b. Approval of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision ~ **D.L. Evans Bank Design Review**

Commissioner Scanlon pulled item b. from the consent agenda, stating that there were some unresolved issues.

Commissioner Pogue moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Moore seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Proclamations and Presentations

David Lloyd was sworn in as new Planning & Zoning Commissioner by Deputy Clerk Becky Mead.

New Business

Unfinished Business

Items continued from January 20, 2009; staff requested items be continued to Tuesday, February 17, 2009.

Public comments presented to the Commission in regards to the proposed amendments:

- Email received February 2, 2009 from Sue Peterson
- Email received February 11, 2009 from Elizabeth Jeffrey
- Letter received February 17, 2009 from Mary Ann Wuebker

Public Hearings upon the following:

Various Zoning Districts Relating to the Sustainability of the Hailey Zoning Ord. No. 532.

A city initiated text amendment to various zoning district articles of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, including but not limited to, establishing standards for solar panels and small wind energy systems, allowing a maximum of three chickens per lot within certain districts, and allowing accessory dwelling units within the Limited Residential (LR) district.

Planner Platt stated what changes she made since the last meeting regarding this ordinance:

1. Removed setback required for the chicken coop and defined a chicken coop as a structure.
2. Removed ADU language that would eliminate the minimum lot size language in GR, TN, and TO zoning districts, but kept the language that would add ADU as accessory uses in LR-1 and LR-2

outside of the Townsite Overlay. Language regarding ADUs allowed in LR-1 and LR-2, within the Townsite Overlay remains, with a minimum lot size requirement of 7,000 sq. ft.

Commissioner Pogue asked if she completely removed the set back requirement. Planner Platt stated yes, but if it needed to be reinstated that could be done.

Commissioner Johnstone referred to the letter submitted from Mary Ann Wuebker and asked how difficult it would be for an applicant to get a variance. Planner Platt stated variances are only applicable to topographical or geographical restrains; i.e. steep grading or an oddly shaped lot and the owner of such property has to demonstrate that some kind of hardship has occurred as a result of the topography.

Commissioner Lloyd asked if there were ever any discussions regarding view corridors and solar access for solar panels. Planner Platt stated there is an Idaho statute that allows solar access easements, which could be looked at further in the future. She said she wasn't sure if Hailey needed to adopt an ordinance to address or not. More research could be done, if desired. Commissioner Scanlon mentioned there is language in the ordinance that speaks about blocking or shading structures. Planner Platt concurred, through design review guidelines this is addressed, but it may also be addressed through the platting process, by creating solar easements.

Commissioner Scanlon asked about the comment in Wuebker's letter where she stated "I was told there would be no variances". Planner Platt stated that Ms. Wuebker's letter was addressing an incident that occurred a few years ago, back when there were disputes going on with minimum lot sizes within the Townsite Overlay. She was assuming that staff must have told her she could not obtain a variance because it would not have been an appropriate use of a variance. Planner Platt said currently the minimum lot size is 7,000 sq. ft. in the Townsite Overlay to build an ADU; therefore, Wuebker is unable to have an ADU by only a few square feet.

There was discussion regarding allowing conditional use permits for ADUs on lots smaller than 7,000 square feet.

Commissioner Scanlon thinks the chicken coop should have a set back because it is a structure. Commissioner Pogue thought the setback of 15 ft was too much and not having a set back would not be appropriate. The Commission agreed to leave the setbacks the same as the existing setbacks.

Public Hearing Opened

Dick Springs, 121 Punkin Center Road in Bellevue, said he sells 40 dozens eggs through the farmers market in Hailey and Ketchum through the course of the summer. He mentioned that 3 chickens would not be adequate to support a family of four. A chicken's life span is about 1 ½ years and produces approximately 5 eggs a week. A family of four would need 4 chickens. He mentioned that in the wintertime production goes down. He said there is a predation factor, which required you to replace chickens periodically and said that you have to raise your chicken from a chick yourself. He suggested 6 chickens for a family of four would be sufficient. He wanted to give his experience with chickens to the Commission since that is what he does.

Scott Runkel, 1610 Northridge Drive, supports having chickens and admitted he once had 3 chickens in Northridge but no longer has them now. He also agreed that 3 chickens in the winter were not enough.

Peter Lobb, 403 Carbonate St East, said he was happy about the minimum lot size remaining in old Hailey. He suggested for the commission to have a vision of how they want the city to grow. He thinks there will be more pushes for more density, but he likes the way the density is now. He stated that allowing ADUs will increase traffic and smog because of the higher densities that they will create. He did not feel that ADUs in the LR district were necessary with Sweetwater becoming low income housing and Old Cutters providing community housing. He said there is not a housing problem now and suggested allowing ADUs at another time if it is really needed.

Matt Engle, 1720 Northridge Drive, spoke about setbacks and how important they are and how they eliminate conflicts and keep neighbors happy.

Kaz Thea, 1630 Heroic Road, said she manages the farmers market and is excited about the chickens. She did not understand the reasoning for only 3 chickens. She commended the Commission for moving forward with sustainability. She hopes this is a movement for the town to become greener in everything they do. She said she would love to help in anyway.

Springs added that the size of a chicken coop would be 3 sq. ft. per chicken and for outdoor space 10 sq. ft. per chicken for their run. He suggested a level of 6 chickens for a family of four. Free range chickens are defined as never being confined. He mentioned that chickens love to eat grass clippings and the nutritional factor of a homegrown chicken is much higher than any store bought chicken. He said allowing these chickens are a great nutritional benefit.

Dana Denny, 830 Empty Saddle Trail, thought having chickens was a great idea and agreed there needed to be setbacks. She said with the chickens eating the grass clippings it provided great recycling.

Heidi Albrech, 521 Elm St. East, said she is a single mom of three teenagers and moved to Hailey from Bellevue where they once had eight or nine chickens at one time. She said it is a great responsibility for the kids and gives opportunity for recycling food scraps and the chicken's waste provides great fertilizer and provides warm eggs in the morning. She said in some small way it changes kids.

Kelly Jackson, with Citizens for Smart Growth, said that she had previously submitted a letter saying that she was in favor of all the amendments that are being proposed. She loves to see the city moving towards sustainability. She felt the ADUs would allow more people to live in town and that it would be an economic benefit for some residents.

Public Hearing Closed

Commissioner Scanlon asked why three chickens. Planner Platt stated in part it was to be diplomatic and minimizes the impacts. She said it would be up to the Commission on the number of chickens. While doing her research on other municipalities' ordinances, 3 chickens and no roosters seemed to be the magic number. Commissioner Scanlon asked Springs what kind of chickens to use and inquired about the noise level. Springs said a white leghorn chicken, which is a commercial chicken and produces one egg a day. With that type of chicken 3 would be enough. He said a white leghorn chicken is best suited to an indoor confinement operation,

which most factories are. He said the chickens that families would keep would be a heritage breed like Road Island Red or a Bard Rock. He said with those chickens the production is lower and their temperament is much gentler and they are much better in a family situation and will only produce 5 eggs a week; so if an average person is eating 5 eggs per week then the need would be one chicken per person; i.e. four chickens for a family of four. He said the rooster is the noise maker and said there is no difference in the noise between 3 and 6 chickens.

Commissioner Lloyd said he has had a first hand experience with friends who have 4 chickens and they have not received any complaints from their neighbors. He suggested having 3 to 6, but should have less than more.

Commissioner Pogue was in favor of increasing to 4 or 5 chickens, but beyond that might draw some complaints.

Commissioner Johnstone concurred with Commissioner Pogue.

Commissioner Moore wanted to know if they could tie the number of chickens by the square footage of the lot. He agreed with 4 to 5 chickens.

Commissioner Pogue was concerned about the additional burden of staff that may be created when such specific and detailed guidelines are used.

Commissioner Scanlon asked the Commission if they were okay with 5 chickens. The Commission agreed.

Planner Platt clarified the Commissioners' amendments; five chickens and did the Commission want to discuss allowing ADU's on lots under 7,000 square feet with a CUP.

Commissioner Pogue stated no, that could be a subject for another meeting. He asked what criteria would be looked at.

Commissioner Johnstone was in favor of a CUP on because it is evaluated on a case by case basis. He would like to see it happen if it could be easily incorporated into this ordinance.

Commissioner Moore was comfortable with the way it was written, without adding the additional CUP language.

Commissioner Pogue asked what would be the criteria that would be looked at to determine whether to approve or deny the application.

Planner Platt reviewed the criteria for a CUP. She said that an ADU applying for a CUP would be required to meet each criterion. She stated that if the Commission wanted to see additional criteria for an ADU with a CUP then that should be done at another time, in either a separate ordinance or the Commission should continue this ordinance to the next meeting date so she could add additional criterion for reviewing CUPs for ADUs. She said if the current criteria are

acceptable they could have a discussion whether or not to allow an ADU on lots fewer than 7,000 square feet, with a CUP.

Commissioner Scanlon said a CUP usually involves some kind of hardship. There is opportunity for ADUs the way the ordinance is written now. He said he agreed with Lobb as far as the City needing to determine what it wants to see in terms of density.

Planner Platt stated the classic textbook alternative to high density is sprawl, when there is growth.

Commissioner Scanlon asked the Commissioners if the ADU with a CUP should be left out at this time.

Commissioner Pogue felt comfortable with keeping it the way it was presently written, with no CUP.

Commissioner Moore agreed with Commissioner Pogue.

Commissioner Johnstone said he partially disagreed and felt the conditions were so protective that there wouldn't be anything to worry about.

Commissioner Lloyd felt ADUs were generally a good idea, but that you needed to draw the line on square footage somewhere; he did not see how the conditions would be written. He is not in favor of ADUs being allowed with a CUP.

Commissioner Scanlon said there are three for the CUP and 1 1/2 not for it. He asked Planner Platt if she wanted to pass this tonight. Planner Platt said that would be up to the Commission, but suggested that if there were questions and concerns regarding language, they could look at ADUs again in the near future.

Commissioner Moore suggested passing this along to the Council with the ADUs as it is written presently. The Commission concurred.

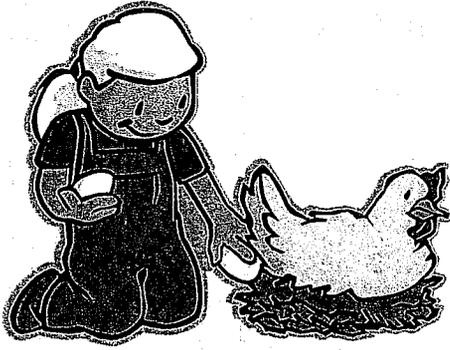
Planner Platt asked if the Commission was comfortable with Planner Platt making the agreed upon changes as follows: changing the number of chickens from three to five and ensuring that the chicken coops complied with existing building setbacks, and allowing the recommendation to go to the Council without the Commission seeing another draft beforehand. The Commission agreed that that would be fine.

Commissioner Moore moved to recommend to the City Council approval of the proposed amendments to Sections 2.2, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.11, and 4.12 as amended, finding that the amendments are in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, essential public facilities and services are available to support the full range of proposed uses without creating excessive additional requirements at public cost for the public facilities and services; the proposed uses are compatible with the surrounding area; and the

Comparison of Various Chicken Ordinances

City, State	# of Birds Permitted	Roosters Allowed	Permit/Cost	Enclosure Required	Nuisance Clause	Slaughter Permitted	Property Line Restrictions	Other Notes
Albuquerque, NM	15	1 per HH	None	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Austin, TX	unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	50 ft from neighbors home	
Baltimore, MD	4	Unclear	Y	Yes	Yes	Unclear	25 ft from neighbors home	coops must be mobile to prevent waste build-up; minimum 2 sq.ft. per bird
Boise, ID	3	No	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	
Charlotte, NC	based on lot size	Unclear	\$40/yr	Yes	Yes	Unclear	25 ft from neighbors home	Minimum 4 sq. ft. per bird 12 birds @ less than 1/2 acre; 25 birds @ more than 1/2 acre
Ft. Worth, TX	based on lot size	Unclear	None	Yes	Yes	Unclear	50 ft from neighbors home	
Honolulu, HI	2	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	
Key West, FL	unclear	Yes	None	Yes	Yes	No	No	feed must be stored in rat-proof container
Los Angeles, CA	unclear	only if 100 ft. from neighbors	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	20 ft from owners' home 35 ft from neighbors home	
Madison, WI	4	No	\$6/yr	Yes	Yes	No	25 ft from neighbors home	
Memphis, TN	unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	feed must be stored in rat-proof container
Missoula, MT	6	No	\$15 one time	Yes	Yes	Unclear	20 ft from neighbors home	feed must be stored in rat-proof container
New York, NY	no limit	No	Yes	No	Yes	Unclear	No	
Oakland, CA	unclear	No	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	20 ft from any dwelling	
Portland, OR	3 without permit	Unclear	\$31 one time	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	
Rogers, AK	4	No	\$5/yr	Yes	Yes	Inside only	25 ft from neighbors home	5 birds allowed @ 20 ft; 12 birds allowed @ 50 ft; 50 birds @ 150 ft
San Antonio, TX	depends on property line	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	20 ft from any dwelling	feed must be stored in rat-proof container
San Diego, CA	25	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	50 ft from neighbors home	
San Francisco, CA	4	Unclear	None	Yes	Yes	Unclear	20 ft from a door or window	
San Jose, CA	depends on property line	only <4 mo. Old	Yes for 6+	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	0-50 ft depending on # of birds	0 birds allowed @ 15 ft; 4 birds allowed @ 20 ft; 25 birds @ 50 ft 1 add'l chicken per 1,000 sq ft of property above minimum
Seattle, WA	3	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	10 ft from property line	building permit required for coop, on trial period - only 20 permits allowed to be issued
South Portland, ME	6	No	\$25/yr	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	
Spokane, WA	1 per 2,000 sq.ft.	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	90 ft from property line	Chickens allowed in multi-family zones
St. Louis, MO	4 without permit	Unclear	\$40 for 4+	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	
Topeka, KS	unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	50 ft from neighbors home	

Source: Various; Ft. Collins, Colorado City Council report



Dear Neighbors,

We have Chickens!

Multnomah County requires us to notify all our neighbors within 150 ft. of our property line that we will be raising backyard chickens for eggs and pets.

As roosters are not allowed in Multnomah County, you will never, ever hear a crow. We have hens only. Most likely you will never hear our chickens other than some pleasant clucking and purring every so often. In fact I think we will all agree that barking dogs are way more annoying! ☺

Our chickens will be housed in a 4x4 foot fully insulated coop. The run is attached and is 15 feet long and will have ½" hardware galvanized metal mesh surrounding the coop and buried into the ground one foot to keep out predators. They will never free range so escape will be impossible. You will never see them wandering around the neighborhood! We have a 6' fence around our house so noise should be a non- issue.

If you should wish to visit our girls, you are welcome to of course! Provided that we are home. And if you are feeling like it, you may donate your vegetable scraps to us provided that they are organic only and free of toxins and pesticides (round up, weed be gone, slug bait, etc.) in turn when our hens start laying eggs, I will give you some fresh organic eggs.!!! What a deal! ☺ They are only four months old so they will not begin laying eggs till around six months old.

Finally, this is notification only about our chickens, not requesting permission. I would like to ask that if you ever have a problem with our girls , please call me first before the county and we can resolve it without getting the county involved. But they are quiet, in fact, I bet you have not even noticed them yet! ☺

Finally, let me introduce our lovely hens.....

Mabel. Sweet hen, delicate, clucks when picked up. Also a Buff Orpington.

