



The regular meeting of the council of the Village of Hussar will be held in Council Chambers and via conference call on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 starting at 7:00 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

**3. ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- (a) August 11, 2022 Regular Council Meeting

**4. POLICY & BYLAW REVIEW**

- (a) Bylaw Review
  - NEW 549-22 Backyard Chickens
- (b) Policy Review
  - NEW 5.13 Compliance Certificate Policy
  - NEW 5.14 Community Groups Policy
  - NEW 5.15 Video Surveillance Policy

**5. BUSINESS**

- (a) Follow up from Public Hearing – LUB changes
- (b) Unsightly Premises
- (c) 10-year capital plan extension
- (d) Asset Management Training
- (e) Gazebo Benches
- (f) School Survey cost

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**7. CAO, PW & RCMP Quarterly REPORTS**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Town of Tofield – Victim Services Redesign
- (b) ABMunis – APPS Deployment Model Summary and Analysis
- (c) Wheatland Housing Management Body project information update
- (d) Wheatland Wind Project Update

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: Thursday September 22, 2022 (Council Chambers and via. Conference call)

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
Thursday, August 11, 2022**

The regular meeting of the council of the Village of Hussar was held in Council Chambers on Thursday August 11, 2022, commencing at 8:22 pm

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<u>IN ATTENDANCE</u>	Councillors: Les Schultz, Coralee Schindel, Tim Frank Kate Brandt, CAO 3 in person and 1 via. conference call	
<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	The meeting was called to order at 8:22 pm	
<u>ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA</u>		
2022-08-11-256	MOVED by Councillor Frank that the agenda be accepted with the following changes: Add 6 (k) September 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting Date	CARRIED
<u>DELEGATION</u>	<u>Joint Quality Management Plan – Cindy Ramsay</u> Cindy Ramsay gave an overview of the document and answered questions about the Joint QMP agreement	
2022-08-11-257	MOVED by Councillor Schultz to sign the Wheatland County Joint Quality Management Plan document	CARRIED
	<u>Tim &amp; Jackie Muir Subdivision complaint letter discussion</u> Public documents were provided to the complainant and discussed details of the complaint	
<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u>	<u>July 20, 2022 Regular Council Meeting</u> MOVED by Councillor Schindel that the minutes of July 20, 2022 be accepted as presented	CARRIED
<u>BYLAW REVIEW</u>	<u>Bylaw Review</u> The following bylaw was reviewed without changes: 506-16 CAO Bylaw	
<u>POLICY REVIEW</u>	<u>Policy Review</u> The following policies were reviewed without changes: 4.7 Statutory Holiday 4.9 Overtime 4.10 Performance Review Policy	
<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>EPCOR – Request to salvage service line cost</u> MOVED by Councillor Frank to approve the charge of \$1,813.09 for the permanent disconnection (Salvage) of site id: 0040001409745, service location SE-14-24-20-4 and have our CAO sign and submit the request to FORTIS. The fee will be paid from the Village reserves account	CARRIED

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
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Thursday, August 11, 2022**

- 2022-08-11-260      Barbers Complaint letter  
MOVED by Councillor Schindel to respond to the complainant as discussed  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-261      MOVED by Councillor Schindel to get a quote for the sidewalk repairs when the  
1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West project is happening in 2023. And to add the unsightly  
properties to our agenda next meeting for discussion  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-262      Camp Kitchen  
MOVED by Councillor Schindel to have our CAO create a task list for different  
seasons of the year for public works to maintain the camp kitchen up to  
standard and on an as need basis for community groups and to change the  
locks  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-263      CAO Training – ESS & ECC  
MOVED by Councillor Schultz to approve our CAO attend the following training  
sessions:
  - Thursday September 8, 2022 (9-2:30) Facility Management
  - Wednesday September 14, 2022 (morning) ESS Basics
  - Thursday September 15, 2022 (full day) Donation Management
  - Wednesday September 28, 2022 (full day) ESS Coordinator
  - Thursday October 6, 2022 (full day) RRCP & MAERSCARRIED
- 2022-08-11-264      Dust Control  
MOVED by Councillor Frank to receive dust abatement services on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
East and West, complete, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West down to 263 1  
Avenue West and if there is any remainder to be used at the CAO's discretion  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-265      Community Group Procedure  
MOVED by Councillor Schindel to have our CAO create a Community Groups  
Policy that's all inclusive of any type of work that a community group may like  
to do in the event of benefiting the Village as well as ensure that the Village  
have proper coverage for insurance  
CARRIED
- Councillor Schultz called a 10-minute recess at 10:04 pm  
Councillor Schultz called the meeting back to order at 10:13 pm
- 2022-08-11-266      Alberta Day 2022 Expression of interest  
MOVED by Councillor Frank to accept as information at this time  
CARRIED

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
Thursday, August 11, 2022**

- 2022-08-11-267      CIMA estimates – Mono vs regular sidewalk & gravel vs pavement  
MOVED by Councillor Frank to notify CIMA that we would like to proceed with monowalk on the north side of the street and gravel roads for the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West project in 2023  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-268      Alberta Municipalities Convention  
MOVED by Councillor Schultz to send our CAO and Councillor Schultz to the Alberta Municipalities Convention September 21 -23 at the TELUS Convention Centre and to get 2 tickets to the Host City reception on the Wednesday  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-269      MOVED by Councillor Frank that Councillor Schindel attend the Alberta Municipalities Convention virtually  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-270      10 Year Capital Plan extension and revisions  
MOVED by Councillor Schindel to accept as information at this time  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-271      September 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Council meeting date  
MOVED by Councillor Schindel to move the next Regular Council Meeting of September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm pending verification of Councillor Schindel's availability  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-272      MOVED by Councillor Schultz that the meeting be extended until 11:30 pm  
CARRIED
- FINANCIAL              Financial Reports  
REPORTS              July 2022 Bank Reconciliation and cheque listing  
2022-08-11-273      MOVED by Councillor Schultz to accept the July 2022 Bank Reconciliation and Cheque Listing  
CARRIED
- 2022-08-11-274      Q2 Budget Variance Report  
MOVED by Councillor Frank to accept as information at this time  
CARRIED
- COMMITTEE              Councillor Frank  
MEETINGS              Did not have any meetings to report on  
  
                                 Councillor Schultz  
                                 Did not have any meetings to report on  
  
                                 Councillor Schindel  
                                 Wheatland Family Community Support Services met via Zoom for the audit



**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR  
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Thursday, August 11, 2022**

CAO REPORT  
2022-08-11-275

MOVED by Councillor Frank to accept the CAO, Public Works and JG Water Services reports as information at this time

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE  
2022-08-11-276

MOVED by Councillor Schindel to accept the following correspondence as information:

- (a) New Website on the Future of Provincial Policing
- (b) CF Wild Rose -Community Business Investment Partnership (CBIP)
- (c) FORTIS – Alberta Municipalities customer reception invite
- (d) RCMP Jan to May stats 2022 vs 2021
- (e) GoA Mobile Wireless Services Contract and Procurement
- (f) Ukrainian Independence & Heritage Municipality Memo

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 pm

These minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Les Schultz  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kate Brandt  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Village of Hussar

### Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Date: August 31, 2022  
Title: Bylaw Review

Agenda Item Number: 4a.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The following bylaws are attached for review:

- NEW 549-22 Urban Hen Bylaw

As per Policy & Bylaw review policy – Bylaws that are reviewed by Council with no amendments do not require a resolution but a note shall appear in the Minutes listing all bylaws that were reviewed at that meeting

As per Section 187(4) of the MGA A proposed bylaw must not have more than 2 readings at a council meeting unless the councillors present unanimously agree to consider third reading.

- We need to come up with a number for a min and max number of hens. {S 5.1}
- Training {S 5.1 (e)} – We should consider requiring training. I have put together a possible package to have residents attest to completing a self training booklet and educational videos.
- Fees {S 11.1 & Schedule A}
- Penalties Schedule B

#### RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATIONS FROM AFAC:

If a community is considering permitting residents to keep urban chickens, the following should be taken into consideration:

- Is there a local veterinarian who can provide support and treat poultry?
- Are there trained municipal representatives who can process applications and licenses, deal with concerns that may arise, conduct coop inspections, etc.?
- Does the area have a high number of wildlife and predators?
- Does the municipality have a designated area where poultry owners can dispose of chicken manure/bedding material and any mortalities?
- Is there a poultry professional nearby who can provide an educational workshop to residents on keeping urban chickens, and provide ongoing expertise and support? (Highly recommended)

I have included a copy of the draft Bylaw followed by a complete application package for an urban hen license.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Motion to make the changes as discussed and hold a Public Hearing on \_\_\_\_\_
2. Motion to hold a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_ and bring back for 1<sup>st</sup> reading on \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Motion to get more information on training programs available
4. Motion to accept as information at this time

**BYLAW 549-22  
VILLAGE OF HUSSAR**

**A BYLAW OF THE VILLAGE OF HUSSAR, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO REGULATE THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS IN URBAN AREAS**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act* the council of a municipality may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting; the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property; wild and domestic animals and activities in relation to them; and the enforcement of bylaws;

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 8 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the council of a municipality may, in a bylaw, regulate or prohibit and to provide for a system of licenses, permits and approvals.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Village of Hussar, in the Province of Alberta, hereby enacts as follows:

**1. SECTION 1 – SHORT TITLE**

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as the Village of Hussar “Urban Hen Bylaw”.

**2. SECTION 2 – PURPOSE**

2.1 The purpose of this bylaw is to regulate and control the keeping of chickens within Urban Areas

**3. SECTION 3 – DEFINITIONS**

3.1 **Abattoir** means a facility where animals are slaughtered for consumption as food for humans.

3.2 **Act** means the *Municipal Government Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto.

3.3 **Adjoining Neighbour** means an owner or occupant of a property that is contiguous to a Subject Property along a common property line. This includes properties across a rear lane, but not across a street.

3.4 **Animal Health Act** means Statutes of Alberta 2007, Chapter A-40.2.

3.5 **Chief Administrative Officer** means the person holding the office of Chief Administrative Officer of the Village of Hussar.

3.6 **Coop** means a fully enclosed weatherproof structure with an attached outdoor enclosure

3.7 **Council** means the Council of the Village of Hussar.

3.8 **Enforcement Officer** means a Bylaw Officer appointed by the Village of Hussar pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.M-26, as amended to enforce the bylaws of the Village of Hussar and includes Peace Officers and the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

3.9 **Hen** means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four (4) months old.

3.10 **Hen Keeper** means a person having any right of custody, control or possession of a Hen.

3.11 **Hen License** means a license issued under this bylaw that authorizes the keeping of hens on a specific property within an Urban area within the Village.

- 3.12 **Licensing Authority** means the Chief Administrative Officer or a person appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer to issue Hen Licenses.
- 3.13 **Nest Box** means a box within a Coop for the nesting of Hens.
- 3.14 **Outdoor Enclosure** means a securely enclosed, roofed outdoor area attached to and forming part of a Coop having a bare earthed or vegetated floor for Urban Chickens to roam.
- 3.15 **Premises Identification (PID) Number** means a nine-character combination of numbers and letters issued by the Province of Alberta pursuant to the provisions of the *Animal Health Act* to owners of livestock.
- 3.16 **Rooster** means a domesticated male chicken.
- 3.17 **Sell** means to exchange or deliver for money or its equivalent.
- 3.18 **Subject Property** means a lot or parcel of land in respect of which a Hen License is sought or has been issued.
- 3.19 **Temporary Caregiver** means a person who has been authorized by the Hen Keeper to provide care to their Hens in the event the Hen Keeper is temporarily unable to do so.
- 3.20 **Urban Area** means lands located within the Village on which agricultural operations, including but not limited to the keeping of livestock are neither a permitted or discretionary use under the Bylaws of the Village.
- 3.21 **Urban Hen** means a hen that is at least 16 weeks of age.
- 3.22 **Village** means the Village of Hussar, a municipal corporation in the Province of Alberta, and where the context so requires, means the area of land within the corporate boundaries thereof.
- 3.23 **Violation Tag** means a notice that alleges a bylaw offence and provides a person the opportunity to pay an amount to the Village in lieu of prosecution for the offence.
- 3.24 **Violation Ticket** means a violation ticket as defined in the *Provincial Procedures Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34.

#### 4. SECTION 4 – PROHIBITIONS

4.1 In an Urban Area, no person shall:

- a) Keep a Rooster;
- b) Keep a Hen, other than an Urban Hen for which a valid Hen License has been issued.

#### 5. SECTION 5 – URBAN HEN LICENSE

5.1 A person may apply to keep a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 urban hens by:

- a) Submitting a completed Urban Hen License Application Form (Appendix A)
- b) Paying a Hen License fee prescribed in Schedule A of this bylaw which is due payable at the time of the application, prior to approval and annually thereafter;
- c) Any other information reasonably required by the Licensing Authority, including but not limited to:
  - i. The name, address and contact information of the person who will be the Hen Keeper and of any person who may act as a Temporary Caregiver;
  - ii. A copy of a Certificate of Title for the Subject Property issued by the Land Titles;
  - iii. Written permission to keep hens on the Subject Property, from the registered owner of the Property as shown on the Certificate of Title, if the Hen Keeper is not the registered owner.
- d) A site plan including a drawing that shows the location of the coop and coop run dimensions and associated setbacks from the coop and coop run to the side and rear property lines.

- e) Evidence that the proposed Hen Keeper has experience or training from a source approved by the Licensing Authority. At a minimum, read the Training Manual and watched all 9 educational videos (Appendix C), on the safe handling of hens and eggs provided by the Village.
  - f) A copy of the Premises Identification (PID) Number applicable to Subject Property.
- 5.2 At the time of application for a Hen License, the applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority that all Adjoining Neighbours have been notified of the intent to apply for a Hen License on the Subject Property. (Appendix B) If an adjoining property of the Subject Property is undeveloped or developed but otherwise vacant, the applicant is not required to notify that adjoining property.
- 5.3 The applicant must reside on the property on which the Urban Hens will be kept;
- 5.4 A Hen License does not take effect until:
- a) The Licensing Authority is satisfied all provisions in Section 5.1 and 5.2 have been met; and
  - b) The appeal period referenced in Section 6.2 has expired, if no appeal was received during the appeal period; or
  - c) The Appeal Committee has made a decision on any appeal and that decision upholds the issuance of the Hen License, with or without conditions.
- 5.5 A Hen license is valid only for the period of January 1 to December 31 in the year for which the license is issued.
- 5.6 Hen License fees shall not be reduced or prorated no matter the month of purchase or total number of urban hens.
- 5.7 A Hen License is not transferable from one person to another or from one property to another.
- 5.8 A person to whom a Hen License has been issued shall produce the license at the demand of the Licensing Authority or an Enforcement Officer.
- 5.9 The Licensing Authority may refuse to grant or renew a Hen License for the following reasons:
- a) The applicant or license holder does not meet or has ceased to meet the requirements of this bylaw;
  - b) The applicant or license holder:
    - i. Provides false information or misrepresents any fact or circumstances to the Licensing Authority or Enforcement Officer;
    - ii. Fails to pay any fee required by this Bylaw or any applicable Bylaw;
    - iii. Fails to pay a fine imposed by a court for a contravention of this Bylaw or any other applicable Bylaw related to the keeping of Urban Hens;
    - iv. An applicant for or holder of a Hen License has been convicted of any offence involving abuse, mistreatment or negligent treatment of keeping of animals;
    - v. An applicant has previously been the holder of a Hen License that was revoked for non-compliance with this bylaw, or in respect of which an order has been made under section 645 of the *Municipal Government Act*;
    - vi. Has not complied with all other Provincial and Federal regulations for the keeping of livestock; or
  - c) In the opinion of the Licensing Authority based on reasonable grounds it is in the public interest to do so.
  - d) If the Licensing Authority refuses to grant or renew a Hen License, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Appeal Committee, in accordance with the procedures set out in this Bylaw.

## **6. SECTION 6 – APPEAL**

6.1 An appeal lies from a decision of the Licensing Authority to:

- a) Issue a Hen License, if the appellant is an Adjoining Neighbour;
- b) Impose conditions on a Hen License, if the appellant is the person who applied for the Hen License or is an Adjoining Neighbour;
- c) Refuse a Hen License, if the appellant is the person who applied for the Hen License; or
- d) Revoke a Hen License, if the appellant is the holder of the Hen License that was revoked.

6.2 An appeal under section 6.1 must be in writing, addressed to the Chief Administrative Officer, and must be received no later than fourteen (14) days after the decision appealed from is issued.

6.3 An Adjoining Neighbour may appeal under clause 6.1(a) or 6.1(b) of this bylaw only if the grounds of the appeal are:

- a) That the keeping of hens on the Subject Property is likely to have a materially adverse effect on the health of the Adjoining Neighbour or of a person living in the premises of the Adjoining Neighbour; or
- b) A reason or factor listed in clauses 5.9(a), 5.9(b)(i),(ii),(iv) or (v) of this bylaw.

6.4 As soon as reasonably practicable and in any event not more than fourteen (14) days after receiving a notice of appeal the Chief Administrative Officer must appoint an Appeal Committee for the purpose of hearing the appeal, and apart from appointing the Appeal Committee and providing it with administrative support the Chief Administrative Officer shall not be involved in the appeal process.

6.5 The Appeal Committee shall consist of three (3) members, none of whom is an employee or Council Member of the Village and that the Chief Administrative Officer may appoint members as deemed appropriate. In the case of an appeal from an adjoining member alleging the likelihood of a material adverse health effect, the Chief Administrative Officer must also make reasonable efforts to appoint the appeal committee a licensed and practicing veterinarian and a licensed and practicing physician.

6.6 The Appeal Committee shall schedule the hearing of the appeal within thirty (30) days after notice of appeal.

6.7 Subject to the requirements of this bylaw the Appeal Committee members shall, from among themselves, choose a Chair and may establish a procedure consistent with principles of natural justice for the hearing of the appeal.

6.8 The Appeal Committee shall provide its decision in writing, with reasons, within seven (7) business days of the hearing of the appeal. The Appeal Committee may:

- a) Uphold the decision of the Licensing Authority;
- b) Vary the decisions of the Licensing Authority, including imposing conditions on a Hen License that differ from any conditions imposed by the Licensing Authority; or
- c) Overturn the decision of the Licensing Authority.

6.9 The decision of the Appeal Committee is final and binding and is not subject to appeal to a Court.

6.10 An appeal of the Coop, accessory building, must follow the procedures for an appeal set out in the Village of Hussar Land Use Bylaw.

## **7. SECTION 7 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HEN KEEPER**

### **7.1 A Hen Keeper must:**

- a) Obtain a Premises Identification (PID) under the Premises Identification Regulation in the Animal Health Act and submit a copy to the Village.
- b) Follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to reduce potential for disease outbreak.

### **7.2 Hen Keepers, owners of a Subject Property, and Temporary Caregivers must:**

- a) Provide each urban hen with food, unfrozen water, shelter, adequate light, ventilation, warmth, veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dustbathing, roosting, pecking and socializing with their own kind;
- b) Keep each Hen in a secured area at all times;
- c) Keep the Coop secured from sunset on any given day to sunrise the following day;
- d) Ensure that Hens are kept in the Coop with all openings, such as doors and windows, secured in such a manner that will not allow predators to enter;
- e) Provide warmth to the Hens through heat lamps, wall insulation, poly-sheeting, seedling heat mat, or other means;
- f) Construct and maintain the Coop to prevent a rodent from harbouring underneath or within it or within its walls, and to prevent access to the coop by any other animal
- g) Maintain the Coop in good repair and sanitary conditions and free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances;
- h) Store feed in a fully enclosed, non-penetrable container;
- i) Keep food and water containers in the Coop;
- j) Remove leftover feed, trash and manure in a timely manner;
- k) Store manure within a fully enclosed container, and store no more than three (3) cubic feet of manure at any time;
- l) Remove all other manure not used for composting or fertilizing and dispose of such in accordance with Village Bylaws;
- m) Ensure Hens are slaughtered or euthanized at an appropriate location or facility, not on the Subject Property;
- n) Dispose of the carcass of a Hen deceased by natural causes, by double bagging and bringing it to a veterinarian, farm, abattoir, or other operation that is lawfully permitted to dispose of Hens;
- o) Take Hens to a veterinarian, farm, abattoir, or other operation if Hens are no longer wanted;
- p) Keep Hens in a cage only when actively transporting the Hen; and
- q) Keep Hens for personal use only, and not sell eggs, manure, meat, or any other products derived from Hens.

## **8. SECTION 8 – COOP REQUIREMENTS**

### **8.1 A Hen Keeper must:**

- a) Provide each Hen with at least 0.37 square meters of interior floor area, and at least 0.92 square meters of Coop Run outdoor area, within the Coop;
- b) Provide a minimum of one (1) nest box per coop and one (1) perch per Hen, that is at least 15 cm long;
- c) Ensure the Coop meets the requirements in the Land Use Bylaw regarding an accessory building.

- 8.2 Coops must meet the setbacks in the Land Use Bylaw and an accessory building can not block side yard access.
- 8.3 Coops cannot be located in a Utility Right of Way or an Overland Drainage Right of Way.
- 8.4 Only one (1) Coop per property shall be permitted.
- 8.5 Coops must be kept in the rear of the property
- 8.6 The maximum lot coverage of all structures on a property, including a Coop, must comply with the Land Use Bylaw.
- 8.7 The Licensing Authority and Development Authority have the authority to impose additional site-specific conditions.

**9. SECTION 9 – GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR HEN KEEPERS**

- 9.1 Hen keeping is permitted under and in accordance with this bylaw.
- 9.2 This bylaw applies to the activity of Hen Keeping for personal use only. The commercial sale of Hens or Hen products is not permitted.
- 9.3 This Bylaw enables the keeping of Hens within the confines of a fenced property that does not permit Hens to be sheltered within a residential dwelling unit.
- 9.4 Each Hen must be a minimum of 4 months (16 weeks) old when acquired for keeping under a Hen License.
- 9.5 This bylaw does not exempt a person from complying with any Federal or Provincial law or regulation, other Village bylaw, or any requirement of any lawful permit, order, or license.

**10. SECTION 10 – ENFORCEMENT**

- 10.1 The Licensing Authority or an Enforcement Officer has the right to access any Subject Property to inspect for compliance with this bylaw.
- 10.2 Where an Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a Hen Keeper has contravened any provision of this Bylaw the Enforcement Officer may serve the Hen Keeper a Municipal Violation Tag allowing payment of the specified penalty as set out in Schedule “B” of this Bylaw.
- 10.3 Should a hen keeping site, Coop, or Hen Keeper be found to be non-compliant with this Bylaw at any time, enforcement action may be taken including without limitation; issuing a Municipal Violation Tag or Violation Ticket, revocation of a Hen License or issuance of a Stop Order under Section 645 of the Municipal Government Act.
- 10.4 Should Hens and/or Coop be ordered to be removed, all costs and associated expenditures related to the removal shall be the responsibility of the property owner.
- 10.5 In the event of the revocation of a Hen Licensee, the Licensee will be given fourteen (14) days to rehome the Hens.
- 10.6 No person shall hinder, interrupt, or causes to be hindered any employee of the Village or its contractors, servants, agents, or workers, in the exercise of the powers or duties as authorized or required in this Bylaw.

**11. SECTION 11 – OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

- 11.1 A person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence.
- 11.2 A person who is guilty of an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than **\$150.00** as set out in Schedule “B” of this Bylaw.
- 11.3 In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention of a provision of this bylaw constitutes a separate offence with respect to each day, or part of a day, during which the contravention continues. A person found guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that set out in Schedule “B” for each such separate offence.



**12. SECTION 12 – MUNICIPAL VIOLATION TAG**

- 12.1 An Enforcement Officer may issue, with respect to an offence under this Bylaw, a Municipal Violation Tag specifying the amount established by this Bylaw.
- 12.2 A Municipal Violation Tag may be issued to such person:
- a) Either personally; or
  - b) By mailing a copy to such person at his or her last known address.
- 12.3 The Municipal Violation Tag shall state:
- a) The name of the Person;
  - b) The offence;
  - c) The penalty established by this Bylaw for the offence;
  - d) That the penalty shall be paid within 14 days of the issuance of the Municipal Violation Tag; and
  - e) Any other information as may be required.

**13. SECTION 13 – VIOLATION TICKET**

- 13.1 An Enforcement Officer may issue, with respect to an offence under this Bylaw, a Violation Ticket specifying the fine amount established by this Bylaw.
- 13.2 Where a Violation Ticket specifies a fine amount, a voluntary payment equal to the specified fine amount may be made as directed on the Violation Ticket.
- 13.3 If a Municipal Violation Tag has been issued and if the penalty has not been paid within the prescribed time, than an Enforcement Officer is authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.
- 13.4 Despite section 13.3, an Enforcement Officer is authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket to any person who the Enforcement Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.
- 13.5 If a Violation Ticket is issued in respect of an offence, the Violation Ticket may:
- a) Specify the fine amount established by this Bylaw for the offence; or
  - b) Require a person to appear in court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment

**14. SECTION 14 – POWERS OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

- 14.1 Without restricting any other power, duty or function granted by this Bylaw, the Chief Administrative Officer may:
- a) Carry out any inspections to determine compliance with this Bylaw;
  - b) Take any steps or carry out any actions required to enforce this Bylaw;
  - c) Take any steps or carry out any actions required to remedy a contravention of this Bylaw;
  - d) Establish forms for the purposes of this Bylaw; and
  - e) Delegate any powers, duties or functions under this Bylaw

**15. SECTION 15 – OBSTRUCTION**

- 15.1 No person shall obstruct or hinder any person in the exercise or performance of the person's powers pursuant to this Bylaw.

**16. SECTION 16 - SEVERABILITY**

- 16.1 Every provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions and if any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid for any reason by a Court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this Bylaw shall remain valid and enforceable.

**17. SECTION 17 – EFFECTIVE DATE**

17.1 This Bylaw shall come into force and effect upon receiving third and final reading and being signed.

READ a first time on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

READ a second time on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

READ a third and final time on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR  
SCHEDULE A  
FEES**

Fee Description	Fee
Hen License Fee, includes Coop development permit (accessory building)	\$75.00
Annual Hen License Fee (Jan 1 – Dec 31)	\$25.00
PRINTED Complete information package	\$10.00

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR  
SCHEDULE B  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS**

Section	Offence	Minimum Penalty (1 <sup>st</sup> Offence)	Penalty (2 <sup>nd</sup> & Subsequent)
4.1 (a)	Keep a rooster within Village boundaries	\$150.00	\$300.00
4.1 (b)	Keep an unlicensed urban hen	\$150.00	\$300.00
5.1	Keeping more than 4 hens	\$150.00	\$300.00
5.5	Fail to renew urban hen license	\$150.00	\$300.00
5.7	Transfer an Urban Hen License	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.1 (a)	Fail to obtain a Premises Identification Number	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.1 (b)	Fail to follow biosecurity procedures	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (a)	Fail to provide essentials to each urban hen	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (b)	Fail to keep hens secured	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (c), (d)	Fail to keep coop secured	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (e)	Fail to provide warmth	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (f)	Fail to prevent rodents/ animals from entering coop	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (g)	Fail to maintain coop in a sanitary condition/ good repair	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (h)	Fail to properly store feed	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (i)	Fail to keep food and water in coop	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (j)	Fail to remove waste in a timely manner	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (k)	Fail to properly store manure	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (l)	Fail to properly dispose of manure	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2(m)	Slaughter of hens on property	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (n)	Unlawful disposal of deceased hens	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (q)	Selling products derived from urban hens (eggs, manure, meat, etc.)	\$150.00	\$300.00
8.1(a)	Coop fails to meet size/ enclosure requirements	\$150.00	\$300.00
8.1 (b)	Fail to provide nest box or perch	\$150.00	\$300.00
8.1 (c)	Coop not located properly on subject property	\$150.00	\$300.00
8.2	Coop fails to meet setback requirements	\$150.00	\$300.00

**Appendix A  
VILLAGE OF HUSSAR  
Urban Hen License Application**

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*CHICKEN LICENSES ARE EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, AND ARE REQUIRED TO BE RENEWED ANNUALLY*

---

**Please print and complete the entire form**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Hens being kept at address (Max 4) \_\_\_\_\_

Premises Identification Number (PID): \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:

Owner

Tenant\*\*

\*\*if tenant, a letter of authorization is required from the registered property owner, along with this application form

- The granting of this license shall in no way relieve the owner from complying with the requirements of the Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw or any other relevant bylaws of the Village of Hussar or other Provincial or Federal Statutes or Regulations in force.
- I certify that I have read the required training manual in its entirety and watched the 9 educational videos. I have attached a copy of Appendix C with my initials beside each completed training requirement.
- I certify that I will abide by all regulations for the keeping of urban hens pursuant to the Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw, knowing that failure to comply may result in my Urban Hen License being revoked.
- I understand that my coop may require a development permit, building permits and safety codes permits that must be completed as per the Land Use Bylaw Regulations.
- I understand that providing false or misleading information will result in my Urban Hen License being revoked or denied

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 331 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act for the purpose of issuing urban hen licenses, and for monitoring and animal control purposes. If you have any questions about the collection, use and protection of this information please contact the Village of Hussar FOIP Coordinator at 403-787-3766. 109 1 Avenue E, Hussar, AB T0J 1S0

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Application Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Application:    **Approved**       Denied       Pending (more info)

## Appendix B

### Adjacent Properties Notification Form

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am presently applying to the Village of Hussar for an Urban Hen License to keep \_\_\_\_ hens on my property. Each applicant must comply with all regulations for the licensing and keeping of urban hens pursuant to Section 5 of the Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw #549-22. As per Section 5.2 I am required to notify all adjacent properties of my intention to keep urban hens. Please confirm that I have notified you of such application by completing your contact information and signing below.

Adjacent Property Contact:

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact:

Village of Hussar  
109 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, Po Box 100  
Hussar, AB T0J 1S0  
office@villageofhussar.ca  
403-787-3766

**Adjoining Neighbour** means an owner or occupant of a property that is contiguous to a Subject Property along a common property line. This includes properties across a rear lane, but not across a street. If an adjoining property of the Subject Property is undeveloped or developed but otherwise vacant, the applicant is not required to notify that adjoining property.

## Appendix C

### Training Manual and Education Videos

READ	INITIAL (beside each once completed)
Urban Chickens Community Package (2 pg)	
A Compre'hen'sive 'Chick'list (1 pg)	
Fowl: Your Feathered Friends (39 pg)	
WATCH	
Are you Ready (1:22 min)	
Do you have what it takes? (5 min)	
Hen Handling (2:16 min)	
Everyday Care (5:31 min)	
Coop Design (9:05 min)	
Biosecurity (6:06 min)	
Enrichments (3 min)	
Are your hens healthy (12:25 min)	
Preparing for Euthanasia (7:26 min)	

Other Resources:

Raising Chickens in Alberta, A Guide for Small Flock Owners  
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9780773261174>

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR**  
**URBAN HEN APPLICANTS**

Dear Urban Hen License Applicant:

This application package contains the following documents:

- Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw 549-22
- Village of Hussar Urban Hen License Application
- Village of Hussar Urban Hen Adjacent Properties Notification
- Premises Identification (PID) Program Information and PID Account Form (this form is not required by us, it is provided as a courtesy and required for provincial purposes).
- Training Manual and education videos

- 1) The PID Program is managed by the Alberta Government as a way to notify animal owners of possible dangers to their animals, and to trace, control and prevent the spread of animal disease. Every approved urban hen application must submit an application form to the Government of Alberta to obtain a PID number and must provide proof of that number to the Village of Hussar when requested. Failure to do so may result in your license being refused or revoked. For more information on the PID Program visit:

<https://www.alberta.ca/register-with-the-animal-premises-identification-program.aspx>

- 2) Adjoining Neighbour means an owner or occupant of a property that is contiguous to a Subject Property along a common property line. This includes properties across a rear lane, but not across a street. Adjoining Neighbours are required to be notified, by signing the sample form they are only acknowledging that you have notified them of your intent.
- 3) Coops may require development permits and building permits as per Land Use Bylaw Regulations.
- 4) Every applicant must participate in the training manual provided by the Village and watch the 9 educational videos found at:

<https://www.afac.ab.ca/resources/urban-hen/>

Initial beside each completed requirement and submit with your application.

Should you have any questions or need help with this application package, please contact our office and we will be pleased to assist you.

Sincerely,

Village of Hussar



**BYLAW 549-22  
VILLAGE OF HUSSAR**

**A BYLAW OF THE VILLAGE OF HUSSAR, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO REGULATE THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS IN URBAN AREAS**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act* the council of a municipality may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting; the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property; wild and domestic animals and activities in relation to them; and the enforcement of bylaws;

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 8 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the council of a municipality may, in a bylaw, regulate or prohibit and to provide for a system of licenses, permits and approvals.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Village of Hussar, in the Province of Alberta, hereby enacts as follows:

**1. SECTION 1 – SHORT TITLE**

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as the Village of Hussar “Urban Hen Bylaw”.

**2. SECTION 2 – PURPOSE**

2.1 The purpose of this bylaw is to regulate and control the keeping of chickens within Urban Areas

**3. SECTION 3 – DEFINITIONS**

3.1 **Abattoir** means a facility where animals are slaughtered for consumption as food for humans.

3.2 **Act** means the *Municipal Government Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto.

3.3 **Adjoining Neighbour** means an owner or occupant of a property that is contiguous to a Subject Property along a common property line. This includes properties across a rear lane, but not across a street.

3.4 **Animal Health Act** means Statutes of Alberta 2007, Chapter A-40.2.

3.5 **Chief Administrative Officer** means the person holding the office of Chief Administrative Officer of the Village of Hussar.

3.6 **Coop** means a fully enclosed weatherproof structure with an attached outdoor enclosure

3.7 **Council** means the Council of the Village of Hussar.

3.8 **Enforcement Officer** means a Bylaw Officer appointed by the Village of Hussar pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.M-26, as amended to enforce the bylaws of the Village of Hussar and includes Peace Officers and the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

3.9 **Hen** means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four (4) months old.

3.10 **Hen Keeper** means a person having any right of custody, control or possession of a Hen.

3.11 **Hen License** means a license issued under this bylaw that authorizes the keeping of hens on a specific property within an Urban area within the Village.

- 3.12 **Licensing Authority** means the Chief Administrative Officer or a person appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer to issue Hen Licenses.
- 3.13 **Nest Box** means a box within a Coop for the nesting of Hens.
- 3.14 **Outdoor Enclosure** means a securely enclosed, roofed outdoor area attached to and forming part of a Coop having a bare earthed or vegetated floor for Urban Chickens to roam.
- 3.15 **Premises Identification (PID) Number** means a nine-character combination of numbers and letters issued by the Province of Alberta pursuant to the provisions of the *Animal Health Act* to owners of livestock.
- 3.16 **Rooster** means a domesticated male chicken.
- 3.17 **Sell** means to exchange or deliver for money or its equivalent.
- 3.18 **Subject Property** means a lot or parcel of land in respect of which a Hen License is sought or has been issued.
- 3.19 **Temporary Caregiver** means a person who has been authorized by the Hen Keeper to provide care to their Hens in the event the Hen Keeper is temporarily unable to do so.
- 3.20 **Urban Area** means lands located within the Village on which agricultural operations, including but not limited to the keeping of livestock are neither a permitted or discretionary use under the Bylaws of the Village.
- 3.21 **Urban Hen** means a hen that is at least 16 weeks of age.
- 3.22 **Village** means the Village of Hussar, a municipal corporation in the Province of Alberta, and where the context so requires, means the area of land within the corporate boundaries thereof.
- 3.23 **Violation Tag** means a notice that alleges a bylaw offence and provides a person the opportunity to pay an amount to the Village in lieu of prosecution for the offence.
- 3.24 **Violation Ticket** means a violation ticket as defined in the *Provincial Procedures Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34.

#### 4. SECTION 4 – PROHIBITIONS

4.1 In an Urban Area, no person shall:

- a) Keep a Rooster;
- b) Keep a Hen, other than an Urban Hen for which a valid Hen License has been issued.

#### 5. SECTION 5 – URBAN HEN LICENSE

5.1 A person may apply to keep a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 urban hens by:

- a) Submitting a completed Urban Hen License Application Form (Appendix A)
- b) Paying a Hen License fee prescribed in Schedule A of this bylaw which is due payable at the time of the application, prior to approval and annually thereafter;
- c) Any other information reasonably required by the Licensing Authority, including but not limited to:
  - i. The name, address and contact information of the person who will be the Hen Keeper and of any person who may act as a Temporary Caregiver;
  - ii. A copy of a Certificate of Title for the Subject Property issued by the Land Titles;
  - iii. Written permission to keep hens on the Subject Property, from the registered owner of the Property as shown on the Certificate of Title, if the Hen Keeper is not the registered owner.
- d) A site plan including a drawing that shows the location of the coop and coop run dimensions and associated setbacks from the coop and coop run to the side and rear property lines.

- e) Evidence that the proposed Hen Keeper has experience or training from a source approved by the Licensing Authority. At a minimum, read the Training Manual and watched all 9 educational videos (Appendix C), on the safe handling of hens and eggs provided by the Village.
  - f) A copy of the Premises Identification (PID) Number applicable to Subject Property.
- 5.2 At the time of application for a Hen License, the applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority that all Adjoining Neighbours have been notified of the intent to apply for a Hen License on the Subject Property. (Appendix B) If an adjoining property of the Subject Property is undeveloped or developed but otherwise vacant, the applicant is not required to notify that adjoining property.
- 5.3 The applicant must reside on the property on which the Urban Hens will be kept;
- 5.4 A Hen License does not take effect until:
- a) The Licensing Authority is satisfied all provisions in Section 5.1 and 5.2 have been met; and
  - b) The appeal period referenced in Section 6.2 has expired, if no appeal was received during the appeal period; or
  - c) The Appeal Committee has made a decision on any appeal and that decision upholds the issuance of the Hen License, with or without conditions.
- 5.5 A Hen license is valid only for the period of January 1 to December 31 in the year for which the license is issued.
- 5.6 Hen License fees shall not be reduced or prorated no matter the month of purchase or total number of urban hens.
- 5.7 A Hen License is not transferable from one person to another or from one property to another.
- 5.8 A person to whom a Hen License has been issued shall produce the license at the demand of the Licensing Authority or an Enforcement Officer.
- 5.9 The Licensing Authority may refuse to grant or renew a Hen License for the following reasons:
- a) The applicant or license holder does not meet or has ceased to meet the requirements of this bylaw;
  - b) The applicant or license holder:
    - i. Provides false information or misrepresents any fact or circumstances to the Licensing Authority or Enforcement Officer;
    - ii. Fails to pay any fee required by this Bylaw or any applicable Bylaw;
    - iii. Fails to pay a fine imposed by a court for a contravention of this Bylaw or any other applicable Bylaw related to the keeping of Urban Hens;
    - iv. An applicant for or holder of a Hen License has been convicted of any offence involving abuse, mistreatment or negligent treatment of keeping of animals;
    - v. An applicant has previously been the holder of a Hen License that was revoked for non-compliance with this bylaw, or in respect of which an order has been made under section 645 of the *Municipal Government Act*;
    - vi. Has not complied with all other Provincial and Federal regulations for the keeping of livestock; or
  - c) In the opinion of the Licensing Authority based on reasonable grounds it is in the public interest to do so.
  - d) If the Licensing Authority refuses to grant or renew a Hen License, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Appeal Committee, in accordance with the procedures set out in this Bylaw.

## **6. SECTION 6 – APPEAL**

6.1 An appeal lies from a decision of the Licensing Authority to:

- a) Issue a Hen License, if the appellant is an Adjoining Neighbour;
- b) Impose conditions on a Hen License, if the appellant is the person who applied for the Hen License or is an Adjoining Neighbour;
- c) Refuse a Hen License, if the appellant is the person who applied for the Hen License; or
- d) Revoke a Hen License, if the appellant is the holder of the Hen License that was revoked.

6.2 An appeal under section 6.1 must be in writing, addressed to the Chief Administrative Officer, and must be received no later than fourteen (14) days after the decision appealed from is issued.

6.3 An Adjoining Neighbour may appeal under clause 6.1(a) or 6.1(b) of this bylaw only if the grounds of the appeal are:

- a) That the keeping of hens on the Subject Property is likely to have a materially adverse effect on the health of the Adjoining Neighbour or of a person living in the premises of the Adjoining Neighbour; or
- b) A reason or factor listed in clauses 5.9(a), 5.9(b)(i),(ii),(iv) or (v) of this bylaw.

6.4 As soon as reasonably practicable and in any event not more than fourteen (14) days after receiving a notice of appeal the Chief Administrative Officer must appoint an Appeal Committee for the purpose of hearing the appeal, and apart from appointing the Appeal Committee and providing it with administrative support the Chief Administrative Officer shall not be involved in the appeal process.

6.5 The Appeal Committee shall consist of three (3) members, none of whom is an employee or Council Member of the Village and that the Chief Administrative Officer may appoint members as deemed appropriate. In the case of an appeal from an adjoining member alleging the likelihood of a material adverse health effect, the Chief Administrative Officer must also make reasonable efforts to appoint the appeal committee a licensed and practicing veterinarian and a licensed and practicing physician.

6.6 The Appeal Committee shall schedule the hearing of the appeal within thirty (30) days after notice of appeal.

6.7 Subject to the requirements of this bylaw the Appeal Committee members shall, from among themselves, choose a Chair and may establish a procedure consistent with principles of natural justice for the hearing of the appeal.

6.8 The Appeal Committee shall provide its decision in writing, with reasons, within seven (7) business days of the hearing of the appeal. The Appeal Committee may:

- a) Uphold the decision of the Licensing Authority;
- b) Vary the decisions of the Licensing Authority, including imposing conditions on a Hen License that differ from any conditions imposed by the Licensing Authority; or
- c) Overturn the decision of the Licensing Authority.

6.9 The decision of the Appeal Committee is final and binding and is not subject to appeal to a Court.

6.10 An appeal of the Coop, accessory building, must follow the procedures for an appeal set out in the Village of Hussar Land Use Bylaw.

## **7. SECTION 7 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HEN KEEPER**

### **7.1 A Hen Keeper must:**

- a) Obtain a Premises Identification (PID) under the Premises Identification Regulation in the Animal Health Act and submit a copy to the Village.
- b) Follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to reduce potential for disease outbreak.

### **7.2 Hen Keepers, owners of a Subject Property, and Temporary Caregivers must:**

- a) Provide each urban hen with food, unfrozen water, shelter, adequate light, ventilation, warmth, veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dustbathing, roosting, pecking and socializing with their own kind;
- b) Keep each Hen in a secured area at all times;
- c) Keep the Coop secured from sunset on any given day to sunrise the following day;
- d) Ensure that Hens are kept in the Coop with all openings, such as doors and windows, secured in such a manner that will not allow predators to enter;
- e) Provide warmth to the Hens through heat lamps, wall insulation, poly-sheeting, seedling heat mat, or other means;
- f) Construct and maintain the Coop to prevent a rodent from harbouring underneath or within it or within its walls, and to prevent access to the coop by any other animal
- g) Maintain the Coop in good repair and sanitary conditions and free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances;
- h) Store feed in a fully enclosed, non-penetrable container;
- i) Keep food and water containers in the Coop;
- j) Remove leftover feed, trash and manure in a timely manner;
- k) Store manure within a fully enclosed container, and store no more than three (3) cubic feet of manure at any time;
- l) Remove all other manure not used for composting or fertilizing and dispose of such in accordance with Village Bylaws;
- m) Ensure Hens are slaughtered or euthanized at an appropriate location or facility, not on the Subject Property;
- n) Dispose of the carcass of a Hen deceased by natural causes, by double bagging and bringing it to a veterinarian, farm, abattoir, or other operation that is lawfully permitted to dispose of Hens;
- o) Take Hens to a veterinarian, farm, abattoir, or other operation if Hens are no longer wanted;
- p) Keep Hens in a cage only when actively transporting the Hen; and
- q) Keep Hens for personal use only, and not sell eggs, manure, meat, or any other products derived from Hens.

## **8. SECTION 8 – COOP REQUIREMENTS**

### **8.1 A Hen Keeper must:**

- a) Provide each Hen with at least 0.37 square meters of interior floor area, and at least 0.92 square meters of Coop Run outdoor area, within the Coop;
- b) Provide a minimum of one (1) nest box per coop and one (1) perch per Hen, that is at least 15 cm long;
- c) Ensure the Coop meets the requirements in the Land Use Bylaw regarding an accessory building.