Alice. Sweet, interested in what the other hens are doing.. an Americana easter egg chicken.

Martha. Flighty yet sweet. She is an Americana also known as an easter egger. She lays easter egg colored eggs...ie: teal blue, green, pink, etc.

Finally.....

Betsy. Sweet and slightly dumb. Or shall we say quizzical? She is an amazing Buff Cochin. She has feathers on her feet as well. She is stunning to look at and very docile. They are not incredibly great layers but when they do the eggs are light cream colored.

So that is all of the girls! Hens are completely legal in Portland, you just have to permit them.

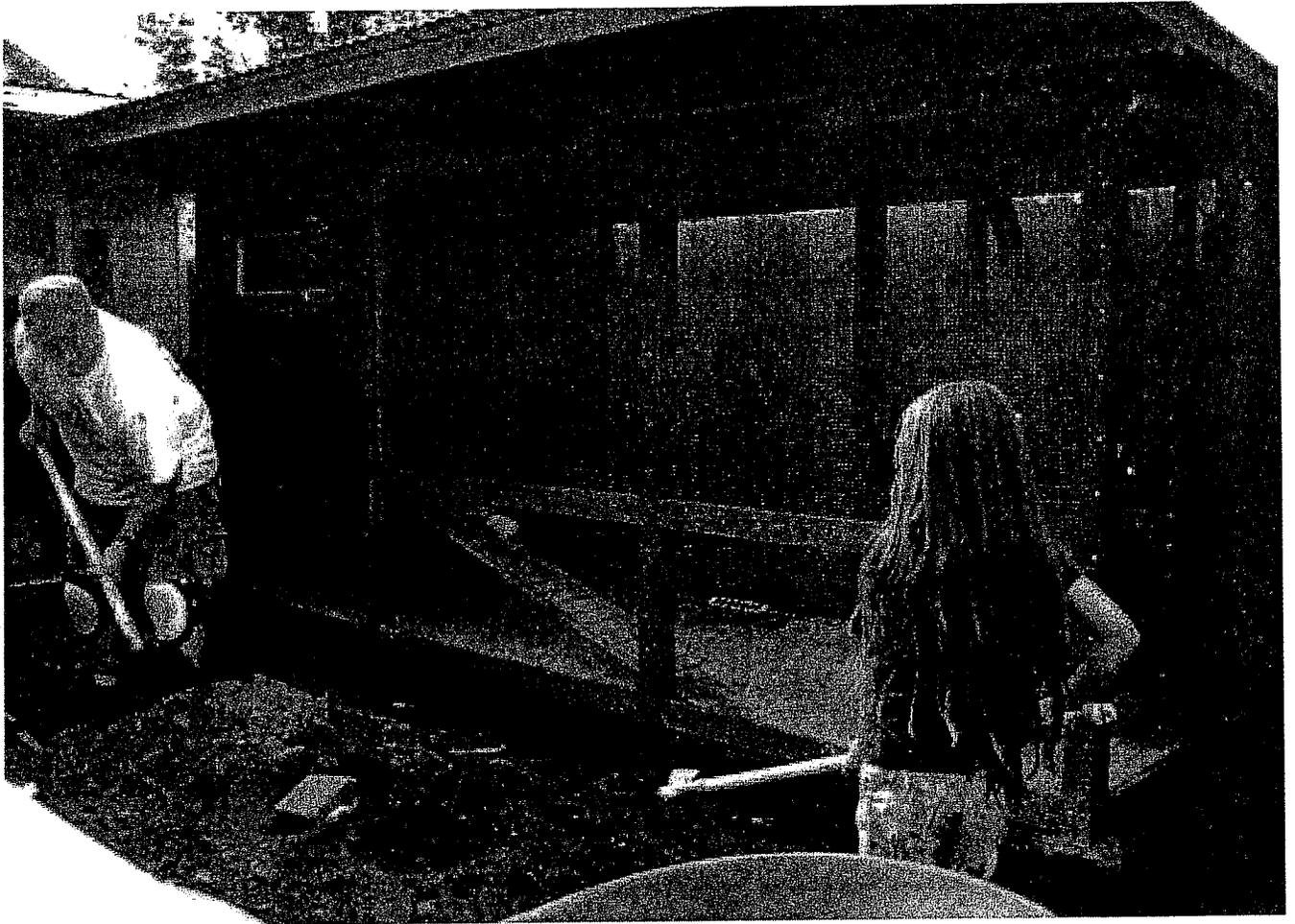
Let us know if you have any questions! We are now a part of the wonderful community of backyard chicken owners in Portland! 1,000 strong and growing!!!

Thanks,

Jennifer Fox

The Fox Family,
7213 N Westanna Ave

503.289.1370
971.207.6196



Mariei Platt

From: Manon Gaudreau [manon8@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 8:56 AM
To: Mariel Platt
Subject: Re: Valley-Victory-Gardeners Discussion on chickens-in-town

Mariel,

I am in favor of chickens-in-town. I would like to see a copy of the ordinance and give you feedback.



Manon Gaudreau
manon8@cox.net
[Valley Victory Gardeners](#)

<http://groups.google.com/group/valley-victory-gardeners?hl=en>

On 24-Mar-10, at 8:33 AM, makeitgreen wrote:

The "question of chickens" in Hailey is coming up to city council again on April 12th. The ordinance allowing chickens was voted down last summer as council members felt that the ordinance did not do enough to protect neighbors from the nuisance of noise, loose chickens, and chicken manure/ pellets/ whatever you call it. When there is no ordinance on the books allowing chickens, they are illegal to own within city limits. As I know several homeowners in Hailey have owned chickens successfully and no neighbors have ever called in to complain, I think that chickens can successfully be raised in the city. However, I don't know enough about them and the people writing the ordinance and voting on it don't have first hand experience.

IF you are interested at all in legalizing chickens within city limits, it would be worthwhile writing mariel platt at city hall (mariel.platt@haileycityhall.org) to see a copy of the ordinance and make any suggestions you might have to make it more palatable to the council. Or just write in support of the ordinance to as many council members as possible. If chickens are being successfully raised here (and in Portland and in Seattle) it would be silly to continue to make it illegal and it would be beneficial to make the ordinance clear so that chickens do not become a nuisance in the future.

WRITE BEFORE APRIL 12TH OR ATTEND THE MEETING AT 6 PM. (SOME PARTS OF THE MEETING START AT 5:30 BUT I THINK 6:00 IS USUALLY EARLY ENOUGH TO GET THERE FOR ORDINANCE CHANGES)

Mariel Platt

From: Sunny Grant [sunnygrant@mindspring.com]
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2009 10:24 PM
To: Carol Brown
Cc: Mariel Platt
Subject: RE: Support the "Chicken Ordinance"

Carol,

I am not surprised at Council's concern, although I am personally more concerned about what happened if a loose dog got someone's chicken(s). But I hate loose dogs, so that would likely *be* my concern.

Since you would not allow roosters, I'm not sure there would be any more problem with chickens under a neighbor's bedroom window than a neighbor's barking dog *anywhere* in the neighborhood.

I would, however, be just as concerned about someone not keeping the chicken coop clean and sanitary as someone not picking up after their dog.

I suppose there might also be a concern about someone shooting wildlife (fox, coyote, etc.) that was raiding the chicken coop.

I understand you can actually keep chickens (not bantams, which can fly) loose in a fenced backyard with little problem, but I would have to keep my chickens in a coop because I have two dogs that will no doubt chase them within the confines of my fenced backyard. MY goal is to have a "chicken tractor" - a coop on wheels (Melinda Springs - the Sustainability Center - calls it a chicken coupe) that can be moved over the veggie garden. The chickens "till" around in the dirt, eat the bugs and fertilize the garden... a win-win situation. Better yet, I'd love to keep my chickens in a greenhouse.

There are a lot of *urban* cities that now allow backyard chickens, so I'm sure your staff will be able to find some good ordinance guidance. Perhaps you could include chickens in your pet or dog ordinance, since I would *think* they would be very similar situations with very similar problems.

I will probably not be able to attend your July meeting because I will again be the recording secretary at a Ketchum meeting, but please use and/or share or read my letter as you see fit; and let me know if there's anything else I can do to further the cause.

Thanks again!

Sunny Grant

From: Carol Brown [mailto:carol.brown@haileycityhall.org]
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2009 10:02 PM
To: sunnygrant@mindspring.com
Cc: Mariel Platt
Subject: RE: Support the "Chicken Ordinance"

Hi Sunny,

We had our first discussions of all the ordinance changes tonight. On the issues of chickens, as a Council we were somewhat split. From our Council deliberation, there was the concern that if chickens were a permitted use, if there was a problem with someone's chickens, there was no way to deal with it because the use is automatically approved. Its almost impossible to enforce a nuisance complaint. For example, as Councilmember Haemmerle said, what is to prevent a chicken owner from placing a chicken coop right adjacent to the neighbor's bedroom window? So we struggled with ways to address how enforcement could occur should a problem occur. Since this is a new use, we want to be cautious. Initially it was suggested that a conditional use permit be the method - - but a conditional use permit costs \$400 and no one will raise 5 chickens under those circumstances! We asked staff to do some more research on the enforcement subject with other cities. I'd say conceptually we are willing to consider chickens if we can address some of these issues, but we are somewhat split. I am certainly willing to move forward with some reasonable conditions. We continued this ordinance hearing (which includes the chickens) to the July meeting. That was our next available agenda that had an opening. So, no resolution tonight on the chickens.

I'm copying Mariel Platt, our city planner with this e-mail. Although this is not a site specific application, I still want my comments to you to be part of the public record. Carol

Carol Brown - Hailey City Council (208) 788-4221
All messages sent and received from this mailbox are part of the public record

From: Sunny Grant [sunnygrant@mindspring.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2009 4:09 PM
To: Carol Brown
Subject: RE: Support the "Chicken Ordinance"

Carol,
I do hope you'll send me a copy of your comments after the meeting. I'll be taking minutes of the Ketchum Council meeting, or I'd be in Hailey to hear all the "chicken" comments.
Again, thanks very much for serving all of us as a Councilmember. Since I'm at all the Ketchum meetings, I know what a beating you all can take.
Most sincerely,
Sunny



You can't stay young
forever, but you
can be immature
for the rest
of your life.

From: Carol Brown [mailto:carol.brown@haileycityhall.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2009 3:11 PM

To: sunnygrant@mindspring.com
Cc: Beth Robrahn; Mariel Platt
Subject: RE: Support the "Chicken Ordinance"

Hi Sunny,

Thanks for taking the time to write about this proposed ordinance. I'm copying our city planners with my response so they can make your comments part of the record. I don't comment on active applications via e-mail, but save my thoughts for the public meetings where everyone can hear my deliberation. However, I did want to acknowledge your e-mail and your point of view. Kind Regards, Carol

Carol Brown - Hailey City Council (208) 788-4221
All messages sent and received from this mailbox are part of the public record

June 8, 2009

City of Hailey
Hailey City Council
VIA FACSIMILE 7882927

RE: PH 266

Dear Mayor Davis and Council Members:

In my absence I am writing to express my support for the City Text amendments to zoning ordinance number 533 211.

Most importantly, I support allowing ADU's in the LR zoning which will serve to promote density in the city core, encourage walking, community connection and reduce negative environmental impacts.

Additionally, I support allowing chickenis and solar equipment in town because it adds to our town's unique character as well as a sense of sustainability and concern for the environment.

Sincerely,

Jamie, Kristen, Charlie and Andy Coulter
320 West Cedar Street
Hailey, ID 83333

Rick Davis

From: Carma Angelo [cangelo@co.blaine.id.us]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2009 8:23 AM
To: rdavis@sunvalleytitle.com
Subject: Appeal a possible ordinance

Rick:

Per your request, I am forwarding this e-mail to you to let you know that I am very much against the possible ordinance of homeowners within the city limits of Hailey to have chickens. I have a neighbor that can not even keep her dog fenced and inquired if we knew of anybody who had chickens for sale as she wanted to buy 3. I feel that if this ordinance is passed, people like her would get chickens and not keep them pinned up. I lived on a farm for many years and know what it takes to raise them and they are a mess. If people would like to raise farm animals, they need to buy enough land to raise them.

Thank you,
Carma Angelo
3040 Beaverbook Dr.
Hailey, Idaho

SKUNKS, RACCOONS, FOX

Mariei Platt

From: Sunny Grant [sunnygrant@mindspring.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2009 1:51 PM
To: Mariel Platt
Subject: FW: Support the "Chicken Ordinance"

Mariei,

I just wanted you to know I sent the following email. I think Beth Robrahn may have gotten the ball rolling on this one, and many thanks to her and you as well.

Sunny

From: Sunny Grant [mailto:sunnygrant@mindspring.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2009 1:00 PM
To: 'Mayor Rick Davis'; 'carol.brown@haileycityhall.org'; 'burkefamily203@cox.net'; 'don.keirn@haileycityhall.org'; 'fritz.haemmerle@haileycityhall.org'; 'heather.dawson@haileycityhall.org'
Subject: Support the "Chicken Ordinance"

Mayor and Councilmembers:

I can't be at the June 8 Hailey City Council meeting, but I want to fully support the Hailey "Chicken Ordinance" and all its sustainable amendments.

Our community and our country has to return to "local living" if we are to survive and thrive in good health. The food, water and air that sustains our bodies needs to be brought back to nutritious and organic—free of pollutants, chemicals and toxins ... and we should know where it comes from. It's pretty neat to interact with the people who actually grow, harvest and handle your daily bread.

If we become more personally responsible for providing our own energy resources, such as backyard wind, rooftop solar and geothermal heat pumps, we might begin to be more responsible for their usage, and might even think twice before we waste and squander them. It's easy to drive around the block (instead of biking or walking) when it's someone else's backyard that is being dug up to provide fuel for your car.

Let's empower local creative people (and our community appointed and elected leaders) to think creative ideas with community gardens, drought tolerant landscaping, energy efficient building design, alternative energy resources, and affordable community housing; and encourage mentoring/apprentice relationships within the community.

We in Idaho, and right here in Hailey, are truly blessed to be living in a more rural area where these things are quite possible. Let's make it legal and encourage local living creativity.

I would also ask the City of Hailey to support the local organization, Community Rising, whose goal is to promote local living, and perhaps a transition town initiative for Hailey.

Thank you very much for serving all of us as Mayor and Council!

Sunny Grant
3761 Glenbrook
Hailey

Mariei Platt

From: Jason McIlhaney [jasonmcilhaney@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2009 2:30 PM
To: Mariel Platt
Subject: Amendments

Mariei,

I would like to offer support in favor of all ordinance amendments currently proposed that promote more sustainable living practices within the City of Hailey. It should be obvious that in our climate drought tolerant and native landscaping should not only be accepted, but promoted in every way possible. Striving for better building practices and efficiencies beyond the "bare minimum" that current building codes require should be something that our community champions. We should also embrace the use of alternative energy and promote generation at the single family home scale in the form of wind, solar, and geothermal. We should continue to work at infilling empty lots and increasing density within the current City limits rather than promoting sprawl by incorporating agricultural land that surrounds the City. We should strive to make ADU's and mixed use development the norm, rather than the exception.

Again, please help us make the City of Hailey a leader when it comes to sustainable practices and an example to small communities everywhere.