- 8.2 Coops must meet the setbacks in the Land Use Bylaw and an accessory building can not block side yard access.
- 8.3 Coops cannot be located in a Utility Right of Way or an Overland Drainage Right of Way.
- 8.4 Only one (1) Coop per property shall be permitted.
- 8.5 Coops must be kept in the rear of the property
- 8.6 The maximum lot coverage of all structures on a property, including a Coop, must comply with the Land Use Bylaw.
- 8.7 The Licensing Authority and Development Authority have the authority to impose additional site-specific conditions.

## **9. SECTION 9 – GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR HEN KEEPERS**

- 9.1 Hen keeping is permitted under and in accordance with this bylaw.
- 9.2 This bylaw applies to the activity of Hen Keeping for personal use only. The commercial sale of Hens or Hen products is not permitted.
- 9.3 This Bylaw enables the keeping of Hens within the confines of a fenced property that does not permit Hens to be sheltered within a residential dwelling unit.
- 9.4 Each Hen must be a minimum of 4 months (16 weeks) old when acquired for keeping under a Hen License.
- 9.5 This bylaw does not exempt a person from complying with any Federal or Provincial law or regulation, other Village bylaw, or any requirement of any lawful permit, order, or license.

## **10. SECTION 10 – ENFORCEMENT**

- 10.1 The Licensing Authority or an Enforcement Officer has the right to access any Subject Property to inspect for compliance with this bylaw.
- 10.2 Where an Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a Hen Keeper has contravened any provision of this Bylaw the Enforcement Officer may serve the Hen Keeper a Municipal Violation Tag allowing payment of the specified penalty as set out in Schedule “B” of this Bylaw.
- 10.3 Should a hen keeping site, Coop, or Hen Keeper be found to be non-compliant with this Bylaw at any time, enforcement action may be taken including without limitation; issuing a Municipal Violation Tag or Violation Ticket, revocation of a Hen License or issuance of a Stop Order under Section 645 of the Municipal Government Act.
- 10.4 Should Hens and/or Coop be ordered to be removed, all costs and associated expenditures related to the removal shall be the responsibility of the property owner.
- 10.5 In the event of the revocation of a Hen Licensee, the Licensee will be given fourteen (14) days to rehome the Hens.
- 10.6 No person shall hinder, interrupt, or causes to be hindered any employee of the Village or its contractors, servants, agents, or workers, in the exercise of the powers or duties as authorized or required in this Bylaw.

## **11. SECTION 11 – OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

- 11.1 A person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence.
- 11.2 A person who is guilty of an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than \$150.00 as set out in Schedule “B” of this Bylaw.
- 11.3 In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention of a provision of this bylaw constitutes a separate offence with respect to each day, or part of a day, during which the contravention continues. A person found guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that set out in Schedule “B” for each such separate offence.

**12. SECTION 12 – MUNICIPAL VIOLATION TAG**

- 12.1 An Enforcement Officer may issue, with respect to an offence under this Bylaw, a Municipal Violation Tag specifying the amount established by this Bylaw.
- 12.2 A Municipal Violation Tag may be issued to such person:
- a) Either personally; or
  - b) By mailing a copy to such person at his or her last known address.
- 12.3 The Municipal Violation Tag shall state:
- a) The name of the Person;
  - b) The offence;
  - c) The penalty established by this Bylaw for the offence;
  - d) That the penalty shall be paid within 14 days of the issuance of the Municipal Violation Tag; and
  - e) Any other information as may be required.

**13. SECTION 13 – VIOLATION TICKET**

- 13.1 An Enforcement Officer may issue, with respect to an offence under this Bylaw, a Violation Ticket specifying the fine amount established by this Bylaw.
- 13.2 Where a Violation Ticket specifies a fine amount, a voluntary payment equal to the specified fine amount may be made as directed on the Violation Ticket.
- 13.3 If a Municipal Violation Tag has been issued and if the penalty has not been paid within the prescribed time, than an Enforcement Officer is authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.
- 13.4 Despite section 13.3, an Enforcement Officer is authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket to any person who the Enforcement Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.
- 13.5 If a Violation Ticket is issued in respect of an offence, the Violation Ticket may:
- a) Specify the fine amount established by this Bylaw for the offence; or
  - b) Require a person to appear in court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment

**14. SECTION 14 – POWERS OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

- 14.1 Without restricting any other power, duty or function granted by this Bylaw, the Chief Administrative Officer may:
- a) Carry out any inspections to determine compliance with this Bylaw;
  - b) Take any steps or carry out any actions required to enforce this Bylaw;
  - c) Take any steps or carry out any actions required to remedy a contravention of this Bylaw;
  - d) Establish forms for the purposes of this Bylaw; and
  - e) Delegate any powers, duties or functions under this Bylaw

**15. SECTION 15 – OBSTRUCTION**

- 15.1 No person shall obstruct or hinder any person in the exercise or performance of the person's powers pursuant to this Bylaw.

**16. SECTION 16 - SEVERABILITY**

- 16.1 Every provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions and if any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid for any reason by a Court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this Bylaw shall remain valid and enforceable.

**17. SECTION 17 – EFFECTIVE DATE**

17.1 This Bylaw shall come into force and effect upon receiving third and final reading and being signed.

READ a first time on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

READ a second time on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

READ a third and final time on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer



**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR  
SCHEDULE A  
FEES**

Fee Description	Fee
Hen License Fee, includes Coop development permit (accessory building)	\$75.00
Annual Hen License Fee (Jan 1 – Dec 31)	\$25.00
PRINTED Complete information package	\$10.00

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR  
SCHEDULE B  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS**

Section	Offence	Minimum Penalty (1 <sup>st</sup> Offence)	Penalty (2 <sup>nd</sup> & Subsequent)
4.1 (a)	Keep a rooster within Village boundaries	\$150.00	\$300.00
4.1 (b)	Keep an unlicensed urban hen	\$150.00	\$300.00
5.1	Keeping more than 4 hens	\$150.00	\$300.00
5.5	Fail to renew urban hen license	\$150.00	\$300.00
5.7	Transfer an Urban Hen License	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.1 (a)	Fail to obtain a Premises Identification Number	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.1 (b)	Fail to follow biosecurity procedures	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (a)	Fail to provide essentials to each urban hen	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (b)	Fail to keep hens secured	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (c), (d)	Fail to keep coop secured	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (e)	Fail to provide warmth	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (f)	Fail to prevent rodents/ animals from entering coop	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (g)	Fail to maintain coop in a sanitary condition/ good repair	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (h)	Fail to properly store feed	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (i)	Fail to keep food and water in coop	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (j)	Fail to remove waste in a timely manner	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (k)	Fail to properly store manure	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (l)	Fail to properly dispose of manure	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2(m)	Slaughter of hens on property	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (n)	Unlawful disposal of deceased hens	\$150.00	\$300.00
7.2 (q)	Selling products derived from urban hens (eggs, manure, meat, etc.)	\$150.00	\$300.00
8.1(a)	Coop fails to meet size/ enclosure requirements	\$150.00	\$300.00
8.1 (b)	Fail to provide nest box or perch	\$150.00	\$300.00
8.1 (c)	Coop not located properly on subject property	\$150.00	\$300.00
8.2	Coop fails to meet setback requirements	\$150.00	\$300.00

**Appendix A**  
**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR**  
**Urban Hen License Application**

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*CHICKEN LICENSES ARE EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, AND ARE REQUIRED TO BE RENEWED ANNUALLY*

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**Please print and complete the entire form**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Hens being kept at address (Max 4) \_\_\_\_\_

Premises Identification Number (PID): \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:

Owner

Tenant\*\*

\*\*if tenant, a letter of authorization is required from the registered property owner, along with this application form

- The granting of this license shall in no way relieve the owner from complying with the requirements of the Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw or any other relevant bylaws of the Village of Hussar or other Provincial or Federal Statutes or Regulations in force.
- I certify that I have read the required training manual in its entirety and watched the 9 educational videos. I have attached a copy of Appendix C with my initials beside each completed training requirement.
- I certify that I will abide by all regulations for the keeping of urban hens pursuant to the Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw, knowing that failure to comply may result in my Urban Hen License being revoked.
- I understand that my coop may require a development permit, building permits and safety codes permits that must be completed as per the Land Use Bylaw Regulations.
- I understand that providing false or misleading information will result in my Urban Hen License being revoked or denied

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 331 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act for the purpose of issuing urban hen licenses, and for monitoring and animal control purposes. If you have any questions about the collection, use and protection of this information please contact the Village of Hussar FOIP Coordinator at 403-787-3766. 109 1 Avenue E, Hussar, AB T0J 1S0

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Application Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Application:    **Approved**       **Denied**       **Pending (more info)**

## Appendix B

### Adjacent Properties Notification Form

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am presently applying to the Village of Hussar for an Urban Hen License to keep \_\_\_\_ hens on my property. Each applicant must comply with all regulations for the licensing and keeping of urban hens pursuant to Section 5 of the Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw #549-22. As per Section 5.2 I am required to notify all adjacent properties of my intention to keep urban hens. Please confirm that I have notified you of such application by completing your contact information and signing below.

Adjacent Property Contact:

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact:

Village of Hussar  
109 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, Po Box 100  
Hussar, AB T0J 1S0  
office@villageofhussar.ca  
403-787-3766

**Adjoining Neighbour** means an owner or occupant of a property that is contiguous to a Subject Property along a common property line. This includes properties across a rear lane, but not across a street. If an adjoining property of the Subject Property is undeveloped or developed but otherwise vacant, the applicant is not required to notify that adjoining property.

## Appendix C

### Training Manual and Education Videos

READ	INITIAL (beside each once completed)
Urban Chickens Community Package (2 pg)	
A Compre'hen'sive 'Chick'list (1 pg)	
Fowl: Your Feathered Friends (39 pg)	
WATCH	
Are you Ready (1:22 min)	
Do you have what it takes? (5 min)	
Hen Handling (2:16 min)	
Everyday Care (5:31 min)	
Coop Design (9:05 min)	
Biosecurity (6:06 min)	
Enrichments (3 min)	
Are your hens healthy (12:25 min)	
Preparing for Euthanasia (7:26 min)	

Other Resources:

Raising Chickens in Alberta, A Guide for Small Flock Owners  
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9780773261174>

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR**  
**Urban Hen License Application**

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*CHICKEN LICENSES ARE EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, AND ARE REQUIRED TO BE RENEWED ANNUALLY*

---

**Please print and complete the entire form**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Hens being kept at address (Max 4) \_\_\_\_\_

Premises Identification Number (PID): \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:

Owner

Tenant\*\*

\*\*if tenant, a letter of authorization is required from the registered property owner, along with this application form

- The granting of this license shall in no way relieve the owner from complying with the requirements of the Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw or any other relevant bylaws of the Village of Hussar or other Provincial or Federal Statutes or Regulations in force.
- I certify that I have read the required training manual in its entirety and watched the 9 educational videos. I have attached a copy of Appendix C with my initials beside each completed training requirement.
- I certify that I will abide by all regulations for the keeping of urban hens pursuant to the Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw, knowing that failure to comply may result in my Urban Hen License being revoked.
- I understand that my coop may require a development permit, building permits and safety codes permits that must be completed as per the Land Use Bylaw Regulations.
- I understand that providing false or misleading information will result in my Urban Hen License being revoked or denied

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 33I of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act for the purpose of issuing urban hen licenses, and for monitoring and animal control purposes. If you have any questions about the collection, use and protection of this information please contact the Village of Hussar FOIP Coordinator at 403-787-3766. 109 1 Avenue E, Hussar, AB T0J 1S0

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Application Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Application:    **Approved**       **Denied**       **Pending (more info)**

### Adjacent Properties Notification Form

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am presently applying to the Village of Hussar for an Urban Hen License to keep \_\_\_\_ hens on my property. Each applicant must comply with all regulations for the licensing and keeping of urban hens pursuant to Section 5 of the Village of Hussar Urban Hen Bylaw #549-22. As per Section 5.2 I am required to notify all adjacent properties of my intention to keep urban hens. Please confirm that I have notified you of such application by completing your contact information and signing below.

Adjacent Property Contact:

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact:

Village of Hussar  
109 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, Po Box 100  
Hussar, AB T0J 1S0  
office@villageofhussar.ca  
403-787-3766

**Adjoining Neighbour** means an owner or occupant of a property that is contiguous to a Subject Property along a common property line. This includes properties across a rear lane, but not across a street. If an adjoining property of the Subject Property is undeveloped or developed but otherwise vacant, the applicant is not required to notify that adjoining property.

## Training Manual and Education Videos

READ	INITIAL (beside each once completed)
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Fowl: Your Feathered Friends (39 pg)	
WATCH	
Are you Ready (1:22 min)	
Do you have what it takes? (5 min)	
Hen Handling (2:16 min)	
Everyday Care (5:31 min)	
Coop Design (9:05 min)	
Biosecurity (6:06 min)	
Enrichments (3 min)	
Are your hens healthy (12:25 min)	
Preparing for Euthanasia (7:26 min)	



**Premises Identification (PID)**, one of the pillars of traceability, links livestock and poultry to land locations or premises. This information is collected in the PID System, which can be quickly accessed for the protection of our industry. The PID System has a variety of uses including planning for, controlling and preventing the spread of an animal disease. It is also used to notify animal owners of an impending emergency, such as a flood or fire, that could affect their animals. By completing a PID Application and keeping your information up-to-date, you will take an important step in protecting your animals and those of other Alberta and Canadian producers.

## Who needs to apply

Under Alberta's *Premises Identification Regulation*, if you own a livestock animal or poultry, and that animal is kept at a premises other than a commingling site (e.g. stable), you need to apply for a PID Account and obtain at least one PID Number associated to where the animal(s) are located.

You must apply for a PID Account within 30 days of assuming ownership of an animal. Although you may view your livestock as a pet or companion animal, it is important to obtain a PID Account because your animal can still receive and/or transmit diseases. Even if you own only one animal, it is still necessary to obtain a PID Account.

If you operate a commingling site (e.g. stable, community pasture, fair ground, etc.), you are required to obtain a PID Account, register all your commingling sites and provide the PID Number(s) to the users of your site(s). You must apply for a PID Account within 30 days of assuming ownership or operation of a commingling site.

## Obtaining a New PID Account

To obtain a PID Account, you can fill out the attached paper application package or go online at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises) to register. For those completing the paper application, you will need to fill out:

- a **PID Account Form**,
- **at least one Schedule A**, and
- **if applicable, a Schedule B**.

Here are some additional instructions:

- On the PID Account Form, check "New PID Account Application." Complete and sign the form.
- If you are an animal owner, complete a Schedule A for at least one premises and check "New Premises." This is preferably where your main animal operation is located, which is usually your home quarter. If you have multiple premises, you have the option to complete a Schedule A for each additional premises, which can better reflect where your animals are at any given time.
- If you operate a commingling site, complete a Schedule A for each commingling site you operate and check "New Premises."
- To add additional or alternate contact(s) for a premises, you can complete a Schedule B and check "New Premises." You may complete a Schedule B for each premises you are registering.
- Alternatively, you can easily set up a new PID Account online by visiting [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises).

## Updating a PID Account

It is important that you update your account within 30 days of any changes. For example, this would include changes in account contact information, maximum capacity of the premises or contact information for emergencies. If the PID System does not contain accurate and up-to-date information, the emergency response might be delayed. To update your information using the paper application:

- Check "Update an existing PID Account" on the PID Account Form. Complete and sign the form. If required, provide any updates to the general information in Part A.
- If you are updating information on a premises already registered in the PID System, include a completed Schedule A with the updated information. Also, check "Update existing Premises" and provide the PID Number.
- To add a new premises to an existing PID Account, include a completed Schedule A for each additional premises and check "New Premises."
- If you are adding an additional or alternate emergency contact for a premises or wanting to update the information previously submitted, include a completed Schedule B.
- Alternatively, you can gain access to your PID Account to make changes online by calling **780-422-9167**.

## Submitting completed application and schedule(s)

### Mail

Premises Identification Program  
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
7000 – 113 Street Edmonton AB T6H 5T6

### Fax

Premises Identification  
Program 780-427-5921

### In person

You can submit your application to any Alberta Agriculture Field Office located throughout Alberta

## For more information

For additional information, contact the Alberta Ag-Info Centre toll-free at 310-FARM (3276) or your local Agriculture Field Office. You can also get more information and set-up/update your PID Account online at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises).

 **Apply online! Visit [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises) to obtain your PID Account today!**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I apply for a PID Account and/or update my information online?

Yes, visit [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises).

### Where can I obtain more copies of the PID Account Form, Schedule A or Schedule B?

The paper application and schedules are available for print online at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises). You can also visit your local Agriculture Field Office for copies.

### Why is premises identification important?

Premises identification is an important part of an effective traceability system and emergency management plan. In an animal health event, having animal locations and other key information in one system is critical for quick, accurate and cost-effective emergency response.

### What is a PID Number?

A PID Number is a nine character unique identifier associated with a specific land location; Alberta PID Numbers start with 'A'.

### When will I need to use PID Numbers?

PID Numbers are required or asked for on many transportation documents when transporting your animals. PID Numbers are also required when buying medications at a licensed retail outlet or when selling animals at an auction market. Agriculture programs and grants may also request your PID Number as part of their eligibility requirements.

### What species of animals are included under premises identification?

Any animal in captivity designated in the regulation, including livestock and/or poultry, needs to be recorded under your premises. For a complete listing of the species please see Schedule A, Part 7 of the PID Application or the Alberta *Premises Identification Regulation*.

### Do I need a PID Account if I only have one animal?

Yes, you need a PID Account because even one animal can receive and transmit infectious diseases that can affect your herd/flock, neighbouring animals and sometimes the entire industry. Having an up-to-date PID Account ensures that you will be contacted in the case of an emergency situation.

### What is a commingling site?

A commingling site is a location, other than a farm or ranch, where animals owned by different owners are kept together either temporarily or permanently.

### Do I need to register each location where animals I own and/or have care and control of are located?

Operators of commingling sites are required to register all their commingling sites and obtain a PID Number for each premises. Animal owners that take care of their own animals are required to have at least one premises registered, preferably the main animal operation. It is beneficial for animal owners to register additional premises in the PID System, particularly those away from the main operation, to ensure they are still notified if an emergency happens in that area. Animal owners can register each premises by completing a separate Schedule A.

### What is "maximum capacity"?

Maximum capacity is not the actual number of animals on the premises. Rather, it is an estimate of the highest number of animals (of the selected species) that the operation(s) on the premises could reasonably accommodate. This information, used in conjunction with the type of species on the premises, allows emergency responders to prepare and respond appropriately.

### Will the information I share be kept confidential?

Your information is protected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP Act) and the *Animal Health Act* (AHA). It may be used or disclosed to authorized individuals, in accordance with the AHA, for the purposes set out in the AHA including to plan for or respond to an animal health emergency or to validate premises information held in the system.

### I completed my application. When will I find out my PID Number?

The account contact will receive a letter in the mail within one to two weeks with the PID Number(s) for each individually registered premises. Retain this letter for your records. If you require your PID Number in the meantime, please contact 310-FARM (3276).

### What should I do if I forget my PID Number?

If you forget your PID Number, please contact 310-FARM (3276) for assistance.

### What happens if my information changes?

Information associated to a PID Account needs to be updated within 30 days of any change. This includes changes to contact information, animal types, maximum capacity, etc. It is vital that information is updated as it changes so you can receive the best service and support from emergency responders. To update your information, fill out the appropriate section of the PID Application and either mail or fax it to the Premises Identification Program. You can also return it to your local Agriculture Field Office. Changes can be made online at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises).

### Where can I get more information?

For more information on the PID Program including regulations, contact the Alberta Ag-Info Centre toll-free at 310-FARM (3276), a local Agriculture Field Office, or visit [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises). To learn more about Traceability in Alberta, visit [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability).

### Did someone help you today?

\_\_\_\_\_ helped you today  
name

at \_\_\_\_\_  
location

on \_\_\_\_\_  
date



Apply online!

Visit [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises)  
to obtain your PID Account today!

Reference note:

# PID ACCOUNT FORM

You must fill out the **required information** on this **Form** which is marked by an asterisk (\*)**\* PURPOSE OF APPLICATION**

(Check (✓) one)

☐ **New** PID Account Application☐ **Update** an existing PID Account

**Complete this form to set-up a new PID Account or update an existing PID Account in Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Premises Identification Program.** To delete an existing PID Account, please contact the PID Administrator at 780-422-9167.

This form should be accompanied by a Schedule A - Premises Information Sheet for Animal Owners and Commingling Site Operators for each premises an Applicant registers or updates under the program. If an Applicant has an existing PID Account and is simply updating information in Part A of this form, it is not necessary to complete a Schedule A for each premises registered to the account.

**PART A – General Information****\* Applicant or Account Holder's Legal Business Name** (If sole proprietor, name of individual)**\* Business Type** (Check (✓) one)☐ Incorporated Company☐ Individual☐ Trusts☐ Government Entity☐ Partnership (Limited Liability Partnership)☐ Non-Profit**\* Business Operating Name** (If different from Legal Business Name)**Account Contact Name** (Individual responsible for the maintenance of information on this application.)**\* First Name****Middle Name****\* Last Name****\* Mailing Address****\* City/Town****\* Province****\* Postal Code****\* Phone****Mobile****Fax****Email****\* Preferred method of communication** (Check (✓) one)☐ Phone☐ Mobile☐ Fax☐ Email**Comments or Instructions if applicable** (e.g. best to reach after 7 p.m., etc.)**PART B – Statement of Certification**

I certify that:

1. All information provided in this Application, including Schedule A and Schedule B, as applicable, in relation to this PID Program is complete and correct;
2. I will provide the necessary updates required by law to ensure that the information related to any premises on which I own animals or commingling site of which I am either an owner or an operator is complete and correct.

**For individual applicants, the individual must sign. For corporations and other entities, authorized signatories must sign.**

M	M	D	D	Y	Y	Y	Y
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**\* Signature****\* Print Name****\* Date**

Personal information you provide through this registration process for the provincial Premises Identification (PID) System allows industry and government to efficiently locate animals and notify owners of an emergency that might affect their animals. This information is collected under the authority of the *Alberta Animal Health Act* and the *Premises Identification Regulation*. The information is subject to the privacy and access provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, please contact the PID Administrator at **780-422-9167**.

**Submit completed information by mail**

Premises Identification Program  
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
7000 – 113 Street Edmonton AB T6H 5T6

**By fax**

Premises Identification Program  
780-427-5921

**In person**

You can submit your application to  
any Alberta Agriculture Field Office  
located throughout Alberta



Reference note:

**SCHEDULE A****Premises Information Sheet for Animal Owners and Commingling Site Operators**You must fill out the **required information** on this **Form** which is marked by an asterisk (\*)\* **PURPOSE OF APPLICATION** (Check (✓) one) ☐ New Premises ☐ Update existing Premises # A**PART 1 – Premises Nickname or Description**\* **Provide a name or description of the location where animals are located** (e.g. main ranch, summer pasture, etc.)**\* PART 2 – Location** (Select one of the six methods to identify the premises.)

<b>1. Legal Land Description</b>	Quarter NW/NE/SW/SE	Section 01-36	Township 001-136	Range 01-30	Meridian W4, W5, or W6 <b>W</b>
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2. **LINC #** - 10-digit number that appears on the top left corner of Alberta Registries Land Titles Certificates issued after 1988

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3. **Latitude & Longitude**

Latitude +

--

--

Longitude -

--

--

4. **Surveyed Parcel Description**

Lot

--

Block

--

Plan

--

5. **Federal or Provincial Land**☐ First Nation☐ Métis Settlement☐ National Park☐ DND†

Name

--

6. **Street Address** - If premises is contained in an urban area

Address

City/Town

Province

Postal Code

\* **PART 3 – Relationship to Premises** Relationship of applicant or account holder in PART A to the ownership of the premises. (Check (✓) one)☐ Owner☐ Renter/Lessee☐ User of Commingling Site☐ Operator of Commingling Site☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_**PART 4 – CCIA Premises Number** Premises ID Number previously issued by the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency.

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\* **PART 5 – Premises Contact Information** Essential for emergency purposes. Primary individual responsible for care and control of animals on the premises.☐ Check (✓) if same as Account Contact in Part A on PID Account Form. If different individual, provide contact information below.\* **First Name****Middle Name**\* **Last Name**\* **Mailing Address**\* **City/Town**\* **Province**\* **Postal Code**\* **Phone****Mobile****Fax****Email**\* **Preferred method of communication** (Check (✓) one)☐ Phone☐ Mobile☐ Fax☐ Email**Comments or Instructions if applicable** (e.g. best to reach after 7 p.m., etc.)**IF APPLICABLE, USE SCHEDULE B TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OR ALTERNATE CONTACT(S) FOR THIS PREMISES**

# SCHEDULE A (cont'd)

Premises Information Sheet for Animal Owners and Commingling Site Operators.

**\* PART 6 – Types of Operations** (Check (✓) all operations that the Account Holder conducts on this premises.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Farm (Ranch)	<input type="checkbox"/> Feedlot	<input type="checkbox"/> Pasture (Range)	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Pasture
<input type="checkbox"/> Abattoir under the <i>Meat Inspection Act</i> (Alberta)	<input type="checkbox"/> Carcass Disposal Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Hatchery	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Acreage/Hobby Farm
<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Artificial Insemination Centre	<input type="checkbox"/> Competition Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Market	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban
<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Embryo Transfer Station	<input type="checkbox"/> Establishment operating under the <i>Meat Inspection Act</i> (Alberta)	<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock or Poultry Research Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Facility (Clinic, Laboratory, Hospital)
<input type="checkbox"/> Assembling Station	<input type="checkbox"/> Establishment operating under the <i>Meat Inspection Act</i> (Canada)	<input type="checkbox"/> Race Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoos, petting Zoos
<input type="checkbox"/> Boarding Stable	<input type="checkbox"/> Fairs and Exhibition	<input type="checkbox"/> Renderer	<input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>Specify</i> )

**\* Part 7 – Species** (Check (✓) all species you have on the premises, and indicate the maximum capacity for each species checked.)

Capacity	Capacity	Capacity
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Alpacas	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Geese in captivity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Poultry: Pullets
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Bees (# of hives)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Goats	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Poultry: Table egg
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Bison	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Guinea Fowl in captivity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Poultry: Turkey
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Cattle: Beef	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Horses	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Poultry: Wild turkeys in captivity
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Cattle: Dairy	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Llamas	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Quail in captivity
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Deer (White-tailed, Mule)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Mules, Donkeys	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Rabbits <sup>4</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Domestic Cervids	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Peafowl in captivity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Ratites
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Doves in captivity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Pheasants in captivity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Sheep
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Ducks in captivity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Pigeons in captivity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Swine
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Elk	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Poultry: Broiler	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Wild Boars
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Fish <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Poultry: Hatching egg	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Yaks
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Fur-bearing Animals <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/> Poultry: Other <sup>3</sup>	

1) Fish acquired, propagated, reared or kept in accordance with a class A commercial fish culture licence or a class B commercial fish culture licence issued under the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*.

2) Fur-bearing animals as defined in the *Fur Farms Act*.

3) Fancy or heritage breeds, and poultry on acreages/hobby farms/licensed urban locations.

4) Rabbits raised for the production of meat.

**A COMPLETED PID ACCOUNT FORM MUST ACCOMPANY SCHEDULE A**



Reference note:

**SCHEDULE B**Additional or Alternate Contact(s) for Premises  
ESSENTIAL FOR EMERGENCY CONTACT PURPOSESYou must fill out the **required information** on this **Form** which is marked by an asterisk (\*)\* **PURPOSE OF APPLICATION** (Check (✓) one) ☐ New Premises ☐ Update existing Premises # A**PART 1 – Premises Nickname or Description**

\* Provide the name or the description of the premises from Schedule A

**Information for Alternate Premises Contact NO. 1**

\* First Name Middle Name \* Last Name

\* Mailing Address

\* City/Town \* Province \* Postal Code

\* Phone Mobile Fax

Email

\* Preferred Method of Communication (Check (✓) one) ☐ Phone ☐ Mobile ☐ Fax ☐ Email

Comments or Instructions if applicable (e.g. best to reach after 7 p.m., etc.)

**Information for Alternate Premises Contact NO. 2**

\* First Name Middle Name \* Last Name

\* Mailing Address

\* City/Town \* Province \* Postal Code

\* Phone Mobile Fax

Email

\* Preferred Method of Communication (Check (✓) one) ☐ Phone ☐ Mobile ☐ Fax ☐ Email

Comments or Instructions if applicable (e.g. best to reach after 7 p.m., etc.)

**Information for Alternate Premises Contact NO. 3**

\* First Name Middle Name \* Last Name

\* Mailing Address

\* City/Town \* Province \* Postal Code

\* Phone Mobile Fax

Email

\* Preferred Method of Communication (Check (✓) one) ☐ Phone ☐ Mobile ☐ Fax ☐ Email

Comments or Instructions if applicable (e.g. best to reach after 7 p.m., etc.)

A COMPLETED PID ACCOUNT FORM MUST ACCOMPANY SCHEDULE B



# Urban Chickens

## Community Package



Growing Forward 2 

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

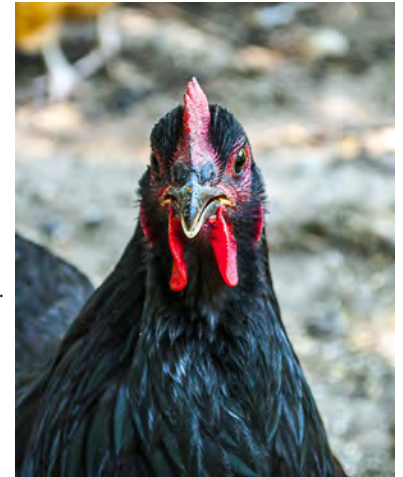
Alberta  Canada 

Government

### URBAN CHICKENS

In recent years, there has been increased interest from individuals and communities on keeping backyard chickens. Several communities across Alberta currently allow residents to raise backyard chickens or are considering amending their bylaws to allow it. Residents may be interested in keeping chickens for various reasons including for fresh eggs, as an educational opportunity for children, compost, pest control, or the desire to know more about how their food is produced.

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) is a multi-species livestock welfare organization and aims to ensure continuous improvement in animal care and welfare. In 2017, AFAC created an Urban Chicken/Small Flock Care Manual and resources for current and potential chicken owners. This suite of learning materials includes a comprehensive, user-friendly manual that focuses on urban chicken care, training video resources, and workshops that include hands-on training. These resources are available to interested residents and communities by contacting us at [info@afac.ab.ca](mailto:info@afac.ab.ca) or 403-652-5111. You can find more information on our website: [www.afac.ab.ca](http://www.afac.ab.ca).



### CONSIDERATIONS

If a community is considering permitting residents to keep urban chickens, the following should be taken into consideration:

- Is there a local veterinarian who can provide support and treat poultry?
- Are there trained municipal representatives who can process applications and licenses, deal with concerns that may arise, conduct coop inspections, etc.?
- Does the area have a high number of wildlife and predators?
- Does the municipality have a designated area where poultry owners can dispose of chicken manure/bedding material and any mortalities?
- Is there a poultry professional nearby who can provide an educational workshop to residents on keeping urban chickens, and provide ongoing expertise and support? (*Highly recommended*)



## RESPONSIBILITIES

Backyard chickens can be successful in an urban municipality, provided chicken owners fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Provide basic needs such as food, water, shelter, light, and ventilation
- Keep the coop in sanitary condition, with regular disposal of manure and bedding material, and in good repair
- Ensure the coop provides adequate protection from vermin, wild animals, and predators
- Provide the chickens with opportunities to perform essential behaviors such as dust-bathing, roosting, and scratching
- Follow basic biosecurity procedures to keep the chickens and themselves safe
- Be knowledgeable about proper food safety practices
- Know how to act accordingly if one of their chickens gets sick or if there is a disease outbreak
- Be cognizant of the time and financial commitment required to care for the chickens
- Have a plan for what to do with the chickens once they quit laying; it is not uncommon for backyard chickens to live 8-10 years
- Have an emergency contact who can provide care for the chickens in case of an emergency.



## SAMPLE BYLAWS

The following are examples of bylaws from communities across Alberta that permit residents to raise backyard chickens:

- Any person wanting to keep urban chickens must obtain a Premises Identification (PID) under the Alberta Animal Health Act
- An application must be submitted and approved
- An approved license is required to be renewed annually
- In order to be approved for a license, each urban chicken keeper must take urban chicken training or equivalent, designed to provide adequate information regarding the successful keeping of chickens in an urban area.
- Only hens will be allowed to be kept; no person shall keep a rooster
- Maximum number of hens is 3 to 8 per household.
- Hens must be a minimum of 16 weeks of age
- Provide each Hen with at least 0.37m<sup>2</sup> of interior floor area, and at least 0.92m<sup>2</sup> of outdoor enclosure, within the coop
- Provide at least one nest box per every 4 birds
- Locate the coop in a place that is mindful and considerate of neighbours
- Have a town representative inspect the coop prior to approval
- No hen shall be slaughtered on the property
- Residents cannot sell eggs, manure, meat or other hen related products
- Follow procedures recommended by the Federal and Provincial Governments to reduce potential disease outbreak.

## AFAC ALERT LINE

The ALERT Line is an anonymous help line. If residents or town representatives see backyard chickens that are in distress or neglected, or have a question about backyard chicken care, they can call 1-800-506-2273. The ALERT Line will send out an individual knowledgeable in the keeping of chickens who can offer solutions to improve care and provide knowledgeable counsel.



# A Compre'hen'sive 'Chick'list

## Daily

*For an urban coop with 4-8 birds, it would be reasonable to expect to spend 15 minutes in the morning and evening*

*Date completed:* \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Fresh Feed and Water
- ☐ Open/Close the Coop
- ☐ Overall Health/Behaviour Check
- ☐ Collect Eggs
- ☐ Check the Weather
- ☐ Turn Light On/Off
- ☐ Clean off Roosts
- ☐ Remove Soiled Bedding
- ☐ Clean up Spilled Feed/Water
- ☐ Refill Grit, Oyster Shells, Scratch (Winter)
- ☐ Dispose of Mortalities
- ☐ Record Keeping

## Weekly

*For an urban coop with 4-8 birds, it would be reasonable to expect to spend 1 hour per week*

*Date Completed:* \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Clean and Disinfect Waterers
- ☐ Inspect the Coop
- ☐ Assess the Litter
- ☐ Check the Dust Bath

## Monthly

*For an urban coop with 4-8 birds, it would be reasonable to expect to spend 3 hours per month.*

*Date Completed:* \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Pick up Feed and Bedding Material
- ☐ Thoroughly Clean the Coop

## Seasonal

*Date Completed:* \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Adjust for Weather
- ☐ Veterinary Care
- ☐ Deep Cleaning the Coop



**FOWL:**

# YOUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

*Your Comprehensive Guide to Keeping Urban Chickens and Small Flocks*



# Acknowledgments

This manual and accompanying education program is designed to help those who already own or are contemplating the purchase of urban/backyard hens or small flocks. It is essential that animal care and bird health practices are optimal for these lovely beings in our care. We aim to help you do the best job you can for the birds. If you should ever need help, there is a wealth of information available for you – just drop us a line!

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- Lisa Steele, Author and Professional Chicken Enthusiast, Fresh Eggs Daily
- Dr. Ana Ulmer-Franco, Veterinarian, Government of Alberta

*Fun manual title courtesy of Martha Schroeder-Klassen!*

The views expressed in this manual are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the governments of Canada and Alberta.

This project was funded through Growing Forward 2 (GF2), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



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- Uninspected Egg Carton: Calico Farms

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## CHAPTER 8: HANDLING AND BODY CONDITION SCORING

- Picking Up a Chicken: Cassandra Kirkpatrick
- Checking the Crop: Cassandra Kirkpatrick
- How to Assign a Body Condition Score: Alberta Farm Animal Care
- Body Condition Scores: Welfare Quality Assessment for Laying Hens: A Handbook

## CHAPTER 9: BREEDING, HATCHING, AND RAISING CHICKS

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## CHAPTER 10: HEALTH PROBLEMS AND DISEASE

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- Healthy Chick with Good Legs: Poultry Industry Council
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## CHAPTER 11: BIOSECURITY

- The Disease Cycle: Alberta Farm Animal Care
- Biosecurity Sign: Cassandra Kirkpatrick

## CHAPTER 12: END OF LIFE PLANS

- Farm with Rainbow: Pixabay
- Compromised Chick (Diseased): Poultry Industry Council
- Compromised Chick (Leg Injury): Poultry Industry Council
- Demonstrating Decapitation: Poultry Industry Council
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## CHAPTER 13: BUTCHERING

- Chicken Breasts: Pixabay
- Butchering Tools: Poultry Industry Council
- Placing Live Chicken in a Cone for Restraint: Poultry Industry Council
- Knife Placement on a Chicken: Poultry Industry Council

## CHAPTER 14: RESOURCES

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# WHO IS ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE?

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) is a multi-species livestock welfare organization. Our mission is to promote best practices in farm animal care and handling and provide a forum connecting organizations and individuals with a stake in animal agriculture. Together we work towards continual improvement in responsible, humane animal care. We engage with consumers in a transparent manner to enhance public confidence in farm animal care.

AFAC was founded in 1993 by the livestock industry to work for the livestock industry. We are primarily funded through memberships and contributions. We have a strong working relationship with the Government of Alberta's Agriculture and Forestry department and receive some program and project funding from them to enhance the work that we do here.

We strongly believe that we are better together. Each of our members provides a unique perspective from their farm, business, or organization. By providing a forum for discussion, AFAC is able to strengthen the industry from within.

## WHAT DOES ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE DO?

Farmers, commodity organizations, agribusinesses, and other members of the agri-food value chain invest in Alberta Farm Animal Care each year. They do so because they believe in a community-based approach to building public trust in farming and continuous improvement in farm animal care. We strive to produce helpful resources and communications for both farmers and the public. We are proud to help represent the livestock farming community!

### SOME OF OUR INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

#### *Member Engagement –*

Maintaining a strong connection with our members allows us to keep on top of the issues and help you to do the same. We regularly check-in with our members to ensure that the work we do continues to be useful!

#### *Annual Livestock Care Conference –*

Every year we bring together industry experts, researchers, innovative producers, and students together to learn about the latest improvements on animal care and welfare around the world

#### *Consumer Relations/Engagement –*

A strong presence at public events (such as the Calgary Stampede, FarmFair, Open Farm Days, etc.) and on social media allows us to engage in dialogue with the public and help educate consumers on farm animal care and farming.

#### *Industry Resources/Training –*

We continually create and maintain resources and training opportunities for the farming community in order to help improve animal care and welfare on-farm (ex. Humane Handling Guidelines, insight into the latest animal welfare research, emergency handling)

#### *ALERT Line –*

This is a “producers helping producers” call-line that is designed to provide help and advice to producers on issues of animal care or welfare from within the industry.

#### *Farm Animal Care Advisory Council –*

As a producer or organization member of Alberta Farm Animal Care, you can participate in our Advisory Council meetings. These meetings provide a forum for our members to connect and provide input, ideas, and valuable discussion on current issues within industry.

#### *Farm Animal Care Initiatives –*

We create, fund, and facilitate projects that examine issues relevant to more than one group, identify options for consideration, and drive change in the industry.

#### *Collective Spirit –*

We work hard at maintaining public acceptance (social license) by telling the good story of animal agriculture through video, infographics, and other visual communications. We believe that we are better when we support one another and act together.

#### *Agriculture Education –*

We provide customized presentations to schools (students of all ages!) and youth groups, educating on the principles of animal welfare, the purpose of Alberta Farm Animal Care, and how members work collaboratively to find solutions to complex issues that affect the industry.

#### *Objective and Effective Communication –*

One of the most important pieces of our work is to act as an information hub for both the public and the livestock industry. Information from our members feeds into the organization and is distributed out to a greater audience through a variety of channels (events, newsletters, and social media).

*For more information on current projects, programs, and available resources, please visit [www.afac.ab.ca](http://www.afac.ab.ca).*

## WE NEED YOU!

As a producer, livestock industry organization or stakeholder, or simply an individual without livestock that believes in the work we do, please consider becoming a valued member of the AFAC family! Head to our website for more information and to sign-up online ([www.afac.ab.ca/become-a-member](http://www.afac.ab.ca/become-a-member)) or contact us at [info@afac.ab.ca](mailto:info@afac.ab.ca) or 403-652-5111.

# WELCOME!

Welcome! If you are interested in learning more about keeping urban chickens or small flocks in Alberta, you have come to the right place!

In recent years there has been increased interest from individuals and communities on keeping urban chickens or small flocks. A 2013 study from the United States Department of Agriculture ([https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/nahms/poultry/downloads/poultry10/Poultry10\\_dr\\_Urban\\_Chicken\\_Four.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahms/poultry/downloads/poultry10/Poultry10_dr_Urban_Chicken_Four.pdf)) states that raising chickens in urban environments is a growing phenomenon and predicts a 400% increase in backyard chickens over the next five years, driven primarily by younger adults.



There are many reasons you may want to keep chickens. Reasons may include: raising food for your own family or selling to others locally (e.g. at farmers' markets), wanting to know more about how your food is produced, for pest/insect control, compost for the garden, or for companionship. Many individuals also see raising chickens as an educational opportunity for their children to gain exposure to food production and to learn the responsibility of caring for animals.

This is a comprehensive guide that contains information to raise urban chickens or a small flock in Alberta. We will cover local regulations, basic chicken needs, how to design and construct a coop, bird behaviour and welfare, health problems and diseases, biosecurity, and more. Let's get cracking!

# CHAPTER 1: LEGISLATION

## LOCAL REGULATIONS

Before you decide to keep chickens, it is important to ensure you are permitted to keep chickens in your municipality and familiarize yourself with local regulations.

Communities that have passed bylaws permitting urban chickens will have policies with guidelines and specific criteria for that area. Each municipality has its own policies or bylaws that can usually be found on the town office website.

### POLICIES BYLAWS MAY INCLUDE:

- Restriction on the number of hens (4 to 8 hens is typical)
- Roosters not permitted because of the crowing. Roosters are only required for breeding purposes, not to produce eggs
- Age requirement for hens (i.e. over 16 weeks)
- Requirement for residents to apply for and pay to maintain an annual license
- Requirement for adjacent neighbors to be notified
- Completion of an educational course from an accepted organization or contractor
- Placement of the coop a specified number of feet from any property line
- Eggs for personal use only (not for sale)
- No slaughtering of the birds on the property
- Requirement for birds to be kept in the coop and run at all times
- Obtaining liability insurance
- Submission of a development permit with a current Certificate of Title
- Inspection of the coop before application for a license
- Hens being tagged for identification purposes

Many urban communities in Alberta currently allow residents to keep chickens. For an up to date list, please go to [www.afac.ab.ca](http://www.afac.ab.ca).

There may be other communities in Alberta that are conducting pilot projects or are in discussion regarding urban hens.

Residents who live on acreages are also required to follow bylaws specific to the county they reside in. County bylaws regulate how many animals are owned, housed, or controlled. Residents may be required to follow Animal Control Bylaws or Land Use Bylaws. Each county has its own policies that can usually be found on the county office website.



### POLICIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Restriction on the number of chickens per acre
- Maximum total number of animals allowed
- Restriction on species of poultry

## PREMISES IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PID)

All municipalities in Alberta require anyone who owns chickens, whether you own 2 or 20,000, to register on a provincial database and obtain a premises identification (PID) number. A PID number is a unique number assigned to you and associated with your specific land location. You must obtain a PID number within 30 days of acquiring ownership of your chickens.



### A PID NUMBER SERVES MANY FUNCTIONS:

- For traceability purposes linking poultry to land locations or premises
- To manage a disease outbreak (to notify you if disease is in the area)
- In emergency situations, such as a natural disaster (to help protect your birds)
- To purchase medication or medicated feed at farm supply stores (this requirement took effect on July 1, 2014)
- To complete movement documents, if required, when transporting animals
- To sell animals at auction markets
- To apply for government sponsored agriculture grants and programs

When you apply for a license to keep urban chickens in a community, you will likely be required to include your PID number.

A PID number is free to obtain and can be completed online at: [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises).

Once you apply, you will receive a letter in the mail within two weeks with your PID Number. Your PID number will appear in your online account within 3-5 business days.