Thanks,
Jason McIlhaney
1011 Antelope
Hailey, ID
83333

Becky Mead

FILE COPY

From: sue p [sue99p@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:02 AM
To: becky.mead@haileycityhall.org
Subject: <no subject>

Hi Beth, I didn't see a place on your website to comment to the P and Z Commission, so I will just tell you that I am very much in favor of the proposals put forth by the Sustainable Committee. We need to move forward with these changes in landscaping, power production, affordable housing (accessory apartments) and so on-- ~~even the chicken~~. Great idea-- please pass my endorsement on to the Commission, thanks, Sue Petersen

Mariei Platt

From: I Jeffrey [izziej@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:20 PM
To: Mariel.Platt@Haileycityhall.org
Subject: new ordinances

To: Hailey City Planners and the City Council

I'm very excited about the four new ordinances coming before the Hailey city council concerning a more sustainable community. I strongly support the city's efforts to create a more energy independent community as well as a more self supporting food system.

Thank you for your efforts in these areas.

Elizabeth Jeffrey

RECEIVED

FEB 09 2009

FILE MHL HD BR
RD CC

February 6, 2009

City of Hailey
Attn: City Council
115 S. Main Street, Suite H
Hailey, Idaho 83333

Dear City Council:

We are long time Hailey residents and we noticed the article in the newspaper last week about chickens being allowed in the city limits. We simply want to have our voice on record that we agree with the idea of allowing chickens in town. Encouraging locals to plant vegetable gardens and raise chickens for eggs makes so much sense in these times. These are valuable practices that were common when Hailey became a town and should be reintroduced into our modern lives so that people can once again learn how to produce some of the food they require and teach these things to their children.

Please consider these thoughts when making your decisions.

Sincerely,



Bob and Debbie Commons
111 3rd Ave. South
Hailey, Idaho 83333
788-4687

Rick Davis

From: fhalverson@powereng.com
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 10:00 AM
To: rdavis@sunvalleytitle.com
Subject: RE: ARTICLE

Rick,

My thoughts for what they are worth.

For starters, my wife Marcia thinks it is great and is ready to go get her chickens – she wanted me to tell you that.

I also think this is OK – you probably need to have some words in the ordinance to be able to enforce nuisance, cleanliness and noise complaints, should they occur, but I think it would be fine to have a few chickens if you wanted and raise your own eggs. The city could probably get a little mileage out of it in terms of green initiatives and PR for this type of ordinance and behavior when it is politically popular to act and behave “green”.

On another issue – how is the staff doing at documenting and defining the city processes and procedures? He last time I saw Beth R. I asked her and I had the impression that things had sort of come to a standstill and not much was happening. I had volunteered to come look over the progress and was sort of told that I should not do that.

You might ask a few questions and ask to see how they are doing. I do believe this will help the city and earn it a reputation of being more “user friendly” to its’ customers.

Frank

Frank D Halverson, PE
VP and Director
Power Engineers, Inc
PO Box 1066
Hailey, ID 83333
Direct; Dial 208-788-0449
Cell: 208-309-3449
e-mail: fhalverson@powereng.com

From: Rick Davis [mailto:rdavis@sunvalleytitle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:19 PM
To: Tony Evans; Lisa Horowitz; Will Huxford; April Macleod; Rob Thomas; Kim Garvin; Peter Lobb; Teresa Beahan; Frank Halverson 3449; Jay Cone; Pete Kramer; Chauncey McGraw; Jim. Spinelli; JULIE EVANS; Brian Bothwell; Marty Flannes
Subject: ARTICLE

Good Afternoon all.

You should have seen in today Mt. Express an article about allowing chickens to be raised (3) at residences in Hailey for the purpose of having eggs.

Rick Davis

From: Jim Spinelli [info@haileyidaho.com]
 Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 7:55 AM
 To: 'Rick Davis'
 Subject: RE: ARTICLE - Chickens

Rick: The only concern I would have is the noise they make. Do we have an ordinance about barking dogs? If not, I wouldn't care, other than the limit to how many they can have.

Jim Spinelli
Executive Director
Hailey Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 100
Hailey, ID 83333

PH (208) 788-3484
FAX (208) 578-1595
www.haileyidaho.com

From: Rick Davis [mailto:rdavis@sunvalleytitle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:19 PM
To: Tony Evans; Lisa Horowitz; Will Huxford; April Macleod; Rob Thomas; Kim Garvin; Peter Lobb; Teresa Beahan; Frank Halvorsen; Jay Cone; Pete Kramer; Chauncey McGraw; Jim. Spinelli; JULIE EVANS; Brian Bothwell; Marty Flannes
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I know it sounds funny but PandZ is serious about it. I have one caller who said it is laughable and doesn't want his neighbors to have chickens.

Your thoughts please.

Rick



Rick Davis
Client Relations
Sun Valley Title Company
 208.727.7728
 800.488.9341
 208.726.9341

Rick Davis

From: bothwell homes [bothwellhomes@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 7:31 AM
To: Rick Davis
Subject: Re: ARTICLE

Rick,

How can we stop the hailey "save the chickens" campaign?

Brian

----- Original Message -----

From: Rick Davis
To: Tony Evans ; Lisa Horowitz ; Will Huxford ; April Macleod ; Rob Thomas ; Kim Garvin ; Peter Lobb ; Teresa Beahan ; Frank Halvorsen ; Jay Cone ; Pete Kramer ; Chauncey McGraw ; Jim Spinelli ; JULIE EVANS ; Brian Bothwell ; Marty Flannes
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Rick



Rick Davis
Client Relations
Sun Valley Title Company
208.727.7728
800.488.9341
208.726.9341

Rick Davis

From: JULIE EVANS [evans_wiethorn@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 8:58 PM
To: Rick Davis
Subject: RE: ARTICLE

I am leaning toward the chickens, however would like to hear both sides.
Let me see the article first.
Julie

Julie K. Evans
Commercial & Residential Services
Momentum Real Estate
Tel. (208)-309-1901
Fax. (208) 955-5888

From: rdavis@sunvalleytitle.com
To: tevans@mtexpress.com; lisa@lhlanduse.com; huxserv@sunvalley.net; amacleod@bcrd.org;
liftmech@cox.net; kaskarvin@aol.com; plobb@msn.com; teresa@wooddriverymca.org;
fhalverson@powereng.com; jcone@jayconearchitecture.com; PK@flyfma.com;
chaunceymcgraw@yahoo.com; info@haileyidaho.com; evans_wiethorn@msn.com;
bothwellhomes@msn.com; martin@flannes.net
Subject: ARTICLE
Date: Wed, 4 Feb 2009 16:19:09 -0700

Good Afternoon all.

You should have seen in today Mt. Express an article about allowing chickens to be raised (3) at residences in Hailey for the purpose of having eggs.

I know it sounds funny but PandZ is serious about it. I have one caller who said it is laughable and doesn't want his neighbors to have chickens.

Your thoughts please.

Rick



Rick Davis
Client Relations
Sun Valley Title Company
208.727.7728
800.488.9341
208.726.9341

Rick Davis

From: lisah [lisah@lhanduse.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 8:51 PM
To: 'Rick Davis'
Subject: RE: ARTICLE

I think it is fine! Lets still be a small town while we can- it won't last forever. As long as there is a complaint and remedy process if it gets out of hand, I say lets try it. We can always get suburban (and urban) later down the road!

One of the problems with land use planning is getting too uptight about things. It leads to the blandness of over-planned communities, like some of the places in Arizona. I think a little bit of expression and uniqueness is good.

Lisa

Lisa Horowitz
LH Land Use Consulting
P.O. Box 5380
Ketchum, ID 83340
208-928-6126
note new cell: 208-727-7097

From: Rick Davis [mailto:rdavis@sunvalleytitle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:19 PM
To: Tony Evans; Lisa Horowitz; Will Huxford; April Macleod; Rob Thomas; Kim Garvin; Peter Lobb; Teresa Beahan; Frank Halvorsen; Jay Cone; Pete Kramer; Chauncey McGraw; Jim. Spinelli; JULIE EVANS; Brian Bothwell; Marty Flannes
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2/10/2009

Rick Davis

From: Liftmech [liftmech@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 5:48 PM
To: Rick Davis
Subject: Re: ARTICLE

Rick I asked a few more folks and havent found one that likes to think of chickens next door. Most agree with me its invasion of your neighbors rights to have the stink of chickens next door.
Sincerely
Robb

----- Original Message -----

From: Rick Davis
To: [Tony Evans](#) ; [Lisa Horowitz](#) ; [Will Huxford](#) ; [April Macleod](#) ; [Rob Thomas](#) ; [Kim Garvin](#) ; [Peter Lobb](#) ; [Teresa Beahan](#) ; [Frank Halvorsen](#) ; [Jay Cone](#) ; [Pete Kramer](#) ; [Chauncey McGraw](#) ; [Jim Spinelli](#) ; [JULIE EVANS](#) ; [Brian Bothwell](#) ; [Marty Flannes](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:19 PM
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Rick Davis

From: Jay W. Cone [jcone@jayconearchitecture.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 5:04 PM
To: 'Rick Davis'
Subject: RE: ARTICLE

Rick,

Thanks again for the Super Bowl party!.....Mary and I had a great time.

I was at the P and Z meeting when the new ordinance was presented. It took me a few minutes to understand that it was a serious effort to provide citizens the opportunity to save money and a "green " alternative to mass produced eggs. The main questions during the meeting focused on the actual location of the coop. Many expressed concern that it should not be allowed right on the property line. I would agree with that. A certain distance is necessary to help minimize smell and other conflicts. Limiting coops to three chickens and prohibiting roosters are both very important to reduce smell and noise and something I think is essential to the ordinance.

I was surprised to hear that the chickens would not be limited to the coop. The thought of free-ranging chickens seems a little troubling. Conflicts are inevitable with cars and dogs etc. If it is unreasonable or inhumane to restrict chickens to the coop I feel there should be an associated fence required in the ordinance.

Thanks for asking, Jay

Jay Cone
Jay Cone Architecture PC AIA
651 El Dorado Lane
Hailey, ID 83333
(office) 208.578.5226
(fax) 208.578.5226

From: Rick Davis [mailto:rdavis@sunvalleytitle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:19 PM
To: Tony Evans; Lisa Horowitz; Will Huxford; April Macleod; Rob Thomas; Kim Garvin; Peter Lobb; Teresa Beahan; Frank Halvorsen; Jay Cone; Pete Kramer; Chauncey McGraw; Jim. Spinelli; JULIE EVANS; Brian Bothwell; Marty Flannes
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Your thoughts please.

Rick

Rick Davis

From: Pete Kramer [pk@flyfma.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:41 PM
To: 'Rick Davis'
Subject: RE: ARTICLE

Rick:

Pretty funny. As the Airport continues it's ongoing efforts at sustainability and we continue to research potential implementations of energy and environmentally efficient improvements, I'm thinking there are many, many other avenues we citizens of Hailey can pursue before we start considering the urban ergonomics of chickens in our yards...I'd prefer to work on more universally accessible and appealing sustainability and energy improvements.

The chicken thing kind of reminds me of some of the hairbrained Federal Government research projects that get funded and we hear about on Jay Leno....

Pete

From: Rick Davis [mailto:rdavis@sunvalleytitle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:19 PM
To: Tony Evans; Lisa Horowitz; Will Huxford; April Macleod; Rob Thomas; Kim Garvin; Peter Lobb; Teresa Beahan; Frank Halvorsen; Jay Cone; Pete Kramer; Chauncey McGraw; Jim. Spinelli; JULIE EVANS; Brian Bothwell; Marty Flannes
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Rick



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Rick Davis

From: Pete Kramer [pk@flyfma.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 5:13 PM
To: 'Rick Davis'
Subject: RE: ARTICLE

A few more thoughts:

Our animal control people will go crazy fielding calls about cats and dogs in other people's yards

We have nuisance pet ordinances already for barking dogs...what about crowing chickens?

People will need chicken coops. Will the building department just love that?

Why not teach people how to develop small garden plots...what they can grow in our climate/growing season, and how to go about it. I think alot more people are likely to garden more, than raise chickens. You think we have alot of foxes and skunks in Hailey now...just wait!

From: Rick Davis [mailto:rdavis@sunvalleytitle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:19 PM
To: Tony Evans; Lisa Horowitz; Will Huxford; April Macleod; Rob Thomas; Kim Garvin; Peter Lobb; Teresa Beahan; Frank Halvorsen; Jay Cone; Pete Kramer; Chauncey McGraw; Jim. Spinelli; JULIE EVANS; Brian Bothwell; Marty Flannes
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CITIZENS for SMART GROWTH
advocating for vibrant communities in balance with nature

January 20, 2009

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Gretchen Wagner

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Kristen Olenick

Kelly Jackson

Hailey Planning & Zoning Commission
c/o Mariel Platt, Planner
115 S. Main Street, Suite H
Hailey, ID 83333

Dear Planning & Zoning Commission:

I am writing in support of the city initiated text amendments the commission is scheduled to review this evening.

The staff report states that the proposed amendments to various zoning district articles are an attempt to use Hailey's Zoning Ordinance "as a tool to increasing the sustainability within the City of Hailey and beyond." This is a worthwhile endeavor. Hailey is a leader in the Valley for its efforts in climate protection. These amendments could help pave the way for other jurisdictions in Blaine County to adopt similar policies that protect our environment and help ensure the sustainability of our communities.

The proposed amendments to various zoning districts could help the city reduce energy consumption and its carbon footprint by empowering and providing guidance for individual citizens to utilize alternative energy sources, specifically solar panels and small wind energy systems. Allowing a limited number of chickens per lot within certain districts could also provide residents with a food source at home that is free of the environmental and social issues associated with larger scale production and transportation of poultry and eggs.

Eliminating the minimum lot size requirements for accessory dwelling units would help promote increased density and infill in the city as we concern ourselves with projected growth, associated annexations and the possibility of sprawl. It would also provide more affordable housing options within city boundaries.

The city initiated text amendment to Article 6A, Design Review of the Hailey Zoning Ordinance No. 532, seeks to prohibit non-residential and multi-family applications from using non-drought tolerant plants in their landscaping. In a region with limited water resources and concerns about how continued population growth will effect the availability of water for future generations, this seems like a very logical amendment. In a world where energy resources are limited, it also seems logical to work to increase energy efficiency in buildings through design and technologies.

I will not be in attendance at tonight's meeting, but ask that you accept these written comments, noting that Citizens for Smart Growth is generally in favor of these amendments to promote sustainability. I look forward to following the amendments through the public process and learning more about the commission and public's perspective.

I am attaching a fact sheet about our organization that will provide more information about the work we do at Citizens for Smart Growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Kelly Jackson
Director of Outreach & Communication

1530 Second Avenue North
Hailey, ID 83333
Tel: 208 720-9673

RECEIVED

NOV 14 2008

Beth Robrahn
Planning Department
City Of Hailey
115 Main Street
Hailey, ID 83333

.....

10 November 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, I have been spending much of my time investigating the ways that I can become more self sufficient. Besides growing my own fruit and vegetables I would like to be able to supply my family with fresh eggs. I live on half an acre in Northridge and would ideally like to have five chickens (three would be a minimum for a family of four).

I have been reading many articles and understand that Seattle and Portland are looking into the possibilities of allowing people to have a small number of poultry on their own land. I hope the City of Hailey will look favorably at introducing a change to the ordinance to allow for chickens within the City.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



Maxine L Gilchrist (Mrs)

To Grand Platt

To all city officials of Hailey...

I wish to thank all of you for the time, effort and open-mindedness that you are all giving to the proposed changes in conditional uses for our town. I know it must be very difficult. There are many differing opinions, and many who do not want change in any form, and will fight to keep Hailey as they believe it should be preserved. I respect those opinions, as I'm sure you do also. Our town is beautiful, and fear of change is strong. But the fact is that nothing does stay the same. Change is constant. It cannot be stopped. It can, however, be directed in ways that cause the least harm and provide the most benefit for the majority of people.

This is a huge time of change, which is likely to get much more difficult. All of us are going to be struggling to maintain lifestyles that may no longer be possible. Some of us are going to be struggling simply to survive. We are going to have to help each other, and we are going to need help from you to make the changes necessary to allow us stay in our homes and our town and learn new ways of living.

This is personal for me. Many years ago I began to plan for the time when I would no longer be able to work full time and would have to find a way to make my home and property work for me so I would be able to remain here, where I have family and have lived for so long. I planned on plumbing my otherwise finished small studio on my property for use either by a family member, a rental, or by myself while renting my home for income. I waited, as Ray Hyde suggested I do, until Hailey was metered and I could avoid some of the high connecting fees and connect to water in my own yard. And then, during the negotiations over the 'James Reed amendment', the lot size for an ADU was changed to 6600 sq. ft. My lot is 6480. My neighbors encouraged me to apply for a variance, which they would be happy to sign. I was told there would be no variances. My neighbor offered to sell me enough property to meet that requirement. Now the ruling is 7000 sq. ft. It's sad to me that I have lived here for so long, have paid taxes and given in many ways to this community I love, and will not be able to remain. But it's even sadder that there are many more who may now find themselves in the same situation.

So even though this will not help me, I encourage you to please continue to consider ways for the people of Hailey to live during the hard times that may be ahead. The things many fight against on principle - higher density, solar and wind power installations, more appropriate and less impacting landscaping, and, yes, even chickens - in other words CHANGE - we may find we all may need to survive.

Thank you for reaching ahead to possibilities that will serve us all.

Mary Ann Wuebker

Mary Ann Wuebker, Hailey

WATCH

Susan Orlean at home
with her chickens

A slide show of paintings
by Kandinsky

Richard Brody's
DVD of the Week

HEAR

Adam Gopnik on the
Dreyfus affair

Marisa Silver reads a
Peter Taylor story

READ

Blogs by Steve Coll,
George Packer,
Amy Davidson,
and more

THE IT BIRD

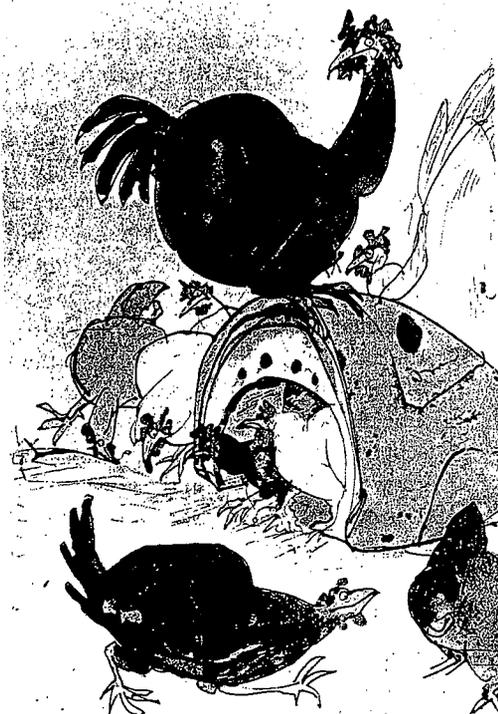
The return of the back-yard chicken.

BY SUSAN ORLEAN

If I had never seen Janet Bonney reenact the mouth-to-beak resuscitation of her hen Number Seven, who had been frozen solid in a nor'easter, then was thawed and nursed back to life—being hand-fed and massaged as she watched doctor shows on TV—I might never have become a chicken person. But a few years ago I happened to watch a documentary called “The Natural History of the Chicken,” which opens with the story of Bonney and Number Seven, and for the first time the thought of owning chickens entered my mind. I had watched the film with no preëxisting chicken condition. But seeing Number Seven’s resurrection, followed by beauty shots of exotic hens, and segments about small back-yard flocks, I suddenly found myself wanting chickens, and wanting them with an urgency that exceeded even my mad adolescent desire to have a pony. At first, I thought this chicken fixation was a phase that I alone was going through, but it turns out that right now, across the country and beyond, there is a surging passion for raising the birds. Chickens seem to be a perfect convergence of the economic, environmental, gastronomic, and emotional matters of the moment, plus, in the past few years, they have undergone an image rehabilitation so astonishing that it should be studied by marketing consultants. Now that I actually have chickens—seven, at last count, but that number, because of predators, is disturbingly variable—I am the object of more pure envy than I have ever experienced in my life.

On a Venn diagram plotting the interest in chicken ownership and circumstance related to age, gender, acreage, appetite, and aesthetic tolerance, I would land in that pitch-dark center where all the sets overlap. Even now, two years into my chicken stewardship, this is a big surprise to me. I am an animal fancier, but fur-bearing has always been my type:

I had never wanted a bird. When I left Manhattan a few years ago and moved a hundred miles north to a house with land and animal-friendly zoning, the first creature I planned on getting was a horse, later downgraded to a donkey. I did fleetingly consider a duck, because I had seen some at my neighbor’s house and thought they were darling. But we



didn’t have a pond, and the idea of getting ducks and then having their water source be a plastic kiddie pool from Toys “R” Us seemed to undermine the rusticity of the experience.

By the time I saw “The Natural History of the Chicken,” however, something had been stirring in the poultry world for a while. In 1982, Martha Stewart published her first book, “Entertaining,” which featured her flock of rare-breed chickens and their pretty pastel-colored eggs. The photographs of Stewart with the flock were a revelation. For the previous forty years or so, chicken

RALPH STEADMAN

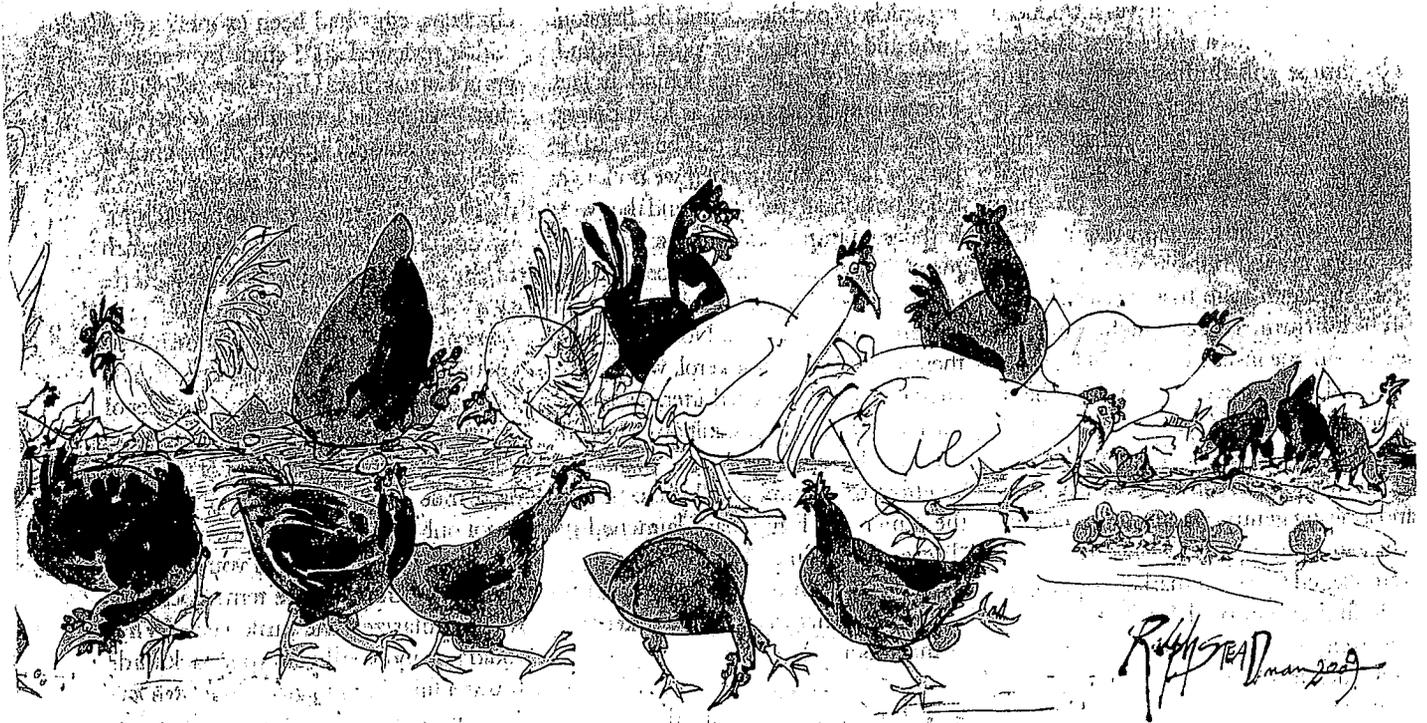
farming had been viewed as a lowly profession, stuck in the netherworld between the high-stakes cattle business and the matter-of-fact farming of crops, and factory-raised chickens seemed to be the worst of both—they were almost more plant than animal, but animal-messy and smelly and sentient. No glamour attached itself to chickens. Stewart's book went on to sell hundreds of thousands of copies. Its readers were probably more interested in how to make her Crab Apple Rosemary Jelly or, for that matter, her Curried Walnut Chicken than in raising a flock of their own Araucanas and Buff Cochins, but they couldn't have helped noting Stewart's endorsement of chicken-keeping. Within the next few years, Stewart

"It was awful. I'll never get another Egyptian Fayoumi again."

Not long ago, I was in the waiting room of my veterinarian's office with one of my chickens, who was ailing. A red-faced man with a lame poodle was sitting next to me. I had my chicken in a cat carrier, and when the man leaned over to peek at her I could tell by the look on his face that he had expected to see a mewling kitten. He plopped back in his chair and said to me, "Chickens are the new hot pet, I guess." Well, yes and no. Until the nineteen-fifties, it was common to keep a few chickens around. They were cheap and easy to raise; unlike cows or sheep, they were hardy and tolerant of most weather, could subsist on table scraps and bugs, took up little space, re-

cial incubators, allowing for large-scale chicken enterprise, weren't invented until the late eighteen-hundreds, and they weren't used widely for decades. Even then, egg production was slow. Until the nineteen-thirties, when the Department of Agriculture launched its "poultry-improvement plan" to breed healthier, more productive hens—and the subsequent development of factory farms—eggs were still available only seasonally, like shad roe, and many people kept their own chickens.

Part of what is unusual about chickens is that they have always been women's livestock: women and chickens just seem to have a natural harmony. The covers of early chicken magazines, such as *Everybodys Poultry Magazine*, *Poultry Success*,



launched her magazine, and often featured her chickens in Ford-model-style head shots that made them look ennobled; she also introduced her first paint collection, which was based on egg colors from her flock. She made chickens seem less like livestock and more like useful and companionable creatures. "All of my chickens had names, all of them," she said recently. "I knew all of them. I worried about them. I was really unhappy when anything happened to them. For instance, I was unhappy when my Egyptian Fayoumi hen froze to death." She sighed and then added,

quired the simplest of housing, and fertilized the garden while they scratched through it. Gathering eggs was so easy that children were often assigned to do it; by contrast, getting milk or meat or wool was a major production. A chicken was a good investment. A hundred years ago, a chick cost about fifteen cents and a laying hen a few dollars. A hen in her prime, which lasts two or three years, could produce an egg every day or two in the laying season, and once she stopped laying she could be cooked. Buying eggs year-round at a supermarket is a relatively recent development. Commer-

and *Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife*, featured women and children on sun-kissed farms with hens and chicks at their feet. A book published in 1919, "A Little Journey Among Anconas," which extolls the Ancona breed, features a photograph of a lovely young woman in a crisp summer dress, gazing adoringly at a black chicken perched on her right hand. Small and manageable, chickens were just an extension of a kitchen garden, and women often sold extra eggs to make some money of their own. In an 1893 book called "What Can a Woman Do," a guide for women looking for income, the suggested

professions include lady journalist, dentist, poet, and hen-keeper. Beekeeping and gardening are the only other agricultural jobs on the list. The author, Martha Louise Rayne, announces that there is "MONEY IN EGGS," and she recounts the story of two "tempest-tossed and homeless women" who set up a poultry farm together and enjoy great success—that is, until one of them decides to marry a male biped, forsaking her hens and her poultry partner. Nevertheless, Rayne recommends that even married women keep chickens, because it can be done without interfering with domestic duties.

The usual barnyard chicken in the early nineteenth century had a red comb, glossy feathers, and dinosaurlike legs—sleek and nice-looking but unremarkable. Then, in the eighteen-forties, a breed of Chinese chicken was introduced to North America and Great Britain. The fattest and fluffiest of these birds were interbred to create a fancy type, a Cochon, that had the approximate shape and texture of a powder puff. The world was agog. A frenzy of poultry breeding and showing and speculative trading began, a crazed bubble nearly on the scale of Dutch tulip mania or Victorian orchidelirium. Prices reached absurd levels—in one instance, a pair of Cochons were valued at seven hundred dollars, about ten thousand per cent more than chickens usually cost. Everyone, from Queen Victoria to members of Congress and aspiring gentry, wanted an extraordinary chicken, especially once the birds were alleged to have remarkable qualities, including exceptional intelligence, and eggs weighing a pound apiece. Interestingly, "hen fever," as it was called, seemed to affect men more than women. *The Century Magazine* reported on it in 1898, explaining that a "hen-man" lost all interest in life except for his chickens: he "may have been an ardent admirer of Shakespeare . . . but now he reads to himself 'Farm Poultry' or 'The Care of Hens.'"

Eventually, crooks and swindlers and even P. T. Barnum infiltrated the trade. (In some cases, dealers were gluing feathers onto ordinary birds to make them look like Cochons.) Soon it became clear that the imagined profits in rare-chicken trading were entirely imaginary, chicken trendsetters like Prince Albert began to tire of the hobby, and then the chickens, collected in too large numbers into too

small houses, began to die. Hen fever cooled; men resumed their reading of Shakespeare, and chickens returned to their previous status as sturdy, steady farmworkers.

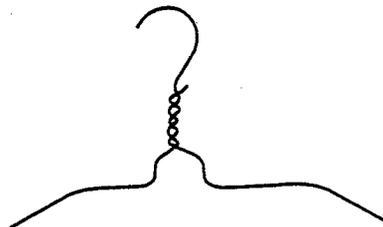
They were such a fixture in most households that, even as Americans drifted from the country to the cities, they took their chickens with them. Very few cities specifically outlawed chickens until many decades later. You couldn't bring the family cow along when you moved to town, but anyone with a patch of grass could have a chicken or two. But inexpensive supermarket eggs became readily available in the fifties, at approximately the same time as the enchantment with a hygienic, suburbanized life took hold. Can you picture the ambitious young couples of Westchester in the fifties wanting chickens pecking around the flagstone patio and the swing set? What felt modern was to leave the farm behind. In fact, many philosophers, such as John Berger, argue that modernity can be traced, in part, to the moment when we no longer relied on animals for utility, and they were withdrawn from daily life except as ornaments. Then eggs themselves became suspect in 1964, Konrad Bloch and Feodor Lynen were awarded a Nobel Prize for their research on cholesterol, which conjured images of hardened arteries and vascular lesions, and the assault on eggs, with their cholesterol-rich yolks, began. In an effort to counteract all these things, the American Egg Board launched its "Incredible Edible Egg" campaign in 1976, but the cumulative effect of the bad news meant that casual chicken-keeping seemed doomed.