## Marketing SELLING EGGS

Urban communities have regulations that prohibit selling of the eggs. As an urban chicken owner, eggs are for your personal use only.

Small flock owners must follow provincial and federal regulations if you are planning on selling your eggs to the public.

Inspected eggs are those that have undergone candling, grading, and other food safety checks at a federally registered egg station. Registered egg stations must meet federal requirements related to construction, facilities, layout, equipment, sanitary operation, and grading requirements. Only inspected eggs can be sold for commercial use.

If you would like to sell your eggs to a commercial establishment such as a restaurant, bakery, or hotel, your eggs must be inspected at a federally registered egg station.

### YOU WILL NEED TO:

- Obtain a grading license from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). An application can be found at: [http://www.inspection.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-aboutcfia-sujetacia/STAGING/text-texte/c3043\\_re\\_1381168478009\\_eng.pdf](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-aboutcfia-sujetacia/STAGING/text-texte/c3043_re_1381168478009_eng.pdf)
- Find a federally registered egg station that is licensed by Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) to grade third party eggs. A list of registered egg stations can be found at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/eggs-and-egg-products/registered-stations/shell-egg-stations/eng/1391029540171/1391029591047>

*Uninspected eggs are those that have not been inspected and graded at a federally registered egg station. You are allowed to sell uninspected eggs to the public, provided they are consumed by the person who purchased the eggs or their family members.*

### THERE ARE CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET TO SELL UNINSPECTED EGGS IN ALBERTA:

- The eggs must be produced on the flock owners own farm
- The eggs must be sold to the end consumer
- The eggs must be clean and have no visible cracks or leaks
- The eggs must be kept in the flock owner's possession at a temperature that does not exceed 7°C. Eggs should be held in a cooler that can maintain the cool temperature
- The eggs must be packed under sanitary conditions in clean containers that are legibly marked with the word "UNINSPECTED" in letters at least 2 centimeters tall



### YOU CAN SELL YOUR EGGS THROUGH SEVERAL SETUPS:

- Farm Gate: The product is sold directly from your farm
- Farm Store: The product is sold in its own building on your farm
- Community Supported Agriculture program: The consumer purchases "shares" to buy food directly from the farmer
- Local Farmers' Markets
- Online Orders



## SELLING MEAT OR BY-PRODUCTS

Urban communities have regulations that prohibit selling meat, manure, or other poultry products or slaughtering chickens on the property. Chickens raised in urban communities are intended for eggs only.

Small flock owners must follow provincial and federal regulations if you are planning on selling meat or by-products to the public. You are required to live on the land where the chicken was raised and to follow any county bylaws regarding how many animals are owned, housed, or controlled.

The provincial regulations in Alberta allow for a mobile butcher to slaughter your animals on your premises, but this meat can only be used by you or members of your immediate household; you cannot sell the meat to the public. The same regulation applies if you butcher an animal and process it yourself on your property.

If the meat will only be sold within Alberta, the slaughter and processing can be done at a provincially registered facility.

### THERE ARE CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET TO SELL MEAT OR BY-PRODUCTS IN ALBERTA:

- The chicken must be inspected by an appointed inspector
- Inspection must take place before and after slaughter
- Slaughter must happen at an abattoir
- Carcasses must be found fit for human consumption
- Approved meat must carry an Alberta Approved Inspection Legend that may be placed directly on the carcass or meat or on the packaging



### THE CHICKEN MUST BE CONSUMED BY YOUR FAMILY OR SOLD DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH SEVERAL SETUPS:

- Farm Gate: The product is sold directly from your farm
- Farm Store: The product is sold in its own building on your farm
- Community Supported Agriculture program: The consumer purchases "shares" to buy food directly from the farmer
- Local Farmers' Markets
- Online Orders

If you intend to transport poultry and poultry by-products to another province, the product must be inspected, handled, and stored at a federally registered facility. Lists of provincially and federally inspected processing plants can be found here: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/meat-and-poultry-products/registered-establishments/eng/1374560511959/1374560512678>

## SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

Supply management is a Canadian policy that matches supply and demand to ensure market and price stability. Eggs, poultry (chicken and turkey), and dairy have all operated under supply management in Canada for over 50 years.

Under supply management, poultry farmers purchase quota to produce poultry meat or eggs.

### IN ALBERTA, YOU DO NOT NEED TO PURCHASE QUOTA IF YOU HAVE:

- 299 or less laying hens in your possession
- 2000 or less meat chickens in a calendar year
- 300 or less turkeys in a calendar year

Ducks, geese, pheasants, quail and ostriches do not fall under supply management. There are no limits on duck, turkey, quail or goose eggs.

You will need to acquire quota if you intend to raise more birds than the numbers specified above. For information on acquiring quota, contact Egg Farmers of Alberta at <http://eggs.ab.ca> for laying hens, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers at <http://www.ahep.ca> for broiler (meat chicken) breeders, Alberta Chicken Producers at <http://www.chicken.ab.ca> for meat chickens, and Alberta Turkey Producers at <http://www.albertaturkey.com/> for turkeys.

# CHAPTER 2: Breeds

There is great variety within the 200+ chicken breeds that exist today, from Bantams (a small poultry breed) that weigh just a few pounds to larger chicken breeds, such as the Cochin or Jersey Giant who can weigh up to 10 pounds!

Chickens come in a wide variety of colours, patterns, and sizes. Some chickens are bred for egg production (layers) and others are bred for meat production (broilers). Other breeds are dual purpose, productive for both egg and meat production. Dual-purpose breeds are popular choices among urban hen and small flock owners as they typically provide more bang for your buck.



## DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN HENS AND ROOSTERS

It is very difficult, especially when chickens are young, to distinguish between a hen and a rooster. Commercial hatcheries have highly trained professionals who are experienced at determining a chick’s gender by looking at the vent. The vent of a chicken is the external opening under the tail that looks like a horizontal slit. This is the opening for fecal matter, mating, and where eggs are laid. Even chicks sold as sexed may have been sexed incorrectly.

There are other sexing methods, including colour sexing and wing feather sexing. There is also DNA testing available. One company offering DNA Bird Sexing in Canada is: <http://www.accu-metrics.com/avian.php>.

**AT ABOUT 4 MONTHS OF AGE, THERE MAY BE SOME INDICATIONS THAT YOU HAVE A COCKEREL (MALE CHICKEN LESS THAN A YEAR OLD) OR A PULLET (FEMALE CHICKEN LESS THAN A YEAR OLD):**

- Cockerels will develop long saddle feathers on their backs, towards the tail. The feathers will be long and pointy, whereas the pullets will be rounded.
- Hackle feathers, the feathers that grow around a chicken’s neck, are long and pointy on a cockerel and shorter and more rounded on a pullet.
- A cockerel’s tail feathers become long and cascading. These feathers are called sickles.
- A cockerel’s feathers will become flashy in color compared to a pullet’s.
- While both sexes have wattles and combs, in cockerels these tend to be larger and darker.
- While both sexes can have spurs, it is less common in pullets.
- Cockerels start crowing around 4-5 months of age.
- Cockerels may act more assertively than pullets at a young age.
- Cockerels are generally heavier and taller than pullets of the same breed.

## BREEDS

**WHEN SELECTING A BREED TO BEST SUIT YOUR NEEDS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER:**

- If you plan on raising your chickens for eggs, meat, or would like a dual-purpose breed. Each of these birds needs to be managed differently which will be covered in detail in Chapters 3 and 4. Communities that permit urban chickens are intending residents to keep chickens for the eggs (there are bylaws against slaughtering of birds on the property), so a layer or dual-purpose breed would be appropriate.
- The climate where you live, especially if your birds will be spending time outdoors. Breeds that originated in Northern climates have traits that are well adapted to cold weather:
  - Thick feathering
  - Small combs/wattles to decrease the risk of frostbite
  - Larger body mass
- The birds behavioural tendencies and needs
  - If you are looking for a breed that is calm and friendly, a dual-purpose breed may be an ideal choice.

Many urban chicken and small flock owners will choose to mix breeds. Generally speaking, birds of different breeds will get along well although they may need to be managed differently.



## BREEDS FOR EGG PRODUCTION

Birds bred specifically for egg production will start laying around 22 weeks of age. Layer breeds are known for their high egg production with some laying as many as 300 eggs annually. These birds generally have small frames and do not make good meat birds.

Lighting is of critical importance for layers, with birds requiring at least 14 hours of light a day to lay eggs. You will need to provide artificial lighting during the fall and winter months, when the days are short, to stimulate the birds to continue to lay.

**BREEDS KNOWN FOR THEIR HIGH EGG PRODUCTION:**



Isa Brown Chicken, Photo: cskk/Flickr

### Leghorn•

Considered the best egg-laying breed, Leghorns can lay up to 300 eggs annually. This breed is commonly found in the commercial egg-laying industry. They have a small frame with large combs and lay white, medium sized eggs. Leghorns can be noisy and flighty, and may be harder to tame.

### Isa Brown•

Is a hybrid of a Rhode Island Red and Rhode Island White chicken. They can lay up to 300 eggs annually. This breed can also be found in the commercial egg-laying industry. They have a medium frame and lay brown, large to extra large sized eggs. Isa Browns are calm and gentle and are an excellent choice for a first time chicken keeper.



## BREEDS FOR MEAT PRODUCTION

Birds bred specifically for meat production are bred to have large, deep breasts, a large frame, and will grow fast. Broilers generally do not lay well.

Nutrition is of critical importance for broilers. These birds should be slaughtered before they start to lay eggs. Depending on how you manage your broilers (for example, if they have access to pasture and the age they are slaughtered) they may taste slightly different than chicken you purchase from the grocery store.

### BREEDS KNOWN FOR THEIR MEAT PRODUCTION:

#### *Cornish/Rock Hybrids*

This hybrid is commonly found in the commercial broiler industry. They are ready to butcher as early as 10 weeks old, with huge breasts and an excellent feed conversion ratio. Both sexes grow at a similar rate. Because of their extremely fast growth, the birds' nutritional needs must be carefully managed to avoid problems with their hearts and legs. They are generally not well suited to a free-range or pasture system.

#### *Jersey Giant*

These birds grow slower than the Cornish/Rock hybrids. They have a large frame and are meaty birds. They are also average layers, laying brown medium sized eggs. They do well in cold climates.



## DUAL-PURPOSE BREEDS

Dual-purpose breeds are versatile, adaptable breeds that are good at laying eggs but are also meaty enough to use as meat birds. These birds need to be managed to balance the needs of a layer and the needs of a broiler. Dual-purpose breeds are a common choice for urban chicken or small flock owners as they generally have calm and friendly dispositions.

### THERE ARE NUMEROUS DUAL-PURPOSE BREEDS, HOWEVER A FEW OF THE MORE POPULAR BREEDS ARE:

#### *Rhode Island Red*

Rhode Island Reds can lay up to 250 eggs annually. They have a medium frame and lay brown, medium to large sized eggs. Rhode Island Reds are very friendly and do well in cold climates.

#### *Australorp*

Australorps can lay up to 250 eggs annually. They have a large frame and lay brown, medium to large sized eggs. Australorps are calm and friendly and are known for their high egg production.

#### *Plymouth Rock*

Plymouth Rocks can lay up to 200 eggs annually. They have a large frame and lay brown, large sized eggs. Plymouth Rock's do well in cold climates and are easy to manage. They were a very common breed in the United States until World War 2 because of their egg production and meat quality.

#### *Orpington*

Orpingtons can lay up to 200 eggs annually. They have a large frame and lay light brown, large to extra large sized eggs. Orpingtons are docile and do well in cold climates.

#### *Wyandotte*

Wyandottes can lay up to 200 eggs annually. They have a large frame and lay light brown, large sized eggs. Wyandottes come in a variety of feather patterns and are a favourite among small flock owners as they are easygoing and hardy.

#### *Maran*

Marans can lay up to 175 eggs annually. They have a large frame and lay very dark brown, medium to large sized eggs. While good layers, they do not lay as well as other dual-purpose breeds. Marans are generally quiet and docile, but may be more active than other breeds noted here.

#### *Cochin*

Cochins lay up to 100 eggs annually. They have a large frame, known for their excessive plumage that covers the legs and feet. They lay brown, medium sized eggs. Although Cochin's are not great layers, they are known to be one of the friendliest and tame breeds.

#### *Silkie*

Silkie's lay up to 100 eggs annually. They have a small frame and are considered a bantam breed in some countries. They lay cream, small eggs. They are known for their unusual fluffy plumage and their black skin and bones, blue earlobes, and five toes on each foot. They are very friendly.



## WHERE TO PURCHASE BIRDS

Where you purchase birds will depend on what age, sex, breed, and quantity you are looking for. Birds can be purchased from sources such as hatcheries, directly from the breeder, farm supply stores, auctions, shows, or online groups. Hatcheries are ideal if you are looking to purchase a larger quantity of chicks. You will also likely have the option to have the chicks vaccinated for a reasonable cost and they will be sexed. Hatcheries, however, may have a limited number of breeds available so if you are looking to purchase a fancy or rare breed, you may need to source from a local breeder.

Caution must be exercised when purchasing birds from auctions and shows as birds from many sources have potentially been mixed together and there is the possibility of disease transmission.

It is ideal to purchase birds directly from the source where the birds will generally be of better, more consistent quality.

### IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SEE WHERE THE BIRDS ARE HOUSED, YOU CAN ASSESS:

- Cleanliness: Does the farm have biosecurity protocols implemented? (see Chapter 11: Biosecurity)
- Overall Flock Condition: Are any birds in the flock exhibiting signs of illness or injury such as:
  - Pale comb and wattles
  - Discharge from the nostrils or eyes
  - Coughing, wheezing, or sneezing
  - Ruffled feathers
  - Mites or lice
  - Limping
  - Abnormal droppings, diarrhea
  - Inactivity, lethargy
  - Lack of appetite

Regardless of where the birds are sourced, they must be quarantined for at least 30 days prior to introducing them to your flock. Birds must be kept in a separate area and observed during this time for signs of disease. Take caution to ensure that you do not cross contaminate equipment and that chores for the isolated birds are completed last, so as not to transfer disease.

## CHAPTER 3: GENERAL MANAGEMENT, TIME AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

While chickens are relatively easy to care for, you will have daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal chores to ensure your flock is healthy and well cared for. It is important to be aware of the time and financial commitments required on your part before you decide to raise chickens.

The amount of time spent on daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal chores will vary depending on how many chickens you keep, whether you raise broilers or layers, chicks or mature hens, the set up of your coop, the weather, etc. The approximate time spent below is for a coop in an urban setting with 4-8 layer hens.

### DAILY CHORES



#### *Fresh Feed and Water.*

Chickens need access to fresh feed and clean water that is not frozen. Feeders and waterers may need to be adjusted based on the birds’ height. Broilers and layers require different feed types, depending on their age. Birds may also require access to grit, scratch, and oyster shells. Caution needs to be exercised when feeding birds table scraps, as some foods can be toxic to chickens. Feed and water requirements will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 4.

#### *Open/Close the Coop.*

If the birds have outdoor access, then the coop door will need to be opened in the morning and closed in the evening, depending on the weather. It is recommended to close the coop in the evening to protect the birds from predators. This can be done manually or there are automatic chicken doors available with light sensors to open at dawn and close at dusk (see Resources).

#### *Overall Health/Behaviour Check.*

Ensure each chicken is eating, drinking, and otherwise behaving normally. This may include body condition scoring individual birds to assess their health status. Handling birds and body condition scoring will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 8. Any injured or sick birds should be segregated from the flock immediately.

#### *Collect Eggs.*

Ensure eggs are gathered at least once a day. Egg management will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 6.

#### *Check the Weather.*

You may need to make adjustments to the coop, depending on the weather and how your birds are housed. This could include adding tarps, adjusting ventilation and/or temperature, adding bedding material, etc. Weather considerations will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 5.



Turn Lights On/Off.

If you are providing artificial light in the coop, you will need to ensure lights are in good working order and are turned on and off at appropriate times. Automatic timers can be used to simplify this task. Lighting will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 4.



Photo of Normal Chicken Manure:  
fishermansdaughter/Flickr

For an urban coop with 4-8 birds, it would be reasonable to expect to spend 15 minutes in the morning and evening.



Manage the Litter.

Litter will be managed differently depending on how many chickens you keep, the set up of your coop, where you live, and the season. You may need to add fresh bedding, turn the litter, or change the bedding completely.

Check the Dust Bath.

If a dust bath is provided, it should be checked and changed if needed. Dust baths are typically made up of a combination of peat, ash, sand, and dirt. Diatomaceous Earth can be added for parasite control.

For an urban coop with 4-8 birds, it would be reasonable to expect to spend 1 hour per week.

General Cleaning.

This includes cleaning off the roosts or any heavily soiled bedding, cleaning up any spilled feed or water, changing dirty footbaths, etc.

Dispose of Mortalities.

Any mortalities should be removed immediately. Proper methods of disposal will vary depending on where you live and will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 12.

Record Keeping.

It is recommended to keep records with information such as how many eggs you collected, mortalities, treatments started, etc.

WEEKLY CHORES

Clean and Disinfect Waterers.

This should be done at least once a week using a multi-purpose disinfectant such as Virkon.

Inspect the Coop.

Thoroughly inspect the coop for any evidence of predators or rodents, repairs needed, etc. and act accordingly.

MONTHLY CHORES

Pick Up Supplies.

Pick up any necessary supplies (feed, bedding material, etc.). You may need to buy feed more often depending on the size of your flock and how much you can store at a time.

Clean the Coop.

Ensure all bedding material is removed and replaced with new bedding. Dirty surfaces and equipment should be cleaned. If an outdoor run is provided, it may need to be raked.

For an urban coop with 4-8 birds, it would be reasonable to expect to spend 3 hours per month.

SEASONAL CHORES

Weather Adjustments.

You may need to make adjustments to the coop when moving into cooler or warmer temperatures. This could include adding heaters, supplying additional water sources, providing shaded areas, adding misters or fans, etc.

Veterinary Care.

Your veterinarian may make recommendations for seasonal treatment of your birds. Always consult with your veterinarian before starting any treatment and follow their directions.

Deep Cleaning the Coop.

2-3 times a year you will need to do a deep clean of the coop. This may be more necessary depending on the type and number of birds you raise. This includes washing, scrubbing, and disinfecting all surfaces with a disinfectant such as Virkon and letting air dry. All bedding material should be replaced. If an outdoor run is provided, it may need to be raked and levelled. For an urban coop with 4-8 birds, it would be reasonable to expect to spend 6 hours deep cleaning the coop.

COST

Costs will vary greatly, with the coop being the largest expense to raising chickens. You may find ways to cut costs and save money, but do NOT do so at the expense of good biosecurity practices and/or animal care practices.

ONE TIME COSTS

Chickens

- Cost will vary depending on age, breed, and quantity. Urban communities that allow chickens generally have an age requirement for hens. Residents who live on acreages with small flocks may choose to purchase chicks. Chicks are the cheapest to purchase although you will need to purchase chick supplies and will be waiting 5-6 months before you are collecting eggs. You can also purchase eggs, but will need to purchase an incubator. Prices for chicks will vary on whether they are mixed, all pullets, or all cockerels, quantity purchased (larger quantities are cheaper), if the birds are being shipped, breed of chicken, and if any services are required (e.g. vaccination). Chicks cost around \$5, while hens cost around \$20, although this can vary widely.

*Hatching Supplies*

- If you plan on hatching eggs, you will need an incubator. Prices will vary depending on how many eggs it holds, what features it has, etc. Incubators average \$150-\$250.



*Chick Supplies*

- If you are purchasing chicks, you will need a brooder, a heat lamp, and suitable feeders and waterers. Many chicken owners will build their own brooder out of a Rubbermaid tub or crate. Chicks will need a heat source until they grow feathers. A feeder can be as simple as an egg carton filled with chick starter. Chick supplies average \$50-\$100.

*Coop*

- The cost of the coop will vary depending on the size and if you build a simple coop or buy a pre-built luxurious coop. A coop can be free, if you can use existing materials, or cost several thousand dollars. Pre-assembled, lightweight coops that are commonly found at farm supply stores are NOT appropriate to house chickens during the winter in Canadian climates. The typical urban coop will average \$1000-\$2000, up to several thousand.

*Coop Supplies*

- You will need supplies such as a waterer, feeder, lighting, perches, nest boxes for layers, a dust bath, a temperature/humidity sensor, and a heater. These costs will vary depending on how many birds you have and the size of your coop. Coop supplies will average \$250-\$500.

*Workshop Fee*

- If you live in an urban setting, you may be required to take a class to meet a training requirement as part of the bylaws before you can submit an application to keep birds. Workshop fees will average \$25-75.

*Miscellaneous*

- If you live in an urban setting, you may be required to submit a Development Permit with your application, with a current Certificate of Title. A Certificate of Title will average \$10-\$20.

*Slaughter Equipment*

- If you live outside of a town or city and decide to butcher your own birds, you will need equipment such as a large freezer, killing cones, and proper butchering knives. Slaughter equipment will average \$100-\$500.

**ANNUAL COSTS**

*License*

- If you live in an urban setting, you may need to pay an annual licensing fee to keep your chickens. A license will average \$25-75.

*Liability Insurance*

- If you live in an urban setting, you may be required to pay for liability insurance. Insurance coverage will average \$50-\$100, although your insurance company may or may not charge you for this additional coverage.

*Vet Costs*

- Will vary depending on the services used.

**MONTHLY COSTS**

*Electricity*

- This will vary based on the time of year and your coop design. Expect to pay higher costs through the winter months when lighting and supplemental heat are needed. Electricity will average \$10-\$30.

*Feed*

- Feed costs will vary based on whether you are buying broiler or layer feed, organic or regular, medicated or non-medicated, etc. Additional feed costs include the purchase of oyster shell, grit, scratch, etc. Feed costs will also vary if the chickens have access to pasture in the summer months. Feed costs will average \$20-\$60.

*Bedding*

- Bedding costs will vary based on type of material you are using, time of year, etc. There are many suitable materials and the availability of each in your area will impact the cost (e.g. straw may be a cheaper bedding type in the prairies). Bedding costs will average \$10-\$30.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Items such as Diatomaceous Earth, pest control etc. Miscellaneous costs will average \$10-\$30.
- For an urban coop with 4-8 birds, it would be reasonable to budget at least \$2,000 on one time costs, \$150 on annual costs, and \$50 on monthly costs.
- For a rural coop with 50-100 birds that is raising chicks, it would be reasonable to budget \$4,000 on one time costs and \$150 on monthly costs. If you live in a rural setting and are selling eggs, you may be able to recoup some of these costs.