When I first determined that I had to have chickens, I had trouble figuring out how to go about it. Living in the country, I saw plenty of chickens on working farms, so I occasionally asked the owners if they would be willing to sell me a couple of hens, but no one was interested in parting with any; a mature hen who is a good egg layer is too useful to

give up. In the spring, my local feed store set up a tower of little cages filled with tiny peeping chicks, still cottony and clumsy, but you were required to buy at least a six-pack of them, and the prospect of heat lamps and high chick mortality rates made me uneasy. More worrisome was the fact that unless you are a professional chicken-sexer (a critical job in the poultry industry) it is nearly impossible to tell the sex of a baby chick, so your six-pack might turn out to be six roosters. Fine if you like deluxe feathers, but not much use if you hope for eggs.

My chicken thing was not, initially, an egg thing. Having never had a really fresh egg, I didn't find much fault with what I got at ShopRite, and for years I hardly ate any eggs, keeping my cholesterol in mind. But, by the time I started thinking about chickens, eggs had been exonerated. A widely reviewed 2001 study by researchers at Kansas State University established that, because the human body doesn't absorb a substantial amount of the cholesterol in egg yolks, eating an egg or two a day is fine. (Egg whites are completely innocent.) Popular high-protein diets such as the Atkins promoted the omelette as an almost perfect meal. By 2007, the American Egg Board felt confident enough to relaunch the Incredible Edible Egg campaign, supported by a number of health professionals called Egg Ambassadors. In addition, the concept of the hundred-mile diet—that is, eating food that is not only organic but is grown or raised within a hundred miles of your home—had gained traction; the term "locavore" was popularized the same year. What could be more local than your backyard? It was a fine thing to grow your own lettuce and tomatoes and make salad, but raising chickens meant that you could make a main dish with ingredients kept right outside your door. For the squeamish, it had the added appeal of being a main dish that didn't involve killing anything. If you were trying to design a product that satisfied the social preoccupations of the moment, you couldn't have done better than to come up with a hen.

I didn't yet realize that there was a chicken movement under way. I had yet to stumble on the dozens of online chicken groups and Web sites—such as Chickens 101, Housechicken, Cotton-Pickin Chickens, Yardpoultry, and My



FATHERS AND SONS

Some things, they say,
one should not write about. I tried
to help my father comprehend
the toilet, how one needs
to undo one's belt, to slide
one's trousers down and sit,
but he stubbornly stood
and would not bend his knees.
I tried again
to bend him toward the seat,

and then I laughed
at the absurdity. Fathers and sons.
How he had wiped my bottom
half a century ago, and how
I would repay the favor
if he would only sit.

Don't you—
he gripped me, trembling, searching for my eyes.
*Don't you—*but the word
was lost to him. Somewhere
a man of dignity would not be laughed at.
He could not see
it was the crazy dance
that made me laugh,
trying to make him sit
when he wanted to stand.

—David Mason

Pet Chicken—and I was not yet one of the forty thousand members of the BackyardChickens.com forums, and I was not one of the fifteen thousand people who log on each month to watch the writer Terry Golson's "hencam," which Webcasts live from her back-yard coop near Boston, and I had not yet bought Christine Heinrichs's 2007 book, "How to Raise Chickens," a plainspoken guide for people who might not ever have seen a live chicken, which keeps selling more and more copies.

But I did notice that every time I mentioned to my friends that I wanted chickens they all exclaimed that they wanted them, too. It was a species-specific response: when I added that my husband wanted Scottish Highland cattle, those same people were taken aback and inevitably said, "That's weird. How come?" Chicken-keeping seemed slightly less as if we'd tipped over the

edge of sanity and were throwing ourselves recklessly, "Green Acres" style, into livestock. Rather, chickens seemed to go hand-in-glove with the post-feminist reclamation of other farmwife domestic arts—knitting, canning, quilting. It was a do-it-yourself hobby at a moment when doing things yourself was newly appreciated as a declaration of self-sufficiency, a celebration of handwork, and a push-back from a numbing and disconnected big-box life.

I started shopping for a chicken coop, but everything I found had a design that seemed half doghouse, half toolshed, and was big enough to hold twenty hens. I had grown up in the suburbs and had spent twenty years in Manhattan. I was no sissy, but I knew my limits: I pictured myself with three or four full-grown hens, who lived in some sort of groovy little chicken house

that didn't recall a faux Swiss chalet in a failed housing development.

One night, on the Internet, I was searching unlikely terms such as "cool-looking chicken coops" and "modern design chicken house," and came across the Eglu. A squat plastic dome that came in bright colors, the Eglu was compact and meant for just four hens. Better still, you could order it *with* hens—not six fuzzballs of indeterminate gender, and not the minimum order of twenty-five typical of most hatcheries, but even just two, on the brink of maturity (what chicken people call "point-of-lay"), delivered to a post office near you.

Recently, I spoke to Johannes Paul, one of the founders of Omlet, the British company that makes the Eglu. Paul was not initially a chicken person. He and the other three Omlet founders were industrial-design students at the Royal College of Art, in London, facing the paralyzing prospect of their thesis project in 2004. They were supposed to reconsider an ordinary object, and one of their mothers, who kept chickens, suggested designing a better chicken house. Commercially available coops, like homemade ones, were built of wood, which is hard to clean, hard to keep dry, and hard to seal well for insulation. "Plastic really is fantastic," Paul said. "Using the kind of rotational molding that we do means it has inherent insulation, and it's seamless, and it can be made in saturated colors." For the first time, a chicken house could look and feel modern. In fact, when the Eglu was first displayed a lot of people thought it was a new product from Apple.

Their professors loved it, and their friends and families were so enthusiastic that the students decided to try it out in the real world. They incorporated, priced the house at the equivalent of about six hundred dollars, and launched it, without any advertising, on their Web site. Omlet sold a thousand Eglus in the first year, and sales have tripled every year since. Most people ordered the Eglu complete with the optional chickens—and, according to Paul, for most customers it was the first time they had ever had chickens. Omlet was reluctant to sell the Eglu in the United States, because the cost of shipping was so high, and because the company felt that Americans were at least a decade

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behind Europeans in having an interest in organic, local food—that we were not yet a nation of chicken-keepers. But there were so many inquiries that, in 2006, Omlet decided to introduce it here.

Since then, TreeHugger.com, which monitors ecological trends, has gone from describing urban chicken-raising as a “weird eco-habit” to declaring it a “movement across North America.” There have been successful challenges to anti-chicken-keeping laws in Fort Collins, Cleveland, Missoula, Ann Arbor, Madison, and South Portland, Maine, and guides published for anyone wanting to challenge anti-chicken ordinances in his or her town. There is a petition currently circulating urging the Obamas to add a chicken flock to the White House garden. (“Sasha and Malia will love them. Tad Lincoln kept a turkey he named Jack in the White House. Bring back this happy practice!”) *Backyard Poultry*, a magazine that began publishing four years ago, is now distributing a hundred thousand copies. The publisher, Dave Belanger, says that stores are eager to carry it, while in the past, “I don’t think you could have gotten a chicken magazine on a newsstand.” Many pet stores are now carrying chicken feed alongside the racks of Fancy Feast and rawhide rolls. I recently came across the ultimate evidence of contemporary chicken ownership: instructions, on the blog Ikeahacker, for building a chicken coop out of furniture from Ikea.

The optional chickens available for the Eglu are supplied in the United States by McMurray Hatchery, an Iowa company that is the largest rare-breed poultry hatchery in the world (the catalogue offers a hundred and ten breeds). The company was founded in 1917 by Murray McMurray, an Iowa banker who, as a hobby, sold chickens out of the back of the bank. During the Depression, the bank failed, but the chicken business took off—a correlation that sounds a lot like the present day—and thus Banker McMurray became Hen-man McMurray. This year, McMurray Hatchery, which caters to people with back-yard flocks, sold 1.7 million chickens, ranging from day-old chicks, which cost two dollars each, to point-of-lay hens, which cost \$12.95. For the past two years, operating

at capacity, the hatchery has been sold out of all of its birds even before it was ready to ship. The only other year in recent memory in which it sold out was 1999. Bud Wood, the company president, attributes that to fear about the millennium. “When times are tough,” he said, “people want chickens.”

I ordered a chartreuse Eglu with four red hens. The Eglu came via U.P.S.; a few days later, the hens were delivered to the post office. “You have a package here,” the postal clerk said when she called, “and it’s clucking.” I rushed into town, picked up the package—heavier than I had expected, smaller than I had pictured, as noisy as I had been warned. At home, I opened the box and decanted the hens into the attachable wire pen that comes with the Eglu. They were young but full-sized Rhode Island Red hybrids called Gingernut Rangers, with bright brown eyes and rich red feathers speckled with white. Their combs were small and pink and their knobby legs were bright yellow. Within six weeks or so, their combs would red- den and their legs would pale—signs that they were about to start laying.

The knock on chickens has always been that they’re stupid. Even some chicken fanciers hold this opinion. I had recently read an online comment from someone who announced cheerily that her chickens “are extremely entertaining due to the fact that they are dumb as stumps!” But my hens didn’t seem stupid. They explored the pen with that stop-action motion that makes chickens look like cartoon characters, but with a brisk alertness and sharp curiosity. Right away, I figured out that “pecking order” isn’t just a figure of speech: they adhered to a strict social system, with each hen taking her turn at the feeder, and corrective nips doled out to any chicken that stepped out of line.

When a few weeks had passed, and the birds were settled in, I let them out of their pen during the day to range around. If I was outside, they stayed near me, chuckling and purring as they pecked at bugs and grass. Because we have acres of meadow where they could have roamed free, they of course exhibited the contrarian impulse of all pets and decided that their favorite place to spend the afternoon was right at my front door, or in the

planter box in the courtyard. But I was smitten. I found watching them soothing, and, to my surprise, as someone who has never liked housework, I enjoyed all my chicken-related labors—feeding and watering them and hosing out their Eglu. I especially loved going to the feed store and buying bales of hay for their nests and fifty-pound sacks of feed. It made me feel that I had legitimized myself as a local. When one of my hens laid my first home-grown egg, I was as proud as if I had been attending my daughter's bat mitzvah.

There have been difficult moments, too. A few months after my hens arrived, my neighbor's two indolent old mutts roused themselves, clawed open the Eglu, and killed two of the birds. I was sick about it, but I restocked with four young chickens that I found through an online chicken group. Then I lost two of those. They were picked off in broad daylight, probably by a hawk or an owl or a coyote or a raccoon or a fox—everyone in the woods loves chicken, and chickens, which don't fly well, run fast, or fight hard, are sitting ducks. So I built a big fenced-in yard with netting over the top, and put the Eglu in it, and stopped letting the hens wander around loose. I had never thought of them as prey, but in the bucolic scenes I had imagined of chickens strolling across my lawn all the lip-smacking predators had been cropped out of the picture.

At one point, when I was down to two chickens, I noticed that one wasn't standing up properly. She also stopped laying eggs and lost a lot of weight. If I were a real farmer, I would have culled her—killed her—and been done with it. But I'm not a real farmer, so I began hauling her back and forth to the vet. He couldn't diagnose the problem, but he gave her an injection of steroids and a prescription for antibiotics. She didn't get any better: she couldn't even reach her food unless I held her up to the feeder. I called an avian expert I tracked down in Boston, who wasn't sure what to make of it, either. My research led me to something called Marek's disease, a contagious kind of chicken cancer that attacks the bird's nervous system and can kill a whole flock if it spreads. The sick bird had been my friendliest, calmest hen, the one that most enjoyed being held and stroked and that laid walloping big brown eggs. I had named her Beauty, but I noticed that the

label on her antibiotics said "Patient: Chicken Orlean," which even in my funk I found hilarious.

After a month of hand-feeding her, dripping the antibiotics down her beak, and getting no diagnosis beyond my hunch that it might be Marek's, I finally realized that Chicken Orlean was miserable and there was nothing more I could do. I eat chicken all the time, so I am not morally opposed to killing a chicken, but I couldn't kill my own pet, so I took her back to the vet. After he injected her with the fatal dose of pentobarbital, I went out into the waiting room and sobbed. The room was empty except for a husky woman holding a snuffing tan pug. She came over and put an arm around me and said, "Oh, honey, I'm sorry. Was it your dog?"

"No," I said, my face in my hands, "it was my chicken."

Now I have seven chickens. I would say that I have seven hens, except that one—sweet, demure, shy Laura—recently proved my point about the challenges of chicken sexing, as she sprouted big red wattles and started crowing at dawn. So the new tally is that I have six hens and an unanticipated rooster. Meanwhile, the chicken movement seems to be expanding exponentially. I do detect a little overripening on the edges—I've noticed some late-stage phenomena such as chicken diapers, for people who want their chickens as house pets, and there will undoubtedly be chicken coops that go beyond the crisp functionality of the Eglu, with flourishes that push into the decadent.

Even people central to the chicken world are predicting what might supplant chickens, if and when chickens run their course. Dave Belanger, of *Backyard Poultry*, says goats; McMurray's Bud Wood thinks ducks. But chickens seem to me steadier than that. They have already survived hen bubbles and cholesterol scares and the enormous social change that chased them out of the backyard; they will survive diapers and jeweled coops and an uptick in ducks. The chicken, that thing with feathers, always sunny and useful, will endure. ♦

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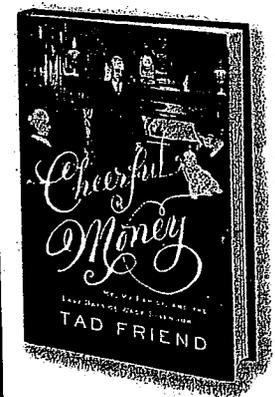
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Marie! Platt

From: Patrick Stearns [gooday@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2010 8:06 AM
To: Marie! Platt
Subject: Chickens in the city limits

Jill Metcalfe
1230 Aspen Valley Dr.
Hailey, ID 83333

Wednesday April 7th 2010

Dear Hailey Council Members,

Please find enclosed a petition signed by citizens of Hailey who are supportive of the raising of chickens (ladies only) in the City of Hailey. Urban chickens are allowed in Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles and many other urban areas all over the country. The majority of people who signed the petition did not want to keep chickens themselves (in fact only 3 people said they would raise chooks in their backyards) but were all for the idea of the general public having the right to raise chickens.

Raising chickens satisfies an intrinsic and basic human right to feed oneself. A right to grow some of your own food. This in a time when most of our daily foods are shipped over thousands of miles to reach our tables. I would like my kids to know where their food comes from, and so we have a backyard vege garden, we compost our kitchen scraps, and I would love for my kids to have the "chore" of tending to some family chickens and "growing" their own eggs.

In my research I found an article in the Sun Valley Guide that states the City of Hailey passed an ordinance last year allowing residents to keep up to five live chickens - not true I know. Also the Sawtooth Botanical Gardens has scheduled a tour of chicken coops in the Hailey area for June 12th. There seems to be a lot of support out there in the community for the raising of chickens in the city of Hailey.

See you at the meeting June 12th.

Regards,

Jill Metcalfe

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APR 06 2010

CHICKENS!

YES! We, the undersigned, support the old fashioned practice of being allowed to "raise a few chickens in the backyard" in the City of Hailey.

Name	Address
JILL METCALFE	1230 ASPEN VALLEY DR HAILEY 83333
ERIC RECTOR	051 CON VIRGINIA Hailey 83333
JEANNETTE Downard	1311 Snowfly Dr. 83333-Hailey
Tony Gray	1051 Triumph Drive 83333 Hailey
Meagan Stasz	631 E. Gray St # 11 83333 Hailey
Euro White	750 Eastside Drive 83333 Hailey
Michelle Sander	520 2nd Aven Hailey ID 83333
Cindy Chavez	741 Willow Dr Hailey ID 83333
Wendy Rector	651 Con Virginia Hailey, ID 83333
Holly Worth	911 BUCKSTEIN DR Hailey
Deanna Hull	1030 Cooper Ranch Ln Hailey
Kristy Heitman	1211 Creekside Dr Hailey
Sarah Gray	1051 Triumph dr Hailey
Dev Khalsa	3250 Woodside Blvd Hailey ID 83333
Margo Ros	411 Eastridge Dr. Hailey ID 83333
BRIAN Ros	411 EASTRIDGE DR. Hailey ID 83333
Carol Tessier	3271 Flowing Wells Hailey ID 83333
Juni Arvan	3090 Shennardsch Hailey Id 83333
Cara Douglas	1231 Snowfly Dr Hailey Id 83333
Sherry Johnson	21 Deer Creek Hailey Id 83333
Ari Douglas	1231 Snowfly Dr Hailey ID 83333
Cheri Douglas	821 Silver Star Dr Hailey ID 83333
Kim Garvin	101 E Bullion Hailey ID 83333
Kathryn Graves	750 Buckhorn Dr Hailey ID 83333
JEFF ENGLHART	760 BUCKHORN DR HAILEY ID 83333
TERESA GATEL	810 E Chestnut St. Hailey ID 83333
HERBETH Cortales	810 E CHESNUT Hailey ID 83333
Sherry Nelson	1221 Blue Lake Dr. Hailey ID 83333
Loide Stearns	731 E Carbonate Hailey 83333
Red Cross	1231 ASPEN VALLEY DR HAILEY 83333
Margaret Kraft	841 Aspen Valley Dr H 83333
Shane Anthony	1221 Aspen Valley Dr. Hailey 83333

CHICKENS!

YES! We, the undersigned, support the old fashioned practice of being allowed to "raise a few chickens in the backyard" in the City of Hailey.

Name	Address
Ted Harper	110 3 RD AVE N. HAILEY
Shawn Francis	2518 Woodside Plm Hailey
Rich Baker	1350 Queen of the Hills Dr. Hailey
W. W. Markkey	105 ALBERT AVE, HAILEY
Charles Fisher	1541 SILVER STAR HAILEY ID
John & Kathy Baker	920 Sunrise Dr. Hailey ID 83333
RICHARD WHITMAN	350 CHEVYVIEW DR HAILEY 83333
Lisa Jenner	1541 Baldy View Dr. Hailey
Carolyn Gutchus	540 Northstar Hailey 83333
Kebedec Eickhorn	720 4th Ave S. A4 83333
Pete Jenner	1541 BALDYVIEW DR 83333
Alex Mangolin	1740 Copper Ranch Rd Hailey 83333
Wanusa Leef-Wallace	409 S. 2nd Ave Hailey, ID 83333
Clifford Whitcomb	613 N River St Hailey ID
Lucretia Walker	808 Galena Drive Hailey ID 83333
Carmen Randolph	PO BOX 590 DEERTRAIL DR Hailey 83333
Garland Saha	Box 4703 Hailey ID 83333
Ibrahim Tancup	941 Buckskin, Hailey 83333
AMY CLIFFORD	Box 3476 Hailey
CLIFFORD WHITCOMB	
Bob McCroskey	Sunrise Dr Hailey 83333
Tracy Dawson	1011 Snowflake Drive Hailey
Aimee Brunelle	190 Cranbrook Hailey
T. Hazel Brunelle	190 CRANBROOK HAILEY
Mary Ellen O'Leary	150 6th Ave Hailey
RICHARD STOPOL	150 6th Ave Hailey
PATRICK LINDALL	451 DEERTRAIL DRIVE HAILEY
PILAR LINDATH	457 DEERTRAIL DRIVE HAILEY
Bridget Kipack	205 E. Myrtle Hailey
GARY STORFF	101 GREGG AVE, SUN VALLEY
JANET STORFF	101 GREGG AVE, SUN VALLEY
JOHN ADAMS	SUN VALLEY
Lawrence	910 SILVER STAR HAILEY
J. Lynne Lawrence	910 SilverStar Dr. Hailey

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CHICKENS!

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YES! We, the undersigned, support the old fashioned practice of being allowed to "raise a few chickens in the backyard" in the City of Hailey:.....

Name

Address

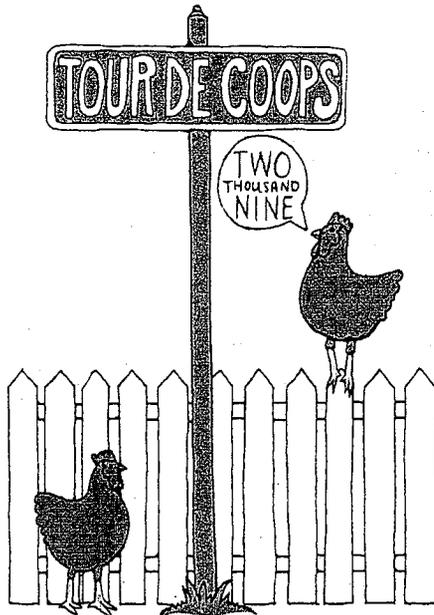
Crockett Stearns 731 East Carbonate Hailey, ID
 Simone Irion 650 Third Aven Hailey ID 83333
 MICHAEL LLOYD 650 THIRD AVE N HAILEY
 Madora Ooms 217 2nd Ave N Hailey ID 83333
 Jana Ooms 217 2nd Aven N Hailey ID 83333
 Yame Dyndiuk 1051 Foxmoor Dr., Hailey ID 83333
 Jamie Mayo 617 4th Ave North Hailey ID 83333
 Pamela Reichman 415 4th Ave, Hailey ID 83333
 Hollyn Martin 1041 Buckskin Dr Hailey ID 83333
 Mike Balogh 510 Shoshone St
 Tom Jensen 441 EASTWATER DR HAILEY ID 83333
 Jeff Moon 1250 Woodside Blvd
 La Beckman 1150 Blue Lake Blvd
 Fraje Telford 721 Deer Ridge Lane Hailey ID
 Annette Coylet 3170 Mountain Ash Hailey
 Cindy Allred 707 N. 3rd St. Hailey, ID.
 Elizabeth Galt 415 S. 2nd Hailey, ID
 Melissa Brown 210 W. Carbonate Dr. Hailey, ID. 83332
 Christopher Brown 210 W CARBONATE DR. Hailey

Welcome to PORTLAND CHICKENS!

[Events](#) [Coop Design](#) [Local Resources](#) [Books](#) [Links](#)

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APR 26 REC'D



Saturday, July 24th, 2010

11am-3pm

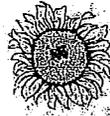
This is a fun and affordable community event for you, your whole family and all your friends! Chicken owners throughout Portland will open their yards so you can see their coops and meet their chickens.

The Tour de Coops is a self-guided tour; you'll have the opportunity to visit as many as 25 backyard chicken coops all over East Portland - getting to know your neighbors while learning and sharing urban chicken keeping ideas.

You can also enter the raffle to win one of two coops (made by local coop designers!), chicken feed and/or gift certificates donated by local nurseries and feed stores!

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 FOR INFORMATION, CLASS FEES AND SIZE LIMITATIONS.

JANUARY

- WED 20 **BOTANICAL GARDEN FILM SERIES**
USA, Longwood Gardens 5:30-7
- THURS 21 **COOKING CLASS** Sushi with Narda | 5-7
- TUES 26 **COOKING CLASS** Chef TBA | 5-7
- FRI 29 **NIGHT SKY MOVIE IN THE GREENHOUSE**
Monty Python and the Holy Grail | 7-9

FEBRUARY

- TUES 2 **BOTANICAL PAINTING & DRAWING** with Blago | 4-6
- WED 3 **BOTANICAL GARDEN FILM SERIES** *Canada, Butchart Gardens* | 5:30-7 | PREVIEW OUR TRIP IN MAY
- THURS 4 **COOKING CLASS** Desserts with Joanna Carnes | 5-7
- MON 8 **COOKING CLASS** Breads with Vincent Carpenter | 5-7
- TUES 9 **INDOOR PLANT CARE** with Webb Garden Center | 5-7
- SUN 14 **SNOW SCULPTURE** with Blago | 11-12:30
- TUES 16 **MARDI-GRAS PARTY!** Costumes required. 6:30
- FRI 19-23 **ETC. SPRING TRUNK SHOW** | 10-6
- MON 22 **EVENING MARKETPLACE IN THE GREENHOUSE**
 with local vendors | 4-7 | 10% of proceeds go to the SBG
- THURS 25 **COOKING CLASS** Chef TBA | 5-7
- FRI 26 **NIGHT SKY MOVIE IN THE GREENHOUSE**
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid | 7-9

MARCH

- THURS 4 **BEHIND THE PRAYER WHEEL** with MaryAnn and Ken
- TUES 9 **PRUNING** Derek Hagberg, East Fork Landscaping | 5-7
- FRI 12 **FUNDAMENTAL OF COLONY** with Blago | 2-4
- MON 15-
FRI 19 **SPRING BREAK SNOW SCHOOL** | Ages 4-12 | 9-2:30
- FRI 19 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES BEGINS***
- TUES 16 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Building a Cold Frame
- TUES 23 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Seed Starting
- THURS 25 **BOTANICAL GARDEN FILM SERIES**
A Collection of England's Finest Gardens | 5:30-7
- FRI 26 **NIGHT SKY MOVIE IN THE GREENHOUSE**
James Bond Dr. No | 8-10
- TUES 30 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Season Extension

SPECIAL EVENTS IN BLUE

* **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES** is in partnership with The Sustainability Center in Hailey. Classes taught by professionals in their field and are held at 5:00pm at the SBG or The Sustainability Center.

APRIL

- THURS 1 **SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS:** Sustainable Greenhouse Design with Penn and Cord Parmenter | 9-1
- TUES 6 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Soils - Build a Great Garden
- TUES 13 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Vegetable Gardening 101
- TUES 20 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Compost
- SUN 25 **SPRING FESTIVAL** | 1-4
- MON 26-
SAT MAY 8 **SPRING EXHIBIT** | 1:30-5 daily 10-3 weekends

MAY

- GUIDED TRAVEL AND GARDEN TOUR OF ENCHANTING BUTCHART GARDEN IN VICTORIA, BC.** CALL FOR INFO
- SAT 15-20 **ETC. SPRING TRUNK SHOW**
 10% of proceeds go to the Sawtooth Botanical Garden
- TUES 18 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Gardening with Compost
- THURS 20 **WILDFLOWER WALK** | 9:30-2
- TUES 25 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Gardening in Small Spaces
- THURS 27 **WILDFLOWER WALK:** Camas Prairie & Off the Grid Home Tour | 9:30am-2pm *Date variable on Camas bloom time
- FRI 28 **LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR JUNE CHILDREN'S CAMP**
- SUN 30 **NATIVE PLANT SALE & HAILEY VEGETABLE GARDEN TOUR** 10am Sale, 11am Tour

JUNE

- THURS 3 **WILDFLOWER WALK** | 9:30-2
- TUES 8 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Herbs
- THURS 10 **WILDFLOWER WALK** | 9:30-2
- SAT 12 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES: Cow Chicken Educational Tour**
- MON 14 -
JUNE 30 **JUNE GARDEN CAMP** M/W 9:30am-12:30pm | Ages 4-10
 Six Sessions ending June 30th. Sign-up for 1 or all 6.
- TUES 8 **VEGETABLE GARDEN SERIES:** Pest & Disease Management
- THURS 17 **WILDFLOWER WALK** | 9:30-2
- THURS 24 **WILDFLOWER WALK** | 9:30-2

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APR 30 REC'D

IN MANY CITIES that allow homeowners to keep a few hens in their backyards, community gardening groups such as Seattle Tilth are offering courses that teach potential chicken owners how to house and raise city chickens. Organized in 1978, Seattle Tilth is one such organization that is cultivating a sustainable city, one backyard at a time. With more than one thousand members, Seattle Tilth connects the city's residents with the land through more than one hundred organic-gardening classes and special events. As these connections are made, participants connect with each other to build a sense of place and community. City chicken owners learn from each other, trade coop-design ideas, give guided tours of their coops to the public, and network with other city chicken groups.

"Seattle Tilth is the most urban of the Tilth chapters, and our base has always been in the Wallingford neighborhood, where our current demonstration garden was a part of the master plan for transforming the Good Shepherd Center into a community center," says Karen Holt Luetjen, executive director. "We added a children's garden in 1988, and another demonstration garden in Seattle's south end, which was conceived in 1995 and dedicated in 2004."

The Seattle Tilth mission statement is to "inspire and educate people to garden organically, conserve natural resources, and support local food systems in order to cultivate a healthy urban environment and community."

In addition to a comprehensive organic-gardening program, recent classes offered by the association include Fall Salad Gardening, Cultivating Plant Communities in Your Garden, Heirloom Gardening — Seed Saving, and Putting the Gardens to Bed.

Special events include a harvest fair and an edible-plant sale. Many of the association's organic-gardening classes and special events are held in Seattle Tilth's demonstration gardens.

For chicken enthusiasts, there are the City Chickens classes. In the City Chickens 101 class, students of all ages learn everything they need to know about raising chickens in their own backyard. City Chickens 201 is the advanced class.

On a Saturday in July, residents join the annual City Chickens Tour and spend the day visiting backyard chicken coops throughout Seattle. Many of the coops on the tour were built after their owners attended the City Chickens 101 class. These coops may house just a few chickens, but their owners are serious chicken folk. The coop designs are as imaginative as their owners and reflect a fierce pride both in having backyard chickens and in being included on the tour.