## CHAPTER 4: BASIC NEEDS



Part of providing good welfare to your flock is to ensure they have ready access to fresh water, a complete diet, and providing an appropriate environment. Whether you have 2 birds or 200, make sure you providing the following basic needs for your birds:

### WATER

Fresh, clean water is the most important nutrient you can provide to your flock with a bird consuming twice as much water as they do feed. Extra attention needs to be paid to the bird's water supply in winter and summer. Birds need access to water that is not

frozen (heated) in the winter and cool water in the summer to help prevent them from over-heating. There are heated poultry waterers that work well in winter; a heated pet bowl will also suffice although it may get dirty quicker.

Nipple drinkers and bell drinkers are common in poultry coops. Nipple drinkers are easily adjustable and stay cleaner than a bell drinker. Some nipple drinkers have cups underneath to catch excess water and prevent the litter from getting wet. Nipple drinkers need to be checked often to ensure the lines are not plugged and that water is available. Bell drinkers are easy to set-up in any type of coop, but can become dirty or get the litter wet if they spill. Waterers should be at the height of the bird's head. If you have a flock with different sizes of birds, make sure every bird can access water.

Regardless of the waterer you choose in your coop, it needs to be cleaned often to prevent bacteria from growing and kept free of any debris (litter, feces, feathers, etc.). Birds will not drink water that is excessively dirty. Nipple drinkers should be flushed and cleaned out regularly; bell drinkers need to be scrubbed thoroughly when refilled. Depending on your water source, it may need to be tested to ensure it is safe for the birds to consume.



### FEED

Birds require a different type of feed depending on their age, breed, and nutritional requirements. Birds with access to pasture still require a complete, nutritionally balanced feed based on their age. Wild bird feed is not appropriate for poultry. Pet stores do not carry poultry feed, you will need to find a local farm supply store or feed mill.

#### CHICKS:

Chicks require a starter feed for the first 6 weeks of life that is high in energy and protein. Chick feed can be purchased medicated or unmedicated. For more information on feeding chicks, see Chapter 9: Breeding, Hatching, and Raising Chicks.

#### GROWING BIRDS:

Young broilers require a grower feed from 6-13 weeks of age, while layers require a grower feed from 6-19 weeks of age. A grower ration will develop the bird's bones and muscles.

#### ADULT BIRDS:

Adult broilers require a finisher feed from 13 weeks until butchering, to maintain the bird's body weight. If you are feeding medicated finisher feed, you will need to provide unmedicated finisher feed for a period of time to abide by the withdrawal times prior to butchering. Adult layers require a laying ration from 20 weeks onwards, which provides calcium for egg production and maintains the bird's egg production.

Flocks of various ages can be difficult to manage for feeding and should be separated by age and breed as much as possible. For laying flocks with birds of different ages and sexes, a growing ration can be provided and the hens offered free choice oyster shell. Chicks, however, still need to be kept separated and fed starter feed.

### OTHER FEED SUPPLEMENTS

#### *Grit*

Grit can be provided free choice to the birds to help grind and digest the feed, but it is not necessary if the birds are being fed a complete feed. Grit should not be fed to chicks under a week old.

#### *Oyster Shell*

Oyster shell should be provided free choice to laying birds, as it contains calcium to help with eggshell strength.

#### *Scratch*

Scratch is a mixture of different grains and needs to be fed in conjunction with a nutritionally balanced feed. Scratch is usually a treat reserved for winter, as it helps raise the bird's internal body temperature. It should be fed in the evening so the birds can digest it through the night. Feed scratch sparingly; only feed the birds what they will consume in 10-15 minutes.

It is recommended to purchase commercially prepared complete feed, rather than to try to make it yourself. Commercially prepared feed has been formulated by a poultry nutritionist to ensure it is balanced with the correct proportions of vitamins and minerals. Most poultry feed will be provided as a crumble or a pellet. Pellets are more expensive, but are formulated to be uniform and digestible, ensuring the bird is eating a balanced diet.

Generally, birds can be free-fed because they are quite active and don't tend to overeat. Birds will consume more feed in the winter to stay warm. Layer and dual-purpose breeds need to be monitored regularly to ensure they stay in optimum body condition. Provide any treats in moderation and watch the amount of table scraps you feed your birds. Some table scraps are toxic to poultry including avocado, beans, chocolate, garlic, onion, and mushrooms. Some wild plants are toxic to poultry as well, and caution needs to be exercised for birds that have access to pasture. See Chapter 8: Handling and Body Condition Scoring for how to body condition score your birds.

The ideal poultry feeder discourages the bird from sitting in or on top of it, so the feed stays clean. Hanging feeders are common and are easy to adjust based on the bird's height. Feeders made out of PVC pipe are popular as they minimize any feed wastage, deter pests and wild birds, and can be easily made. The size and number of feeders you need will depend on how many birds you have in your flock. Keep the feeder at the height of the bird's crop. If you have a flock with different sizes of birds, make sure every bird can access feed.

Ensure any spilled feed is cleaned up immediately and stored in pest proof containers.



## AIR QUALITY

Ensuring proper ventilation in your coop will minimize dust, any harmful gases, and provide fresh air. Keeping the litter dry will minimize the risk of disease and ammonia from building up. Ammonia can be tested using inexpensive test strips found at your local farm supply store. For more information on ventilation, see Chapter 5: Designing and Constructing a Coop.

## TEMPERATURE

It is important that you manage temperature and humidity in your coop to provide a comfortable environment for the birds. You may want to consider adding a weather station in your coop so that you can monitor the temperature and humidity and make necessary adjustments.

Humidity should be ideally kept around 50%. Birds are continually adding moisture to the coop through their feces or by exhalation, and ventilation is necessary to ensuring this moisture is able to escape. Too low of humidity will create dusty conditions and potentially respiratory problems; too high of humidity can lead to wet litter, ammonia, and cause frostbite even in mild winter conditions. Wet litter creates an ideal environment for bacteria to proliferate.

Chickens generally do well in winter provided they are given a dry, well-ventilated, draft-free, and warm shelter. There is no exact temperature to maintain in the winter and depends on the breed. Breeds suitable for Northern climates will spend time outside even in temperatures as low as -10°C. An electrical heat source may be needed in cold climates and is covered in Chapter 5: Designing and Constructing a Coop. Providing heat to chicks is covered in Chapter 9: Breeding, Hatching, and Raising Chicks.

Chickens, especially broilers, are prone to heat-stress and summer temperatures can be harder on them than the winter. When temperatures start to exceed 25°C, you will need to provide additional ways for your birds to stay cool. If your birds are panting, spreading their wings, are lethargic, are eating little to no food, or are not laying eggs, they are too warm.

## WAYS TO KEEP YOUR CHICKENS COOL:

- Always have cool water available
- Add electrolytes to the water to prevent further dehydration
- Provide good air flow; cross ventilation is ideal. You may want to consider adding a fan
- Provide frozen water bottles for the chickens to lay up against
- Provide shade using a tarp
- Use misters
- Avoid feeding scratch in the summer as this generates body heat
- Spray around the coop and on the roof with cold water to provide evaporative cooling

## LIGHTING

Lighting is especially important in layers, as it influences egg production. Broilers also require light to ensure they are eating and growing properly. Lights should be on an automatic timer to ensure consistency.

Broilers require light so they are stimulated to eat, as they will not eat in the dark. For the first 3 days of life, provide broiler chicks with 23 hours of light and 1 hour of dark. After the first 3 days, decrease the light 1 hour a day until you reach 16 to 18 hours of light a day. Maintain this schedule until they are ready to be butchered.

For the first 3 days of life, provide layer chicks with 23 hours of light and 1 hour of dark. After the first 3 days, decrease the light 1 hour a day until you reach 10 hours of light. At 20 weeks of age, you can start increasing the length of the light by 30 minutes daily until you reach 15 hours. More information on providing light to layers can be found in Chapter 6: Egg Management.

For coops with no access to natural light, make sure the light intensity is bright enough so you can read a newspaper. This will ensure the birds can find feed and the nest boxes. For coops with access to natural light, your lighting schedule will need to be adjusted throughout the year as the day lengths shorten and lengthen. You will need to provide your birds with supplemental light in the fall and winter months when the day length shortens.

LED lights are ideal in a chicken coop as they last longer and are also energy efficient.

## SPACE

Most small flock or backyard chicken owners will have a coop with outdoor access for their birds. Urban chicken keepers should check with their local legislation as they will be required to provide a specific amount of interior and outdoor space for the birds. Chickens will be happier with more space, but any buildings larger than 100ft<sup>2</sup> in Alberta require a building permit.

Ensure the birds have ample space to engage in normal activities such as dust-bathing, nesting, roosting, scratching, etc. As birds live in flocks, keep at least two birds. Urban chicken keepers should check with their local legislation for bylaws around how many hens they can keep.

Birds that are too cramped may develop behavioural issues such as feather pecking. At least 4ft<sup>2</sup> of indoor space and 10ft<sup>2</sup> of outdoor space should be provided for every bird. Bantam breeds don't need as much space due to their small size; neither do broilers as they are not as active as layers or dual-purpose breeds.

If birds are housed in cages, ensure the birds have ample room to walk, spread their wings, and have the appropriate height for their heads. Keep at least two chickens in each cage, unless they are being kept separate for quarantine or are injured. Chickens kept in cages should be given at least 2ft<sup>2</sup> of floor space.



## LITTER

There are many types of litter material available and advantages and disadvantages to each type. What is most important is that the material is not toxic to the birds, is absorbent, is readily available, and is cost efficient.

- **Shavings:** Shavings provide good odour control, are absorbent, readily available, and inexpensive. Avoid using cedar shavings as they may bother the bird's respiratory system.
- **Straw:** Straw is readily available and inexpensive, but if ingested can cause the crop to be impacted, may cake over, and can be dusty. It is not very absorbent.
- **Sand:** Sand is easy to clean, does not cake, lasts a long time, is not dusty, and discourages bacterial growth. It is also good for dust bathing and is cool in the summer and retains heat in the winter. It is, however, heavy to move and is not very absorbent.

Provide ~1-2 inches of litter in the summertime and 4-6 inches in the winter.

Paper should be avoided as it can become slippery and the ink may be toxic to the birds. Sawdust should also be avoided as it is very dusty.

Regardless of what type of litter you use, it is ideal to install a dropping board under the roosts to catch the manure from the night and reduce the amount of litter required. Layers should be provided with clean nesting material in nest boxes that keeps the eggs cushioned and prevents them from rolling around. Hens prefer deep bedding in the nest boxes that they can rearrange as they lay their eggs.

Chicken coops can generate a lot of waste, both manure and bedding. Check with your municipality for how to dispose of it properly. Your local landfill may accept it for a nominal fee.



## CHAPTER 5: DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTING A COOP

When designing a coop, a number of factors must be considered first such as: will the chickens be kept over winter, number of hens, available space, etc. All of these factors and many more will guide your design decisions.

Prior to constructing any coop or accessory buildings, you should consult your local bylaws and Canadian building codes to determine what permits (if any) are required as well as acceptable construction techniques. If any ground disturbance or excavation is to take place, a locate request should be submitted through Alberta One Call at least two full working days before you plan to dig to identify the location of any underground utilities. Visit their website at <http://albertaonecall.com/> or phone them at 1-800-242-3447 for further information.

### LET'S GET TECHNICAL: KEY COOP DESIGN FACTORS FOR A HEALTHY FLOCK

There are three key factors to consider when designing your coop: size, temperature, and ventilation.

#### SIZE

Most local bylaws for Urban Chickens will specify a minimum size required for both indoor and outdoor space. If they don't, you should design your coop such that you have at least 0.37m<sup>2</sup> (~4ft<sup>2</sup>) of indoor space for every bird and 0.92m<sup>2</sup> (~10ft<sup>2</sup>) of outdoor space for every bird. Going larger than this is preferred if you have enough space. However, in most municipalities buildings over 9m<sup>2</sup> (~100ft<sup>2</sup>) are generally considered accessory buildings and will require a building permit. Be sure to consult your local bylaws prior to beginning construction.

#### TEMPERATURE

If you only plan to have hens from spring to fall, then a lightweight non-insulated chicken coop will more than suffice. This type of coop can be readily purchased from many farm supply stores already built or come as part of a package with the rental hen option described later in this chapter.

However, if you plan to keep your hens throughout the winter, then this style of coop will not work and a more permanent shelter must be built. There is no exact temperature that must be maintained in the coop and each breed of chicken has a different tolerance to the cold. However, generally speaking the coop should not feel warm to you on a cold winter day. A safe target to aim for is 0oC to -10oC, depending on the breed.

There are two main sources of heat loss that must be designed against: Radiant/Conductive heat loss and Air Movement.

Radiant/Conductive heat loss occurs when warm objects come into contact with cold objects. The two temperatures will attempt to equalize, bringing the temperature inside of the coop down to the same temperature as the ambient air. Conductive heat loss can be slowed and minimized by using insulation.

Coops should be constructed at a minimum with 2x4 stud walls and insulated with either fiberglass insulation or mineral wool insulation. Mineral wool insulation has a higher R-Value per inch (measurement of the resistivity of heat transfer) than fiberglass and is also completely permeable to moisture, meaning that it will not become damaged by water and moisture like its fiberglass counterpart. It is composed of upwards of 75% recycled material compared

with 20% for fiberglass insulation. However, it is more expensive. There are many other forms of insulation such as Expanded and Extruded Polystyrene, Spray Polyurethane Foam, Polyisocyanurate, etc. Each form of insulation has its positives and negatives, it is recommended that you research each type and choose the form that best fits your direct application and budget. Regardless of which type of insulation you decide to use in your coop, it must be covered and protected from the chickens or they will attempt to eat it.

Just like humans, chickens are susceptible to wind chill effects. It is important to keep the inside of your coop as draft free as possible. Use weather stripping around doors, spray foam around window casements, wrap the outside of the coop in a house wrap product and tape the seams. To attract heat during winter days, use black or dark colored shingles and place windows on the south side of the coop. Construct the coop in a location that will get the morning sun while minimizing the amount of hot summer afternoon sun that the coop will see to help reduce the chance of the hens overheating in the summer.



Use wide roosting platforms, such as a 2x4 with the wide side up. This allows the chickens to squat on the roosts and cover their feet with their feathers, reducing the chance of frostbite.



Install a "roof" or structure over the roosting platforms, which helps provide draft/current free air over this area.

## THERE ARE A FEW OTHER SMALL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DESIGNING A COOP FOR THE WINTER MONTHS:

If you notice that your hens are huddling in one place all day long, moving slowly, or reluctant to move, then you will need to add a supplemental heat source. For a small urban coop a zero-clearance flat panel radiant heater will work in most cases. Heat lamps should be avoided if at all possible as they are a severe fire risk. If you have no other choice but to use a heat lamp follow these rules:

- Hang the lamp with two chains attached to the lamp in two separate spots and to the structure in two separate spots. This way if one fails the other will stop it from falling
- Follow the manufacturer's specifications for minimum distances to combustible materials. This normally ranges from 18-36 inches depending on how large the bulb is
- Use a guard over the lamp to stop chickens from hitting it and getting burned or causing a fire

## VENTILATION

Adequate ventilation is a must in the winter. Chickens can get frostbite even at mild temperatures if the moisture content in the coop is too high. In addition, ventilation is required to allow the ammonia from the chicken manure to escape the coop. During the winter, if you start to see condensation or ice forming on your coop windows, then you need to consider adding more ventilation. For small coops, passive ventilation is the best option.

Passive ventilation consists of having openings (vents) at the highest points on the walls of your coop. Due to the natural air currents, the warmest, and most moist, air will escape. As air warms, its ability to retain moisture increases. Likewise, as it cools its ability decreases, which is why you get frost on your windows. As the hot, moist air rises it will leave the coop through the vents controlling the humidity inside.

Passive ventilation can be achieved in many ways but it is best if the vents are placed on at least 2 different sides of the coop and designed so that they can be closed or are placed on a sheltered side of the coop where they will be protected from driving rains and snow. On extremely cold nights, resist any temptation to close the vents to preserve heat; closing the vents will do more harm than good as you trap the moisture and increase the risk of frostbite.



Examples of Passive Ventilation:

On Right: Vents are placed on the peak of the roof

On Left: Air Diffusers are used as covers for the ventilation and the vents are protected by the roof overhang

## COOP NECESSITIES

In addition to a warm dry space in the winter, there are a few other things that every coop must have.

- Windows
- Roosting platforms/bars
- Nest boxes

## WINDOWS

Windows in your coop are important for a multitude of reasons. They can be used as additional ventilation (if required), allow sunshine to help heat the interior, allow a cooling breeze in the summer, and provide light, which is required for egg production. If possible, windows should be placed on the south east and west exposures to maximize the amount of sunlight they receive.



## ROOSTING PLATFORMS/BARS

Roosting platforms are required in every coop and should be made as wide as possible to allow the hens to squat down on them and cover their feet with their feathers. Local bylaws may specify how many perches or how much roosting space is required in each coop, but if not you should provide a minimum of 30 cm (~12 inches) for every bird. It is also preferable to have the roosting platforms higher in elevation than the nest boxes to encourage the chickens to sleep on the roosts rather than in the nests.

## NEST BOXES

Nest boxes are used by the hens to lay their eggs. Most municipalities will have regulations around how many nest boxes are required. Nest boxes are covered in more detail in Chapter 6.

## PREDATORS

Chickens can fall prey to many wild and domestic animals such as foxes, coyotes, owls, hawks, weasels, cats, and dogs to name a few. Your best defense is a well-built and secure coop and outdoor run. You should use a galvanized wire mesh with openings no larger than a half inch by a half inch on the walls and roof of your outdoor run. The mesh should be extended a minimum of eighteen inches below ground, or the entire floor of the outdoor run will need to be covered with it to stop predators from burrowing under. Contrary to its name, chicken wire should not be used, as it is not strong enough to deter an attack from a large predator.



You should keep your birds contained and closed in at night. The pen should be kept clean and spilled feed needs to be removed, so that you are not attracting predators.

## RENTAL HEN OPTION

There are rental hen businesses that provide you with the option to rent everything you need to keep chickens for a season. In the spring, they will deliver hens (number dependent on your local bylaws), a lightweight coop, feeders, waterers, and enough feed, oyster shell, and grit for the season. The hens and supplies will be picked up in the fall (the end of the rental season).

This is a terrific option, especially for residents located in an urban community, who would like to try keeping chickens before committing long term. There is no need to set up a permanent coop or worry about over-wintering the birds. The companies also provide you with a new hen should one of the hens stop laying, become broody, become sick or injured, or die. They provide care information and support during the rental period.

Prices vary, depending on the package you select, and will average \$500-\$600 for the season.

# CHAPTER 6: EGG MANAGEMENT

If you are raising chickens, it is likely because you want eggs! Around 6 months of age, a dual purpose hen will begin to lay. This will vary depending on breed (generally smaller breeds lay earlier while larger breeds lay later), lighting and environmental conditions, health, stress, and nutrition. Eggs can come in a variety of colors, sizes, and shapes. The majority of dual purpose breeds lay brown eggs.

How many eggs you can expect to collect from your chickens will depend on the breed. Breeds that have been selected for egg production will lay around 5-6 eggs a week. Dual purpose breeds will lay 4-5 eggs a week. Fancy or bantam breeds are often selected primarily for ornamental purposes (for example, feather color) and will lay around 2-3 eggs a week. Hens typically lay eggs in the morning.



When birds are starting to lay, the eggs will be small in size. As the bird matures, the egg size will increase to the normal size for the breed. Chickens will reach their peak of egg production around a year of age, at which point they will slowly start to decline in egg production. Some flock owners still report collecting eggs from hens that are several years old. It is not uncommon for hens to live several years, especially in backyard settings where they are often well protected from predators.

You will need to be prepared to make a decision once your birds stop laying eggs. Many backyard and small flock owners become attached to their hens and opt to let them live out their natural life, while adding younger birds so they continue to get eggs. This may be more difficult to do if you live in an urban municipality where

you are limited on how many hens you can keep. Other options include re-homing your bird to a farm, having your bird butchered, or humane euthanasia.

There are several management practices you should follow to ensure you are achieving optimal egg production from your hens and handling the eggs properly.

## LIGHTING

The amount of light available to the hen is very important in egg production. Hens require ~15 hours of light a day to lay. Hens will naturally decline in egg production or stop altogether in the fall and winter months when the day length becomes shorter. If you would like to keep your hens laying eggs during the colder months, you will need to provide supplemental lighting. Some flock owners choose not to provide lighting during the fall and winter months, and let their hens have a rest period.

- It is recommended to provide lighting at the start of the day. Chickens are easily able to adjust to the lights suddenly coming on in the morning, especially if you are using a dimmable bulb that can gradually increase in light intensity. Chickens have poor night vision though and will become disoriented and stressed if the light suddenly turns off in the evening. They may have difficulties finding their roost for the night.
- It is ideal to have the lights controlled by a timer, in case you are not able to go out to the coop at the same time every day.
- You can calculate when to have the lights come on by determining when the sun sets in your area and

subtracting 15 hours. For example, if the sun sets at 8 PM the lights should come on at 5 AM. The light only needs to stay on until the sun rises.

- You will need to modify what time the light turns on and off every few weeks throughout the fall and winter months as the day length changes, unless the birds are housed indoors at all times.
- Birds should be given a dark period of 6-8 hours every 24 hours to rest.
- Depending on the size of your coop, you may need multiple lights.
- Light bulbs should be located close to the centre of the ceiling to distribute light evenly in the coop and should be covered with a wire guard so they don't break. They should be well secured in the socket so they do not become loose.
- A low wattage light bulb (25-40 watts) will generally provide enough light to keep the birds laying in the colder months. It is recommended to use a bulb specifically designed for poultry housing. You can purchase LED bulbs that are dimmable, waterproof, and dustproof. More information can be found in the Resources section of this manual.