From :- "Chicken Coops" by Jun-166-namar

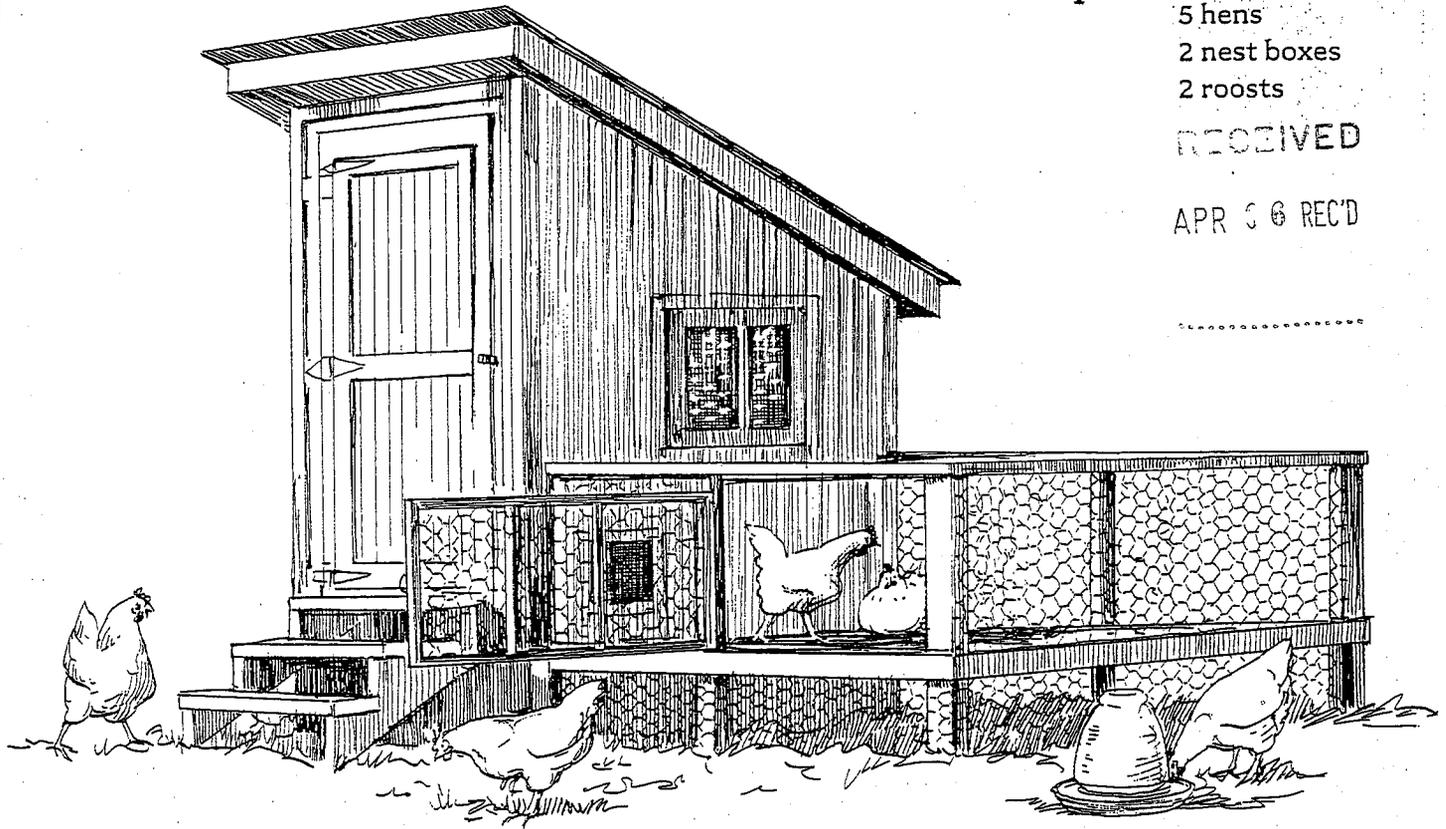
Oakhurst Community Garden Coop

(see color photo on page 151)

HOLDS:
5 hens
2 nest boxes
2 roosts

RECEIVED

APR 5 6 REC'D



WHEN CHILDREN vandalized a garden in a Decatur, Georgia neighborhood in 1997, neighbors joined forces and asked the kids to become caretakers of the garden. The neighbors mentored the kids as they restored the flower beds and shrubs and painted the garden fence. The kids soon went from destroying their world to caring for it and they loved it! From this early success, and with a local resident's gift of a long-term lease on a half-acre lot, the Oakhurst Community Garden Project was born. The gardens are within walking distance of four schools, and the project's many gardening and outdoor programs teach local students to notice and care for the environment. In addition to the gardens, the project hosts a henhouse, a mature woodlot and wetland meadow; and habitats for bees, rabbits, and other native wildlife.

The Oakhurst Community Garden Project chicken coop is in the back part of the garden, near the meadow and stream. The coop has a small footprint, but it stands tall. It is elevated 16 inches above the ground on posts and has a pitched roof. Sliding windows on both sides allow for cross ventilation. A small (4-foot x 8-foot) enclosed yard was built with the original coop. This yard has a door and lid for easy access and is surrounded by chicken wire, which has been driven 1 foot into the ground to protect against burrowing predators. An outer fence was built to give the chickens more room to wander around. That fence was built using 5-foot welded wire fencing and is held in place with tall garden stakes. Chicken food is stored outside of the coop inside metal trash cans that sit on top of a pallet.

Hi-Rise Coop

(see color photo on page 154)

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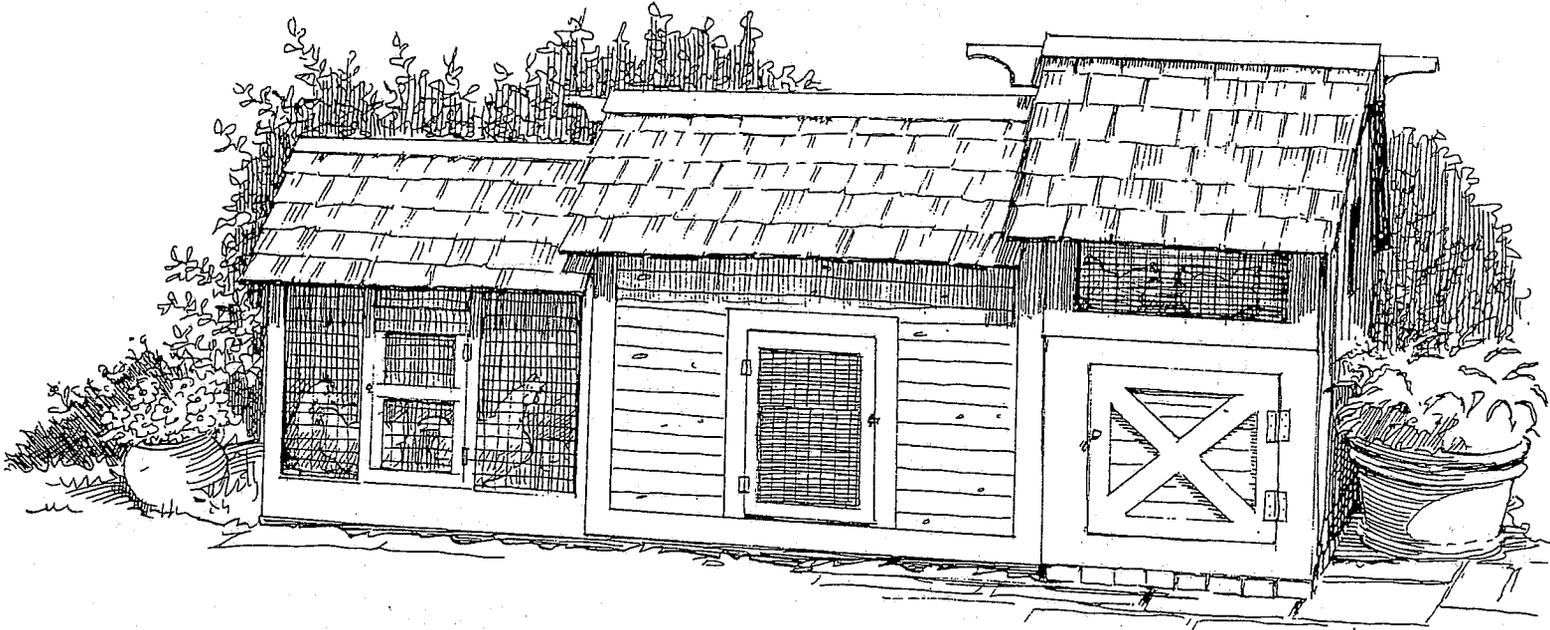
APR 3 6 REC'D

HOLDS:

3 hens

1 nest box

2 roosts



THREE LUCKY Buff Orpington hens are living the high life in the Hi-Rise Coop in Jennifer Carlson's Seattle backyard. The coop was built in 2000 as a demonstration project for an exhibit at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, held in February at the Washington Convention Center. Along with other students in the University of Washington Landscape Architecture program, Jennifer created several components of the coop, a wheelchair-accessible garden, and a vegetable garden. "Over 80,000 people attend the F&G Show every year," Jennifer says, "so it was a great opportunity to show people how to have a productive, vibrant garden in an urban setting."

Including chicken coops in the Northwest Flower and Garden Show is a natural fit

because chickens can be an integral part of home gardening. Chickens are great insect and weed controllers, especially between plantings and between growing seasons. Adding chicken manure to the garden bed provides needed organics and nutrients.

Jennifer's interest in chickens began in 1979 when she purchased 12 Buff Orpington day-old chicks as part of a large mail order placed by Seattle Tilth members. (Since then, Seattle has passed an ordinance that restricts the number of chickens to three per household.) The coop design evolved after Jennifer moved a number of times and had to leave behind coops that either were too large to move or were attached to other structures. Jennifer teaches Seattle Tilth's class on chicken-coop building, and plans with com-

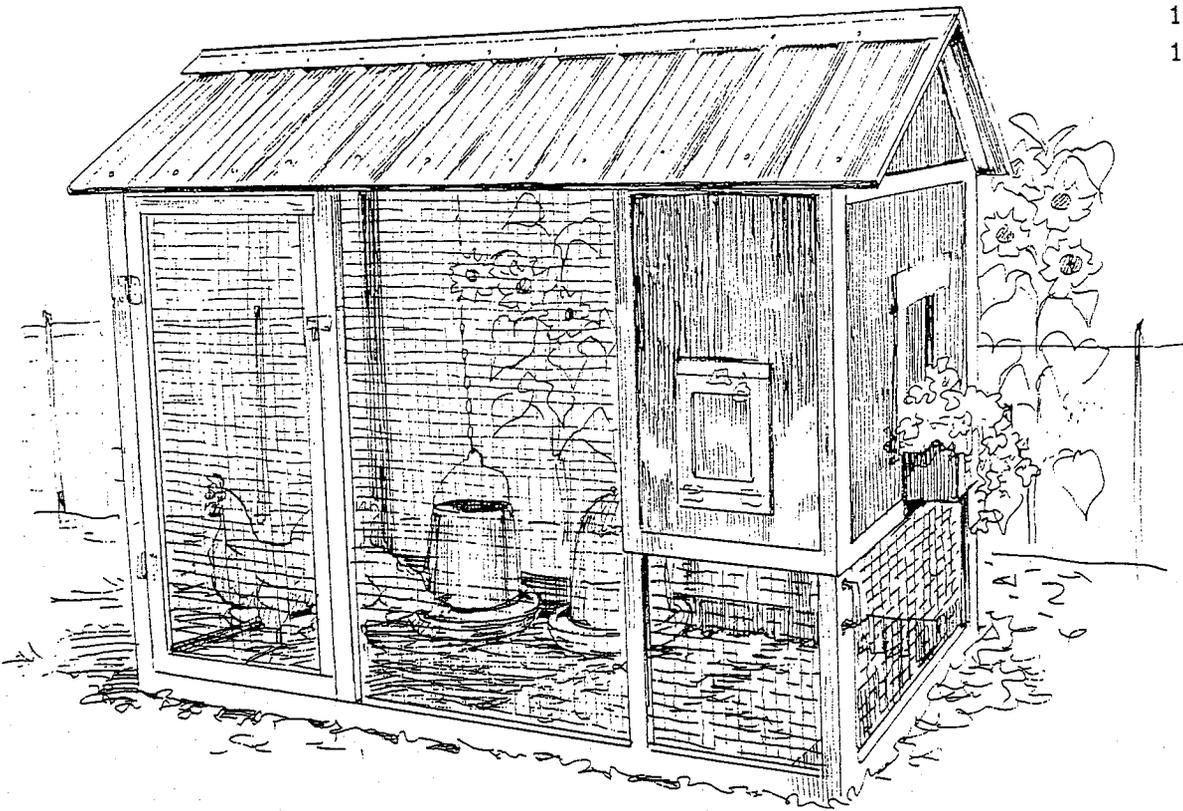
Kids' Garden Coop

(see color photo on page 153)

HOLDS:
4 hens
1 nest box
1 roost

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APR 06 REC'D



CHILDREN FROM ALL OVER Madison, Wisconsin, hang out with the hens at the Kids' Garden Coop and fall in love with raising chickens. Tobias Harrison-Noonan built this coop to complete his Eagle Scout community-service project. He modeled it after a coop his father had built to house his four heavy-breed layers. Toby and his Boy Scout troop gathered donated and salvaged materials. When the coop was finished, they installed it in the middle of the children's section of the local community garden.

The coop is made with cedar and plywood siding and has a 4-foot x roughly 8-foot run. The roof is a trendy agricultural-style metal that blends well with neighboring houses. Four people can lift the coop and move it around the garden as needed.

The nest box is a 12-inch x 12-inch wooden cube open on two sides. One side allows the hens to enter from inside the roost, and the other opens to the padlocked egg-collection door on the outside. The roost bar passes over the top of the nest box, so the nest-box roof comes in handy by shielding the box from the roosting birds' droppings. A hinged door that opens from the top down on the interior side of the nest box/roost area provides good ventilation in the summer, when it can be folded down. When it is closed in winter, the door also provides extra warmth. A sliding plywood door on the side of the roost allows access for bedding changes and for cleaning the nest box/roost area. Plans with complete specs can be purchased from Dennis Harrison-Noonan (see page 162 for Web address).

PREFACE

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APR 36 REC'D

"I WAS GIVEN A FEW CHICKENS," a customer told me at the farmers' market. "You know how that happens — you just end up with them, and then two became six, and the next thing I knew, I was a chicken farmer." I had to laugh because I do know how that happens. We started with a dozen hens a few years ago; now we have more than two hundred laying hens.

Traditionally, most small family farms raised a few chickens in the barnyard. They supplied eggs and meat for the family and neighbors, and surplus was used for barter. During the past 50 years, chicken production followed the exodus from small family farms to factory farms.

In this industrial model, hens are packed tightly together in small cages to simplify feeding, watering, and egg collection. Egg production increased dramatically while the hens' life became intolerable.

A growing desire to live in tune with nature and to raise safe and healthy food from humanely treated animals has sparked renewed interest in raising chickens in a natural setting. Rural and urban dwellers alike are seeking ways to connect with the land.

A new phenomenon, the urban chicken, is bringing people together across backyards in many large cities where local ordinances permit residents to raise a few chickens within city limits. As the pastured-poultry movement grows across the country, chickens are helping small family farms make a comeback. From sharing coop designs with aspiring chicken owners to supplying meat, eggs, and compost for their neighbors, chicken owners are making connections, building community, and rebuilding the small-family-farm community.

My husband, Frank Johnson, and I and our young sons Greydon and Arleigh run Sweet Tree Farm, a 200-acre grass-based livestock farm in beautiful upstate New York.

We became interested in chickens when we learned about pastured poultry and discovered how healthy the hens were for our soil. Now, in addition to grass-fed beef and pork, we also produce eggs from pastured laying hens. After six years of raising laying hens, we are still learning. There are even more ways that we could improve our coops and new coop designs that we would love to build.

These pages are filled with a variety of chicken coops, including chick brooders, city chicken coops, pastured laying hen and broiler coops, and other fun and unusual coops. Some of the coops are fancy, and others are made entirely of recycled and salvaged materials. You will be introduced to city chickens and school chickens and will learn a bit about grass farms and pastured-poultry operations.

You may want to build an exact replica of a plan you see in the book, or you may want to adapt a plan to fit your own needs. In order to use the information, you will need to have basic construction knowledge. If you would like more specific building information, read *How to Build Animal Housing* by Carol Ekarius (Storey Publishing, 2004).

Chicken coop owners from across the country generously shared with me their designs and provided tips for using salvaged materials. The features in some of these coops have sparked new ideas (sorry, Frank!) that I would love to implement. I hope that you, too, find lots of ideas in these pages.

FARM TO TABLE



APR 6 6 REC'D

APR 6 6 REC'D

DO YOU KNOW
WHERE YOUR FOOD
COMES FROM?
WHETHER IT ONCE
LIVED IN YOUR BACKYARD
OR GREW UP ON THE
FARM; DOWN THE STREET,
SEEK SUSTENANCE
WITH SUBSTANCE.