## NEST BOXES



You will need to provide 1 nest box for every 3-4 chickens. If you do not have enough, you may find birds will fight over nest boxes or lay eggs on the ground. Birds will naturally share the same nest box. If you have room, you can provide 1 nest box per bird, although some nest boxes likely will not be used. If you reside in an urban municipality, there may be bylaws in regards to how many nest boxes you need to provide in your coop.

Nest boxes need to be managed properly so that the birds use them for the sole purpose of laying eggs. If the birds are using nest boxes to excrete waste in, it will become dirty. The cleanliness of the eggs is related to maintaining a clean nest box and coop.

- Allow the birds access to the nest boxes only once they have reached laying age (~6 months of age) to discourage the birds from soiling in the nest boxes.
- Depending on the age of your birds, you may need to train them to use the nest boxes. You can do so by:
  - Immediately moving a bird that is attempting to lay an egg outside the nest box to inside the nest box. A bird that is attempting to lay an egg will appear to be seeking out a dark area of the coop.
  - Picking up any floor eggs.
  - Placing a golf ball or ceramic egg in the nest boxes to encourage the birds to use them.
- Ensure the chickens have access to roosts that are placed higher than the nest boxes to discourage them from sleeping in them. Chickens prefer to roost as high as possible.
- Make sure nest boxes are of an appropriate size with clean, comfortable bedding. Bedding material should be 3-4" deep and should be kept clean to help the eggs stay clean. The bird should be able to stand up and turn around in a nest box. A typical nest box size is 12" X 12" X 12", but may need to be modified depending on the size of the bird. Nest boxes that are too big will encourage more than one chicken to be in the nest box at a time and can lead to broken eggs.
- You can purchase nest boxes, build one yourself, or use existing items such as milk crates or litter boxes. Nest boxes can be square or round in size. Nest boxes that are plastic or metal are easier to keep clean than wood.

- Nest boxes should be located in a draft-free area of the coop.
- Birds naturally prefer to lay eggs in nest boxes that are in a quiet, dark area of the coop. You may want to consider hanging curtains up in front of the nest boxes to keep them dark.
- Nest boxes can be stacked one on top of another, but should not be higher than 3-4 feet off the ground. Nest boxes that are higher than a foot off the ground will need a perch in front of them for the birds to land on before they enter the nest box.

You will need to pick up eggs frequently, at least once a day. This discourages hens from becoming broody or eating eggs. Both of these behaviours can be difficult to stop in a chicken once they have started and are discussed in more detail in Chapter 7. In extreme weather conditions, eggs should be picked up 3-4 times a day. Eggs that sit too long in hot weather may start to grow bacteria especially if they are in direct sunlight; eggs that sit too long in cold weather will freeze.

## ISSUES AROUND EGG LAYING

### PROLAPSED VENT

It is not uncommon to find blood on an egg; however you will want to check the hen to make sure she does not have a prolapsed vent. A prolapsed vent can be caused by large eggs, in young birds that have just started laying, older hens, obese birds, or if the birds have a nutritional deficiency. Some breeds are more prone to prolapse than others, and it can be a recurring condition.

A prolapsed vent is when the hen's reproductive tract is pushed outside of the vent. Other birds in the flock may be attracted to the exposed tissue and it can become bloody if they peck at it. A prolapsed vent is a serious condition, but if it is caught early on it can be treated.

Wearing gloves, carefully wash the vent in warm water. You can gently re-insert the exposed tissue with lubricant. Keep the bird separated from the rest of the flock for a week and check the vent frequently to ensure it has not prolapsed again. If you are not successful re-inserting the tissue or the vent continues to prolapse, contact your veterinarian immediately.



Photo: Roberto Soares/Ceva Animal Health

### EGG BOUND

A chicken that is egg bound has an egg stuck inside of her oviduct. Egg binding is common with large or misshapen eggs, in birds that are prematurely laying, obese birds, or if the birds have a nutritional deficiency. A chicken that is egg bound may be lethargic, stop drinking or eating, or appear to be straining. Manure may be loose or absent altogether. This condition can be fatal, and you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

### MEAT OR BLOOD SPOTS

Meat spots are small pieces of body tissue from the hen. They are generally seen in the albumen (the egg white). This is more common in older birds. Eggs with meat spots are still safe to eat. If you like, you can remove the meat spot out of the egg with the tip of a knife.

Blood spots can happen in an egg when a blood vessel breaks in the hen's reproductive tract. They are generally seen near the yolk. This can be caused by the hen's diet, age, or stress. Eggs with blood spots are still safe to eat and are not



an indicator that the egg has been fertilized. If you like, you can remove the blood spot out of the egg with the tip of a knife. Blood spots are related to genetics, and are more common in birds that lay brown eggs compared to those that lay white eggs.



Photo (Left to Right): Roberto Soares/Ceva Animal Health, Roger Connolly

You will rarely find eggs with meat or blood spots that you purchase from the grocery store, as these eggs have been candled and are removed if found. Candling is the process where an egg is rotated in front of a bright light source so the contents can be inspected.

## PROPER EGG HANDLING

The first step in food safety is the production of clean eggs.

### IT IS IMPORTANT TO HANDLE EGGS SAFELY BY:

- Keeping the nest boxes clean by removing any feces daily.
- Washing your hands thoroughly before and after coming in contact with the eggs.
- Using a separate bucket for dirty eggs you collect from your coop. Eggs that are very dirty (with spots larger than a quarter in size) should be discarded.
- Discarding any eggs that smell bad, have a thin shell, or are cracked as they may be contaminated with bacteria.
- Removing any fecal matter, shavings, and feathers from the egg.
- Washing the eggs with an egg wash following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Washing the eggs in 41°C (106°F) water to prevent bacteria from entering the egg.
- Not washing your eggs in your kitchen sink where you are preparing food, as eggs may have organic material on them.
- Storing eggs in a cool, dry place or in your fridge with the pointy end down. Eggs stored in the refrigerator should be dry first. Eggs should be stored in a clean carton.



- Discarding any eggs older than 6 weeks.
- Washing all utensils, surfaces, dishes, and cutting boards thoroughly before and after coming in contact with raw eggs.
- Cooking foods containing eggs to a minimum of 72°F. For more information on cooking guidelines visit: [www.eggs.ca](http://www.eggs.ca)

If you are administering any medications to your hens, make sure you read the label directions on when it is safe to consume the eggs again.

## REMEMBER, IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO SELL EGGS IN ALBERTA YOU



## MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING FIVE CONDITIONS:

- The eggs must be produced on the flock owner's own farm.
- The eggs must be sold to the end consumer.
- The eggs must be clean and have no visible cracks or leaks.
- The eggs must be kept in the flock owner's possession at a temperature that does not exceed 7°C. Eggs should be held in a cooler that can maintain a cool temperature.
- The eggs must be packed under sanitary conditions in clean containers that are legibly marked with the word "UNINSPECTED" in letters at least 2 centimetres tall.

Urban communities have regulations that prohibit selling of the eggs. As an urban chicken owner, eggs are for your personal use only.

# CHAPTER 7: WELFARE AND BEHAVIOR

We have a responsibility to provide the animals in our care with a high state of animal welfare.

## ANIMAL RIGHTS VS. ANIMAL WELFARE

### ANIMAL RIGHTS:

Is a philosophical view that animals have rights similar to or the same as humans. True animal rights proponents believe that humans do not have the right to use animals at all, not even as pets.

### ANIMAL WELFARE:

Supports the belief that humans have a right to use animals for purposes such as food (for example, raising chickens for eggs or meat), but also have a responsibility to treat them humanely.



## FIVE FREEDOMS

The Five Freedoms outline five aspects of animal welfare that poultry keepers can control to ensure their birds (and any other animals in their care) are well cared for:

### *Freedom from hunger or thirst.*

By providing ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

### *Freedom from discomfort.*

By providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

### *Freedom from pain, injury, or disease.*

By prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

### *Freedom to express normal behaviour.*

By providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind.

### *Freedom from fear and distress.*

By ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

A backyard chicken keeper or small flock owner may struggle with the decision to euthanize one of their birds. Remember that it is not practicing good animal care to let a bird suffer with an injury or illness, and euthanasia may be the most humane decision you can make.

For more information on euthanasia considerations, please see Chapter 12: End of Life Plans.

## INNATE BEHAVIORS

Chickens have several innate behaviours that you will witness in your flock. Understanding some basic information about chicken behaviour can be helpful when caring for a flock.

Providing opportunities for roosting, scratching, and dust-bathing will ensure your flock is able to express these natural behaviours. If you live in an urban municipality, you may be required by the bylaws to provide such opportunities.

### PECKING ORDER

Chickens have an established social hierarchy within the flock with every member having a place. Chickens will start establishing the hierarchy as chicks and this will continue until the pecking order is established as adults. Chickens recognize other individual birds in the flock. The addition of new birds must be done very slowly and carefully, otherwise the birds may attack and injure the new flock member. Roosters are always the dominant birds in the flock. As flock size increases, chickens become more accepting of new flock members.

When you are introducing new birds to the flock, make sure that they are quarantined first and observed carefully to avoid introducing any diseases to your existing flock.

For more information on introducing new birds to your flock, please see Chapter 9: Breeding, Hatching, and Raising Chicks

### GROOMING

A chicken will spend a considerable amount of time during the day grooming itself, by running its feathers through its beak. This helps to spread oil, produced from the preen gland near the tail, over its feathers. Hens will spend more time grooming themselves than roosters.

### PECKING AND SCRATCHING

Chickens will spend at least half of their time pecking and scratching. Pecking is an exploratory behaviour to find possible food sources, drink, mate, groom, and communicate with one another. Even chickens that have access to a complete feed ration, will still continue to peck to find possible food sources.



### NESTING

Nest boxes will appeal to the natural instinct of a layer chicken if they are in a dark, private area of the coop where the hen feels secure. Hens need to be taught to use nest boxes when they are young, otherwise they may lay eggs on the floor, which can become dirty or broken. For more information on training hens to use nest boxes, please see Chapter 6: Egg Management.

In the early morning, hens will seek out a nest and start manipulating the bedding with their beak. Once the egg has been laid, the hen will make a cackling noise that the other hens may join in on.





## DUST-BATHING

Chickens clean themselves by dust-bathing, the act where they roll around in dirt to clean their skin and feathers. This helps to control parasites. You can provide your birds with a dust-bath filled with a combination of peat, mulch, wood ash, sand, and/or dirt. Adding Diatomaceous Earth can further help with parasite control. If you do not provide your chickens with a dust-bath they will make one themselves by digging out a hole in the dirt.

## PERCHING AND ROOSTING

When given the opportunity, chickens will often choose to rest on something that is off of the floor. Providing perches in your coop may be a way to decrease aggression, as the birds are able to get away from the others.

Chickens have a natural instinct to roost, seeking out a high spot they can settle in for the night. Chickens will typically move to their perches 30-60 minutes before the sun sets. Perches should be placed higher than the nest boxes, but not higher than 3 feet or there is a risk that the birds could become injured. Chickens like to roost in the same spot every night and will typically roost with the other flock members. As broilers are bred to be heavy birds, they will typically not use a roost but will sleep on the floor. The most dominant chicken in the flock will generally roost on the highest perch.



Photo: Roberto Soares/Ceva Animal Health

Timing, duration, and what the chicken looks like during the moult will vary from bird to bird. Moulting takes considerable energy and protein on the bird's behalf to re-grow the feathers; therefore it is important to make sure your birds are being fed a proper feed ration during this time.

## UNDESIRABLE BEHAVIORS

### FEATHER PECKING

As chickens have an established pecking order, some feather pecking at lower-ranking members in the flock is normal. If a bird draws blood from another, make sure to act quickly as the other birds may continue to peck at that bird until it is seriously injured or dead. Any bird that is injured needs to be separated from the flock immediately. Birds are generally more tolerant of other birds that are the same size and age as them. You can also provide enrichment for the birds to re-direct their behaviour, including providing a dust bath, hanging a food source such as a head of cabbage or bunch of kale, providing a Chicken Swing or other high areas for the birds to perch, scattering scratch in their bedding, leaving music playing for them, etc.

### MOULTING

Moulting is a natural process in both hens and roosters where the older feathers are replaced with new ones. This occurs annually, usually at the end of summer or in the fall as the days start to get shorter. A chicken will experience its first molt when it is around 16-18 months of age. During this time a hen will stop producing eggs and her reproductive tract regresses.

Feather pecking is less of a problem in flocks that are fed a proper diet and are not in crowded housing conditions. When given enough space, lower-ranking members in the flock can avoid other flock members. Feather pecking can also be caused by excessive noise, genetics, weather conditions, stress, hunger, boredom, or not enough nest boxes.

### POOR EGG PRODUCTION

Usually poor egg production in a flock is related to management. If your birds are not laying, consider the following:

- Is the hen too young or too old? Different breeds of chickens start laying at different ages, although most will typically start laying around 6 months of age. Be patient if you are waiting for birds to begin laying. Birds will peak in production around 1-2 years of age and will start to decline after that.
- Do you have a hen or a rooster? It can be difficult, especially in younger birds, to sex them properly. To help determine what sex of bird you have, please see Chapter 2: Basic Chicken Breeds.
- Are the birds getting ~15 hours of light a day? Layers require ~15 hours of light a day to continue laying in the colder months when the day length naturally decreases. You may choose to add additional lighting to your coop during these months to keep your birds laying.
- Are the birds stressed? If the birds are stressed, they will likely stop laying. Stressors can include environmental conditions or adding a new bird to the flock. Once you eliminate the cause of stress, the birds should start laying again.
- Are the birds sick? Hens in poor nutritional or health status will not lay. Ensure you are feeding your birds a commercially prepared laying diet. As birds are a prey species, they are adept at hiding how sick they really are. A decline in egg production could be a sign of disease. For more information on health problems and disease, please see Chapter 10.

### BROODINESS

A broody hen is one that is determined to sit on and hatch eggs, regardless of whether they are fertile or not. Hens can become broody even when there is no rooster in the flock. Some breeds of hens are more susceptible to becoming broody than others. Breeds that have been bred for high production are less likely to become broody than some dual purpose breeds. When a hen becomes broody, she will stop laying eggs and will often not leave the nest box, except to eat or drink. A hen can become protective and aggressive during this time, and may be difficult to handle.

It can be difficult to break a hen of being broody and she may go back to being broody at a later point. Ensure you collect the eggs often, every few hours if possible. Many hens will stop being broody and return to normal egg production. If the hen continues to sit on the eggs and you are not overly concerned with egg production, give the hen 21 days (when the eggs would have hatched) and she will often return to normal. If you do have a rooster in the flock, you could let her hatch the eggs at which point she will return to normal.

Some flock owners have had success with placing a broody hen in an “anti-broody” area of the coop. This can be a wire cage with food and water, but a nest box is not available. Usually within a week, the hen will stop acting broody.

### BREAKING AND EATING EGGS

A bird that is breaking and eating eggs can quickly spread the behaviour to other birds in the flock that will then mimic the behaviour. This behaviour is less likely when the birds are given ample space.

Make sure you clean up any broken eggs immediately and do not feed raw eggs to your birds in order to prevent them acquiring a taste for it. By feeding a commercially prepared diet and providing oyster shells, your birds will be getting all the nutrition they need and are less likely to be interested in eating eggs. Ensure eggs are collected often. You can also try to deter a bird from breaking and eating eggs by placing plastic or ceramic eggs in the nest box.

# CHAPTER 8: HANDLING AND BODY CONDITION SCORING

Handling your birds is an important skill to have in order to assess their overall well-being. It will also be much easier to move the birds, should the need arise, if they are used to being handled.

## HOW TO PICK UP A BIRD

Some breeds tend to be more docile and easier to pick up than others. Remember to always wash your hands before and after handling your birds.



- Spend time with your birds regularly. They will come to trust you as they get to know you. You can build trust by encouraging them to eat out of your hand while you slowly stroke their feathers.
- Approach the bird in a crouching position and move slowly to pick it up. If the bird is becoming stressed, stop and try again later.
- Talk quietly and calmly. Loud noises and large movements can stress the birds.
- Pick up the bird quickly and firmly, holding the wings at their side so they cannot flap. Holding the bird close to your body will give them a sense of security.
- Keep the handling sessions brief, but frequent. Over time the birds will become used to being handled and it will be less stressful for them (and you!).
- If you get your birds as chicks and handle them often, they will be tamer as an adult. Use two hands to hold the chick. Take care to not squeeze the chick and ensure you are holding the chick no more than a few inches from a surface in case they should fall.
- If you are still having trouble picking up your birds, try in the evening once it is dark and the birds are roosting on their perch. As birds have poor night vision, you should be able to easily pick them up.
- You can also try wrapping your bird in a large towel with the wings securely at their side so they cannot flap. This helps keep the bird calm.

Once you are able to handle your birds, it is important to assess their overall well-being on a regular basis.

## OVERALL HEALTH CHECK – WHAT TO ASSESS:

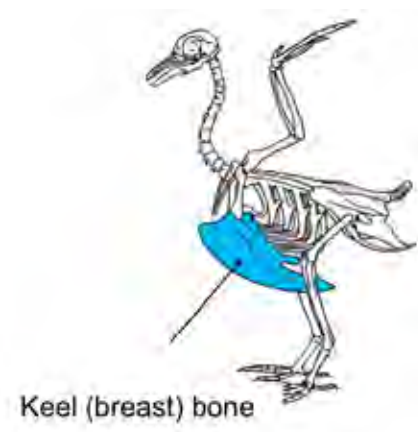
- Feather Cover: Are the feathers evenly covering the body? Are there signs of feather picking?
- Eyes: Are the eyes round, bright, and wide open?
- Vent: Is the vent area clean? Are the droppings in the coop well-formed?
  - Manure in a healthy bird should be a shade of brown, semi-solid in consistency with a white cap. The solid part is the fecal matter; the white cap is urates. If you notice blood in the droppings that could be indicative of disease and you should contact your veterinarian.
- Feet: Are the feet clean with no deformities? Does the bird need its toenails trimmed?
  - Most chickens will normally wear down their toenails, however some may need their toenails trimmed similar to a dog or a cat's.
- Nose/Eyes/Ears: Is discharge present?
  - Discharge present in the nose, eyes, or ears may be indicative of disease, especially if the bird has other symptoms.
- Beak: Does the beak have any abnormalities or is it overgrown? Are there any injuries?
  - Birds with beaks that have abnormalities (for example, crooked or crossed beaks) may need to have their beaks trimmed to help the bird eat and drink. Depending on the severity of the injury to the beak, the bird may need to be seen by a veterinarian.
- Crop: Check the birds crop to ensure it is eating and drinking
  - A chicken's crop is located to the slight right of the breast muscle. Food is stored here before it moves into the stomach. The crop will feel full after the bird has eaten.
- Injuries/Parasites: Examine the bird for any injuries or parasites, such as mites or lice.
  - Signs of mites or lice are decreased bird activity, a change in appetite, a drop in egg production, weight loss, bald spots, redness on the skin, and visible, crawling bugs on the skin.
- Behaviour: Is the bird eating, drinking, and otherwise behaving normally?





## BODY CONDITION SCORING

As part of an overall health check, you will want to assess your birds' body weight and condition. This is a useful tool that takes approximately 15 seconds to assign a score to an individual bird.



### HOW TO ASSIGN A SCORE

Use one hand to hold the live bird upside down by both legs. The bird's head can be facing upwards or downwards, whichever is more comfortable for you and the bird. Use the palm of your other hand to palpate the breast muscles, paying particular attention to the keel (breast) bone and the tip.

You may find it easier to hold the live bird upright, close to your body, with one hand holding the bird's outside wing and using your other hand to palpate the breast muscles.

## BODY CONDITION SCORES



Photos: Welfare Quality Assessment for Laying Hens: A Handbook

### Score of 0 – Very Thin

A score of 0 reflects an emaciated and weak bird with low breast muscle to bone ratio. The keel bone will be prominent with limited breast muscle development. There could be several reasons for an emaciated bird including insufficient feeder and/or drinker space, poor feed or water quality, or disease. These birds will likely need to be humanely euthanized by a properly trained and competent individual.

### Score of 1 – Underweight

A score of 1 reflects a bird with the keel bone still prominent; however there is greater breast muscle development, which feels more flat. These birds may be compromised and should be segregated from the rest of the birds. If you are noticing several birds in your flock with body condition scores of a 0 or a 1, contact your veterinarian.

### Score of 2 – Ideal

A score of 2 reflects a healthy bird with the keel less prominent and moderately developed breast muscle. A score of 2 may be underweight for meat birds (broilers and turkeys).

### Score of 3 – Overweight

A score of 3 reflects a bird that has a smooth, well-developed breast muscle over the keel. The keel is not easily felt. This can be a common problem in backyard and small flocks, as owners may have a tendency to overfeed their birds with treats or table scraps or if the birds are confined and not getting enough exercise. This can cause a decline in egg production and complications such as a prolapsed vent. Ensure you are feeding a well-balanced ration, limit treats and table scraps to no more than 5% of the bird's diet, and ensure that the birds get ample exercise.

As you assign a body condition score to your birds, keep in mind that what is considered ideal for a body condition score will vary between species and breeds. Laying breeds that are genetically selected for increased egg production (such as a Leghorn) will naturally be a leaner bird that is less muscular compared to broilers, turkeys, and many dual-purpose breeds. Some keel bone prominence will be normal.

### References

*Welfare Quality Assessment for Laying Hens: A Handbook*

G. Gregory & J. K. Robins (1998) A body condition scoring system for layer hens, *New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research*, 41:4, 555-559

## CHAPTER 9: BREEDING, HATCHING, AND RAISING CHICKS

Small flock owners may want to raise their own chicks to replace hens that are going out of lay or if they are expanding their flock. You can purchase eggs or chicks, or hatch eggs from your own flock if they are fertilized.

Urban municipalities may have bylaws prohibiting the keeping of chickens in town that are under a certain age (for example, 16 weeks old), and as roosters are not allowed you will not have fertilized eggs.



### BREEDING

If you would like to have fertilized eggs, you should aim to have a ratio of one rooster for every ten hens in your flock.

When a rooster is ready to mate a hen, he will stand on her back and grab the feathers located at the back of her neck with his beak, while the hen crouches down. You may notice the hen has some damage to her feathers or bald spots on her back after mating. The rooster's reproductive organs are located inside of his body; the transfer of sperm happens when the rooster's cloaca (vent area) touches the hen's cloaca. Sperm will travel up the hen's oviduct to fertilize a developing yolk. Hens can lay fertilized eggs for approximately 10 days after the mating occurs.