BACKYARD

THE SENSE

BIRDS

AND SENSIBILITY

TAKE

OF RAISING CHICKENS

FLIGHT

By Karen Day

Photos by Paulette Phlipot



Cheryl Feucht has been raising chickens on her small Camas Prairie farm since she moved here from Ohio last year.

anine lovers abound in the Wood River Valley, while car and horse advocates attest theirs is the second most popular pet. However, when the Hailey City Council passed an ordinance last year allowing five live chickens per household, many locals officially added a fourth contestant, succumbing to the feathered love affair blossoming in cities across America. Poultry, however, are the only backyard pets of the four facing the probability of ending up on the dinner table.

Let me begin by admitting I'm not a "fowl" person. For most of my adult life, I've avoided serious contemplation of all things chicken, except the high risks of fried and the pox. There is good reason for my ambivalence. As a child, I spent summers on a farm, 16 dirt miles from Lavonia, Indiana, population 321. Here lived my Aunt Grace and Uncle Cedric. Their spanking-white clapboard house and well-used tornado shelter sat in the middle of 200 acres of sweet corn and resembled an idyllic Old MacDonald movie set every day but Saturday, when the barnyard became a sequel to *SAW*.

The day before Sunday was always bloody—at least for any chicken doomed as the weekly feast after our obligatory visit to Lavonia's oven-baked Presbyterian Church. I was a nervous child already, and when my aunt picked up the axe and headed toward the coop, I would invariably sob for a poultry reprieve—to no avail. This barnyard-to-plate ritual probably explains why I've suffered several fashionable but failed attempts as a vegan.

I still prefer to eat my eggs in cake. And so it was, until I stepped into the new world of chicken-mania.

"Which came first: the chicken or the egg?" This riddle sounds like a philosophical debate between Dr. Seuss and the Kentucky colonel on a bender. Google, however, offers more than 100,000 historical references to the question. Mounting proof attests that chickens are commanding national attention and enjoying a renaissance of urban dwelling. *Backyard Poultry* magazine claims a circulation of 100,000 and growing. Forty thousand members log on to Backyardchickens.com forums and 15,000 admit to watching Terry Golson's Boston-based "Hencam." (This writer too, strictly as research, was oddly absorbed in the Sisyphean trials of one showy crested Polish whose bouffant hairdo is as bold as her namesake, Tina Turner.) *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and even that literary bastion *The New Yorker* have all carried stories on the current hen-keeping craze.



Our own valley stumbled into the national spotlight when Community School students raised 16 fuzzy chicks in a highly orchestrated, experiential banquet of the food chain gone wrong. The eighth-grade project faced criticism and possible legal consequences as a Virginia-based animal protection organization accused them of animal cruelty.

No, really, it's true. And too bad the poultry advocates didn't call me first. As a humanitarian journalist, I could attest those chickens are better and suffered less than most people I meet traveling the Third World.

What explains this resurgent interest in bringing home chickens *and* the bacon? The economy? Sustainability? Peer-poultry pressure?

Fairfield residents Cheryl and Richard Feucht, amidst 50 pecking hens, explain. "We like knowing where our food comes from and what it has eaten—*before* we eat it."

The Feuchts moved from a large city in Ohio to the Camas Prairie a year ago. The wide-open vistas of southwestern Idaho offered them more room for growing food and animals than they could imagine back in their Midwest county of 500,000 people. Camas County brags 1,000 residents and the town of Fairfield, 400. Cheryl and Richard's tidy ranchette nestles close to the foothills, looking on treeless horizons that bleed into an eternity of purple-and-blue shadows. With rabbits, Blue Slate turkeys, chickens and a large garden, the Feuchts are living the proverbial city-slicker's dream of moving back to the land. But who knew dreaming was such hard work?

Their chicken flock began with a trip to D&B and the purchase of 90 identical yellow chicks (\$3.50 each). A picture chart assured that they were taking home two different breeds and mostly pullets (females under 1-year-old). Much like fortune telling, sexing chicks is a complicated, mystical process that demands a good deal of faith and patience from paying customers. The Feuchts, after a year of fresh drumsticks, some local bartering for red meat and a 10 percent natural death rate, now maintain a winter flock of about 50, including 14 enthusiastic roosters. Only darkness or death can stop these males from strutting their stuff. With puffed chests and crimson combs, these loud braggarts ensure the eggs are fertilized. Their sole purpose is to annoy and refurbish the flock. The closest neighbors, along with five buffalo wandering their yard, live two merciful acres away. "Dawn can be wicked," Richard said, shaking his head.

We walk among shiny Black Australorps and rare Buckeyes, all brown and fat. "Roasters and layers," as Richard calls them, these hens peck endlessly at invisible gems around our feet, their soft cooing and clucking a kind of soothing agri-white noise in the prairie's silence. The wind is uncommonly quiet. Richard notes that if the flock survives this first winter, they will earn the title of "preservationist" breeders.

"We chose Buckeyes not by coincidence," he said. "Ohio is the Buckeye State."

"I don't even like eggs," said Cheryl, stepping gingerly among the Australorps. Yet she commutes to Hailey for her day job at Power Engineers and returns home each night, looking forward to chicken chores. "I enjoy having them around. It's relaxing. And they taste so much better than store-bought chickens." The conversation is beginning to sway dangerously close to sharp objects and an ugly Aunt-Grace flashback. "I prefer fish," I add abruptly. For the record, no chickens were harmed in the writing of this article.

"The smaller the comb, the better the chicken will winter," said Richard, a third-generation farmer. This will be the first winter for the Feucht flocks, and the couple openly wonders what will happen, "as the snow drifts higher and the fence gets shorter."

The Australorps' black plumage glistens green and purple, obsidian in the sun. Originally from Australia (and named as if they were a baseball team), the breed is calm, friendly and offers dependable caches of light-brown eggs. Inspecting the nests, I feel a childish excitement finding two eggs in the straw. "Production goes up as the days get longer—and vice versa," Cheryl said. "What we don't eat, we sell or trade." When the nearest grocery store is 25 miles away, raising chickens makes egg-cellent sense.

However, the romance of turning your patio into a barnyard should not be exaggerated. Chicks are like toddlers: God made them tiny and cute so you don't kill them for demanding so much attention.

Hatchlings must be kept warm for four weeks in incubators or homemade adaptations. A bathtub works. Line it with cardboard or wood shavings, apply a heat lamp until the temperature hits 90 degrees Fahrenheit (be vigilant, or you will find a tiny meal or a bonfire in your bathroom). Feed, water, clean and repeat, repeat, repeat while adjusting the temperature down one degree each day and thinking it would be more practical to fill your bathtub with goldfish. The joy of wing clipping awaits. Twice. Next, coop and roost construction—or better yet, buy a ready-made, shipped-to-your-door plastic Eggloo.

One must also consider economics, but not too closely.

In 1948, a dozen eggs cost 55 cents. The average family earned less than \$10 a day or the equivalent of 17 dozen eggs. No wonder so many housewives saw the economic genius of adopting chickens. The term "nest egg" actually originated with this homespun method of earning extra cash. Today, a dozen mass-produced eggs cost as little as \$1.29. Factored for inflation, that's \$7.

I didn't expect math in a chicken story, but I estimate the cost of raising your own dozen eggs could buy you a tank of gas (or cost you a home if you're inept with the heating lamp). The price of cheap food, however, isn't cheap. The carbon footprint of that drumstick you're eating may be huge. Don't forget to savor the taste of the pesticide-laden feed, growth-hormone additives and chemically injected preservatives.

CHICKS ARE LIKE

"WE LIKE KNOWING

TODDLERS: GOD MADE

WHERE OUR FOOD

THEM TINY AND CUTE

COMES FROM AND

SO YOU DON'T KILL

WHAT IT HAS EATEN—

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BEFORE WE EAT IT."

SO MUCH ATTENTION.

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Nutrition alone is reason enough to eat organic and local, insists Dick Springs. He and his wife, Melinda, founded the Sustainability Center in Hailey where most of the food has traveled no more than 50 miles to get to your plate. "One fresh egg has 7 percent more beta carotene, two-thirds more vitamin A, twice the Omega 3s, three times the vitamin E, with one-third less cholesterol and one-quarter less saturated fat," said Dick. All this good news is available for about \$5 a dozen (no wing-clipping required) at the Sustainability Center, Idaho's Bounty and local grocery stores.

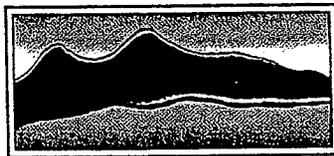
Hailey residents Jack and Connie McCabe are not into chickens for the money or the meat. "It's an interesting and enjoyable experiment," says Jack. Comfortably retired, living two blocks from Atkinsons' grocery store, they readily admit convenience played no part in their decision to test the city of Hailey's new ordinance. "Chickens need pet-sitters," Connie said, "so we don't travel that much." Their beautifully remodeled 1920s home and immaculate landscaping offer no hint of livestock. Theirs is designer barnyard décor—as are their chickens. No ordinary roasters need apply at this address—imagine Rio's Carnival on a Paris runway.

Bubbles is a champagne-colored Buff Orpington. I fight the unadvised urge to stroke her down coat, fluffy and luxurious as light mink. La Fonda is a silver-laced Wyandotte, inspired by a character in *Napoleon Dynamite*. She is a feathered variation on Victoria's Secret in black, white and red. A Rhode Island Red is called Fifi Deux, carrying the mantle for an earlier and beloved predecessor. Another black and white, a Barred Rock, closely resembles the Wyandotte, but clearly resides at the bottom of the pecking order. Her name is Rodney King, and she suffers from mild intimidation and rejection, especially from a showy caramel-colored light Brahma rightly called Nemesis. This she-devil-hen wears feathers on her feet and acts like she's covered in diamonds.

Touring the coop, Jack points out his viewing bench. He sits here on summer evenings with a glass of good merlot, watching his chickens cluck happily around their luxury digs. The bench is now covered in snow, but I take a seat anyway.

This poultry reality show offers far more interesting fare than anything on television. ❧

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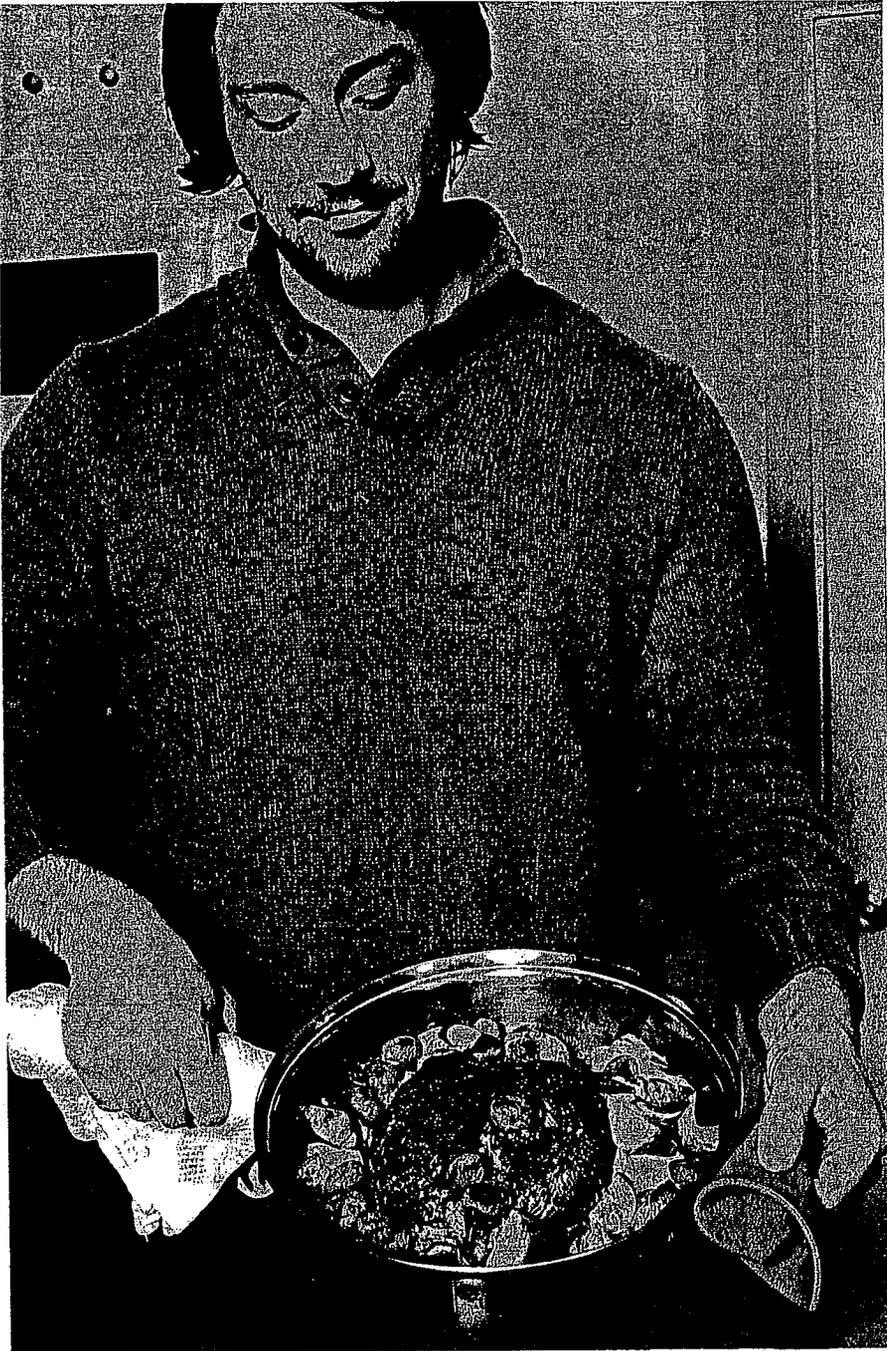


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7 DAYS TO SUSTAINABLE SUSTENANCE



Trevon Milliard, Kraft connoisseur, embarks on a week of eating sustainably. Photos by David N. Seelig.

I'm that guy you see at Albertsons piling 10 boxes of Pasta Roni onto the conveyor belt for \$10.

Weekly specials determine my week's meals, always have. I try to eat healthily, rarely succumbing to candy, chips, soda or other goodies. But my concern has never extended beyond my body and wallet to the more altruistic purpose of "sustainability." Perhaps that's what prompted my editor to suggest I not just write about "how to eat sustainably in the Wood River Valley" (as originally planned), but become the lab rat in my own experiment.

Challenge accepted. I would eat sustainably for one week.

First up: Determine the parameters of "sustainable food." Presented with my assignment, I immediately concluded that sustainable meant all-local food. My first thought was, "I'll be washing down a lot of potatoes and onions."

When I moved to Idaho in late August, I bought a five-pound bag of spuds in the spirit of donning my new Idahoan identity. A month later, I broke the bag tie to discover more sprouts than potatoes.

For a guide to my presumed sustainable suffering, I turned to John Turenne. His company, Sustainable Food Systems, has led more than 25 American schools and hospitals (including St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center) through the voluntary change of offering sustainable meals.

Turenne's first words were reassuring. Eating only locally produced food sets the bar too high. It establishes an unreasonable expectation of how to live. While it can be done for a week by eating seasonally, the question is: Can you consistently live that way? Some things, like coffee, aren't grown anywhere in the entire United States. Going by the local-only rule means you'd never drink a sip again.

Trevon traded his usual pre-packaged menu for fresh, sustainable cuisine. Among many other culinary delights, he produced this succulent beef roast, baked with Idaho russet potatoes, yellow onions and organic cherry tomatoes.