### INCUBATION

Chicken eggs will hatch at 21 days of age, while turkey eggs will hatch between 25 to 31 days of age. Duck eggs take between 28 to 35 days, depending on the breed.

Incubators vary widely with regard to size, style, features, and price. Some incubators have features such as observation windows, built-in candlers, automatic egg turners, and alarms that sound if the temperature or humidity falls outside of the optimal range.



### AT A MINIMUM, THE INCUBATOR MUST HAVE:

- A thermometer to measure temperature. For chicken eggs to develop, the temperature must be a minimum of 99.5°F (37.5°C) while the eggs are in the incubator. Temperature is very important to have a successful hatch and should be checked daily.
- A hygrometer to measure humidity. For chicken eggs to develop, the humidity should be between 45-55%. On day 18 the humidity should be increased to 55-70% which aids the chicks during hatching. Humidity is just as important as temperature to have a successful hatch and should be checked daily. You will need to add warm water occasionally to the incubator to maintain the humidity.

It is also critical that the incubator is ventilated. Depending on your incubator, you may need to manually adjust vents to control ventilation effectively. Consult the user manual that came with your incubator for specific instructions.

If your incubator does not have an automatic egg turner, you will need to turn the eggs ideally 3 times a day to keep the contents of the egg from sticking to the shell walls. Incubators with automatic turners turn the egg very gradually, similar to how a hen would. Mark eggs with an "X" on one end and an "O" on the other to keep track of when you have turned the eggs. Turn the eggs as quickly as possible, so heat and humidity is not escaping the incubator. You can stop turning the eggs at day 18, at which point the eggs can lay on their side on the floor of the incubator until they hatch. Make sure to always wash your hands before and after handling eggs!

### KEEP THE FOLLOWING TIPS IN MIND:

To make hatching simple, you can collect eggs for up to 10 days and then place them in the incubator all at once so the chicks all hatch together. They should be kept at a cooler temperature, between 50 to 60°F (10°C to 15.5°C), with the humidity around 75%. While eggs are being stored they need to be turned a minimum of 3 times a day.

- The incubator should be located in a warm area with no drafts, out of direct sunlight.
- Run the incubator for at least 24 hours prior to putting eggs in to ensure it is running properly.
- Always select eggs that are clean with no cracks to avoid cross-contamination.
- Place eggs in the incubator with the pointy end down.
- Eggs should be candled between 7-10 days to determine if an embryo is developing. This can be done by holding the egg up to a bright light source in a dark room to view the contents. You can purchase a candler or use a bright flashlight. Candle the eggs as quickly as possible. Eggs that are not developing should be removed from the incubator immediately, as bacteria growing inside the eggs may cause them to explode and contaminate the other eggs.
- A viable egg will have a dark spot in the egg (the embryo) with visible veins extending out from it. A red ring in the egg indicates the embryo has died and needs to be removed.

If you aren't sure if you want to invest in an incubator, there are businesses who rent out incubators for a month's time. They will often supply you with brooder equipment too. Please see the Resources chapter for more information.





## HATCHING

Hatching is a very exciting time! Your hatch rate will vary based on the source of the eggs, the incubator conditions, and how the eggs are handled. For most small flock owners, a hatch rate of 50 to 70% is average. Remember that 50% of the chicks you hatch will be roosters. As most small flock owners are more interested in raising hens, make sure you have a plan of how to deal with the roosters you hatch. Options include butchering or re-homing.

### HATCHING OCCURS IN TWO PARTS:

- Internal pipping: The chick will break the air cell inside the egg on day 20. Around this time you may hear cheeping.
- External pipping: Using their egg tooth, the chick will break through the eggshell on day 21.

Hatching can be a slow process, so be patient! It can take up to several hours. Once the chick has hatched, it will be wet and may rest for some time before starting to move around. Chicks should stay in the incubator until they are fully dry before being moved to the brooder; this can take up to 24 hours.

Once the chicks have been moved to the brooder, the incubator must be cleaned thoroughly before it is used again.

Ensure all fecal matter and egg shells are removed and dump out any water in the reservoir. All surfaces should be washed, disinfected, and left to dry thoroughly.

Another option is to allow a hen to hatch her own eggs, or those of another hen's. Some breeds (such as Silkies and Cochins) are quite broody, meaning they have a strong urge to hatch eggs and raise chicks. They will accept eggs to hatch that are not their own. The hen will keep the eggs at the optimum conditions, turning them slightly throughout the day. You will need to provide the hen with a quiet, safe area away from the other flock members until the chicks are old enough to be integrated into the flock.



## RAISING CHICKS

Your new chicks will need a brooder located in a safe and quiet area where they can stay warm. You can purchase a brooder or build one yourself. Ensure your brooder has tall sides (at least 18" high), is fully enclosed, and has enough room so that chicks can move away from the heat source. Select a brooder that will be easy to clean; a large Rubbermaid, playpen, rabbit hutch, or aquarium can work well.

Have your brooder set up and pre-heated at least 24 hours before the chicks hatch. You will need:

- Water: Clean, cool water must be available at all times. Ensure the water is not more than a 1-2 inches deep or chicks may drown. Placing marbles in the water will help prevent the chicks from drowning. There are several different styles of waterers available; nipple waterers keep the water cleaner. When you first place chicks in the brooder, you may want to dip each of their beaks briefly in the water to get them started drinking.
- Feed:
  - Have starter feed available for the chicks. If you have a hen with chicks, she can also eat the starter feed.
  - If the chicks are not vaccinated for coccidiosis, discuss feeding a medicated feed with your veterinarian. If the chicks are vaccinated for coccidiosis, please see the note below.
  - Broiler chicks will need a starter feed that is higher in protein, or else they may have leg problems due to fast growth.

- Ensure each chick will have adequate space at the feeder.
- Feed can be provided in the first few days in egg cartons or on paper plates on the floor so it is easy to find.
- Make sure to clean up any feed or water spills immediately.
- Consider raising the feeders and waterers as the chicks grow, so they stay cleaner.

- Bedding: Must be kept clean and any soiled material removed daily. Shavings at a depth of 1-2" are ideal as newspaper or straw can become slippery.

- Space: Chicks grow very quickly. Prepare for the chicks to require at least 36 square inches when they are 4 weeks old. You may want to add a roost in the brooder for enrichment.

- Heat: Heat needs to be provided to the chicks at 90-95°F (32-35°C) for the first week after hatch and decreased by 5°F (2.5°C) every week thereafter until it reaches 70°F (21°C). You can decrease the temperature to the chicks by raising the heat source or reducing wattage of the bulb. Have a thermometer in the brooder, at chick level, to monitor the temperature daily. Extreme caution needs to be exercised when adding heat lamps to brooders as they can be a fire risk if not used properly. The number and wattage of heat lamps you will require in your brooder will depend on the temperature of the room the brooder is in, how many chicks you have, and the size of the brooder.



### TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS WITH HEAT LAMPS:

- Keep heat lamps at least 18" away from anything combustible including bedding material.
- Keep water dishes away from heat bulbs as it may cause them to explode.
- Do not suspend lights by the cord alone, use a chain (preferably two) to ensure the lamp is secure.
- Consider using a heated pad, designed specifically for animals, which is a much safer alternative. It can be laid flat on the floor of the brooder and the chicks can move on or off it as needed.



The chicks' behaviour will tell you if the temperature too warm or too cold. If the birds are acting lethargic and are huddled together, they are too cold or stressed.

If the birds are panting and spread away from the heat source, they are too warm. Happy chicks are active and are dispersed evenly throughout the brooder.

The chicks will need the brooder for at least a month, depending on their permanent housing set up and time of year. Chicks will develop all of their feathers around 6-8 weeks old. If they will have access to the outdoors in their permanent coop, and it is in the winter months, they may need to spend additional time in the brooder until it warms up or they will need a heat lamp added for additional warmth. You will need to adjust the size of the waterers and feeders as the birds grow. Young birds must be well protected from predators. Make sure you clean your brooder and equipment between chick batches using a disinfectant and letting it dry thoroughly.

## A NOTE ABOUT VACCINATION

There are vaccines available that are administered to day-old poultry to help develop immunity to Coccidiosis. The following guidelines should be followed post-vaccination to ensure the vaccine is effective:

- In the first 24 hours after being vaccinated:
  - Ensure the chicks have access to unlimited feed and water.
- In the first 16 days after being vaccinated:
  - Do not feed medicated feed containing anticoccidials.
  - Do not use essential oils, including Oregano oil.
  - Do not use antibiotic products with anticoccidial properties (for example, Tetracycline or Sulpha).
  - Do not change the litter; it is important the litter moisture can build up for the parasite to cycle properly.
  - Do keep the chicks as calm as possible, avoiding any additional stresses that could compromise the chick's immunity.

## KEEP YOUR CHICKS AND YOU HEALTHY!

Make sure to always wash your hands before and after handling chicks and equipment! Chicks carry Salmonella, which can be transmitted to humans. It can be serious in young children, elderly individuals, or those whose immunity is compromised.

### THE FOLLOWING TIPS WILL HELP KEEP YOUR CHICKS HEALTHY:

- Do not mix chicks from several sources together as this increases the likelihood of disease.
- Have dedicated feeders, waterers, and other equipment.
- Keep the brooder clean.
- Observe the chicks daily for any signs of disease.
- Always monitor young children with baby chicks as they may handle them too roughly.



## INTRODUCING NEW BIRDS TO YOUR FLOCK

Once the chicks have reached 18-25 weeks of age, they are ready to be introduced into their permanent coop. It is much easier to introduce new birds into an existing flock when they are all similar in size.

Birds can be territorial and have a very distinct pecking order. If not done properly, adding birds into a flock can be stressful on the birds and on you. To minimize stress, birds should be introduced gradually. If you rush the process, it can lead to fighting between the birds and a bird could sustain injuries or die.

- Before mixing birds, ensure the new birds are not showing any signs of disease.
- Place the new birds in a pen next to or in the permanent coop so the birds can see one another but cannot make physical contact. This process may last up to two weeks.

Once the birds seem to be settled, you can introduce the birds into your existing flock. Make sure to monitor the birds closely. Some pecking is normal as the birds determine a new pecking order, but if a bird becomes injured or the pecking is very persistent you will need to separate the birds and try again. It can take several attempts.

Ensure there is adequate space in the coop for the birds, and that the birds have areas in which they can hide if needed.

If you have one chicken that is being aggressive, you can isolate the bird for a few days. Usually the chicken will be more submissive once re-joining the flock.

# CHAPTER 10: HEALTH PROBLEMS AND DISEASES

As a poultry owner, it is very important that you educate yourself on how to properly care for the birds in your care to ensure you maintain a healthy flock.

You may find it helpful to review Chapter 11: Biosecurity, as good biosecurity practices will help prevent disease from entering your flock and keep any disease in your flock contained.

## PREVENTING DISEASE IN YOUR FLOCK

Before one of your birds becomes sick, make sure you have contact information handy for a local veterinarian who treats poultry. Preventing your flock from getting a disease is much cheaper and easier to manage than dealing with a disease outbreak. By following the basic procedures listed below, you can help reduce the risk of your birds contracting disease:

- Maintain a closed flock. Quarantine new birds for a minimum of 30 days before introducing to your existing flock. Ensure birds you purchase are from reputable sources.
- Ask the hatchery or bird provider about vaccination status of the birds. Prior to sourcing birds discuss vaccination protocols for the flock with a veterinarian.
- Minimize visitors, especially those who keep poultry themselves.
- Have dedicated footwear and clothing for your coop. Always wash your hands before and after handling birds and the eggs. Ensure any visitors to your coop follow the same procedures.
- Prevent contamination of your flock’s feed and water by wild birds and animals.
- Use proper cleanout and disinfection procedures to thoroughly clean the coop and all equipment.
- Dispose of any mortalities, litter, and manure promptly in accordance with local legislation.

## REPORTABLE DISEASES

Some poultry diseases are reportable as they can have a significant impact on human and/or animal health, food safety, and to our economy. If a reportable disease is suspected or confirmed in a flock of birds, government authorities will launch a disease investigation. This may include notifying other flock owners in the area of a disease outbreak, placing your flock under quarantine, collecting samples and testing, cleaning and disinfection of the coop, and humane euthanasia of the flock. Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease, and Infectious Laryngotracheitis are all examples of reportable diseases.

For a list of reportable diseases see the following website: <http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/%24department/deptdocs.nsf/all/cpv12455>

If you suspect a reportable disease in your flock or have a confirmed diagnosis, it needs to be reported to the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian in Alberta by calling 1-780-427-3448 or 1-800-524-0051 (after hours).

## SIGNS OF DISEASE

Because they are a prey species, chickens hide illness very well. If you notice any of the following signs of disease in your flock, make sure you contact your veterinarian, the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, or the CFIA immediately:

- Sudden death or high mortality in your flock (greater than 0.5% mortality in your flock for 2 days in a row).
- Decreased egg production (a drop of 5% or greater for more than 2 days in a row).
- Eye and nasal discharge.
- Diarrhea or bloody manure.
- Pale combs and wattles.
- Sneezing, coughing, difficulty breathing and/or gasping for air.
- Swelling in the eyes, ears, or head.
- Inactivity or lack of appetite.
- Tremors, lack of balance, or paralysis.

*If you do have a bird that is exhibiting signs of disease, take the following measures.*

- Separate the bird from the rest of the flock immediately to avoid spreading disease. A minimum of 30 feet of distance is ideal if possible.
- Monitor the rest of your flock for any signs of illness.
- Ensure the bird stays hydrated by having water and food available at all times. You may want to add a vitamin and electrolyte supplement (available at your local farm supply store or pharmacy) to the water to help keep the bird hydrated.
- Your veterinarian will need to do a physical examination of the bird and testing to confirm a diagnosis. Always consult with your veterinarian before starting any type of medication. Your veterinarian will ensure you are giving the correct medication based on a diagnosis and will advise you on the correct dosage, frequency, and how to administer.
- Keep records of the date the bird became ill, age, symptoms, and any treatment started. Make sure to record mortality, changes in egg production, and feed and water intake.



Once treatment has started, birds will typically respond within 48 hours. If the bird is not improving and is suffering, euthanasia may be the most humane decision. For more information on euthanasia considerations, please see Chapter 12: End of Life Plans.

Regularly handling your birds and being familiar with their overall body condition and health status will be helpful when assessing if your bird is ill. For information on handling of birds and body condition scoring, please see Chapter 12.



## POULTRY FIRST AID KIT

Be prepared by having a First Aid Kit ready in case you find yourself with a sick or injured bird.

### LIST OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS:

- The contact information for your nearest veterinarian that treats poultry
- Separate crate, pen, or rabbit hutch as a recovery area
- Heat source
- Bandages
- Pipe cleaner
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Antibacterial ointment
- Wound cleansing spray
- Disposable gloves
- Gauze pads
- Vet wrap
- Cloth bandaging tape
- Vitamin and electrolyte supplement
- A syringe
- Dog or cat nail clippers for trimming toe nails and styptic powder (to control bleeding)
- Lubricant (for prolapsed vents)
- Towels

## VACCINATIONS

You will notice in the list of poultry diseases below that some have vaccines available that are administered to chicks at the hatchery. This is the easiest route, however if you are hatching your own chicks you may want to vaccinate your own birds. Vaccines are typically only available in large quantities and may not be economical if you have a small number of birds. Always consult with your veterinarian first before administering vaccines and ensure you follow all label directions on the vaccine, including how to store them properly. Pay special attention to any withdrawal periods for both broilers and layers.



## COMMON POULTRY DISEASES

This is a list of some of the more common poultry diseases:

### INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT)

ILT is a disease that affects the respiratory system of chickens. Signs vary but include coughing, gasping, nasal and eye discharge, difficulty breathing, and a decrease in egg production. The disease most often affects birds over the age of three weeks old and is spread through birds, humans, equipment, dust etc. The best way to prevent ILT in your flock is to practice good biosecurity protocols, including purchasing birds from sources that are ILT free, and isolating new birds before introducing into your existing flock.

#### *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*

Mycoplasma is a bacterium that affects the respiratory system of chickens and turkeys. By weakening the bird's immune system, it is more susceptible to disease. Signs include nasal and eye discharge, coughing, sneezing, slow

growth, and a decrease in egg production. The disease most often affects older birds and is spread from the hen to the egg or directly through birds, humans, equipment, dust, etc. The best way to prevent Mycoplasma in your flock is to practice good biosecurity protocols. It can be treated with antibiotics upon consultation with your veterinarian.

### MAREK'S DISEASE

Marek's is a virus that affects the nervous system of chickens and turkeys. Signs include tremors, paralysis, and poor motor control on one side of the bird. The disease most often affects young birds and is spread through birds, equipment, dust, etc. The best way to prevent Marek's in your flock is to request the chicks be vaccinated at the hatchery.

### COCCIDIOSIS

Coccidiosis is a parasite that affects the intestine of the chicken. Signs include blood in the feces, a decrease in feed consumption, and withdrawn behaviour. The disease typically affects young birds and is spread through birds and in the feces. The best way to prevent Coccidiosis is to request the chicks be vaccinated at the hatchery, provide sanitary living conditions, and to not overcrowd the birds. Medicated starter feed is available for chicks; however, if chicks have been vaccinated at the hatchery for coccidiosis, they should not be fed medicated starter feed within 16 days of vaccination, as it will render the vaccine ineffective. Medication is available to treat a flock with Coccidiosis; always consult with your veterinarian before starting any type of medication.

### INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PARASITES

Parasites can be spread by wild birds, contaminated equipment, pests, and on footwear or clothing.

Internal parasites include roundworms and tapeworms, which you may notice in the bird's feces. Do not deworm your birds until you have a confirmed diagnosis with your veterinarian, as some worms are not visible to the naked eye.

External parasites include mites and louse. These parasites may weaken the bird and make it more susceptible to other diseases. Check birds regularly for any signs by looking at the skin and around the vent. Birds with mites or lice will need to be treated, as well as the environment they are living in. Use all insecticides according to the label directions.

Be cautious with any type of treatment to follow label directions closely in regards to egg or meat withdrawal times.

## POULTRY DISEASES THAT CAN SPREAD TO PEOPLE (ZONOTIC)

Some diseases can spread from poultry to people. By following proper food safety protocols (see Chapter 6: Egg Management) and good biosecurity practices (see Chapter 11: Biosecurity), you can minimize the risk of contracting a disease from your birds.

### AVIAN INFLUENZA

Avian influenza is a virus that affects the respiratory system of many bird species, including chickens and turkeys. Symptoms include watery eyes, sneezing, coughing, and other respiratory signs. The disease is highly contagious and most birds in the flock will die within 2-3 days. Depending on the strain of influenza virus, avian influenza may be transferred to people either by direct contact with sick poultry or by indirect contact with contaminated environments. The best way to prevent avian influenza in your flock is to prevent direct and indirect contact with wild birds, especially migratory waterfowl.



### CAMPYLOBACTER AND SALMONELLA

Campylobacter and Salmonella are bacteria that are commonly found in birds but can spread to people. Campylobacter is spread through having close contact with infected birds and poor food safety and hygiene practices. Salmonella is spread from the hen to the egg and in the feces. Symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and nausea. Individuals with Salmonellosis may also experience headaches, cramps, and the chills. The best way to prevent contracting Campylobacter and Salmonella is to wash your hands before and after handling birds, having excellent biosecurity protocols in place, following food safety procedures, and cooking products to a safe temperature. Other bacteria that can spread to people through poultry are Listeria, Staphylococcus, and Clostridium perfringens.

## COMMON POULTRY ALIMENTS

This is a list of some of the more common poultry ailments that you may be able to treat at home:



### BUMBLEFOOT

Bumblefoot occurs when the bird has stepped on something sharp and injured its foot. It is difficult to treat and typically requires the use of antibiotics. The foot can become infected if left untreated and can cause death. You will notice a large swelling on the foot or toes. Separate the bird from the flock and wash the wound thoroughly and wrap it. It may help to soak the foot for 10-15 minutes in warm water, especially if it is a hard scab. Continue to rinse the wound daily, apply a wound cleansing spray or ointment, and then rewrap it. Once the bird starts to walk normally on the foot, it can be returned to the coop. Make sure to check the coop closely for the source of injury and make any necessary repairs.

Photo: Roberto Soares/Ceva  
Animal Health



### SPRADDLE LEG

Photo: Healthy chick with good legs

Spraddle Leg occurs when a baby chick's legs spread in opposite directions due to slipped tendons. This is more common on slippery bedding, such as newspaper. If left untreated, the chick will eventually die as it is not able to walk properly and access feed and water. Make a small splint using bandages or pipe cleaner to wrap around the chick's legs to hold in the correct position. Change the bedding to something non-slippery such as shavings. Some breeds of chickens are more prone to spraddle leg than others.

### CURLED TOES

Curled Toes occur when a baby chick cannot walk normally because their toes are curled. This can be due to problems with the temperature or humidity in the incubator. If left untreated, the chick will eventually die, as it is not able to walk properly and access feed and water. Use paper and masking tape, or plastic bandages, to tape the chick's toes in the correct position. The dressings will need to be changed daily.



### FROSTBITE

Frostbite occurs when a bird is exposed to prolonged cold temperatures. Areas of the bird's comb, wattles, and toes can eventually turn black, shrivel, and fall off. Birds with large combs and wattles are more susceptible to frostbite and consideration should be taken when selecting breeds that are suitable for a Northern climate. Pay particular attention to the ventilation in the coop as this can cause humidity levels to increase and moist air to stay trapped. Moist air in a coop can cause frostbite, even in mild temperatures. You can build your roosts out of 2x4's with the wide side facing up which forces the birds to cover their feet with their feathers when they roost in the evening.

### CUTS, SCRATCHES, AND OTHER MINOR SKIN INJURIES

Birds with minor cuts, scratches, and skin injuries can be treated by washing the wound with warm water and soap. Apply styptic powder if necessary to help with any bleeding. Monitor the wound for several days, ensuring it does not become infected and that other birds are not pecking at it. Wounds should be cleaned twice daily until healed.

# CHAPTER 11: BIOSECURITY

## WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

Biosecurity can be defined in simplistic terms as “keeping what is inside in and what is outside out”. Good biosecurity practices will help prevent disease from entering your flock and keep any disease in your flock contained.

*Poor biosecurity practices can have an impact on:*

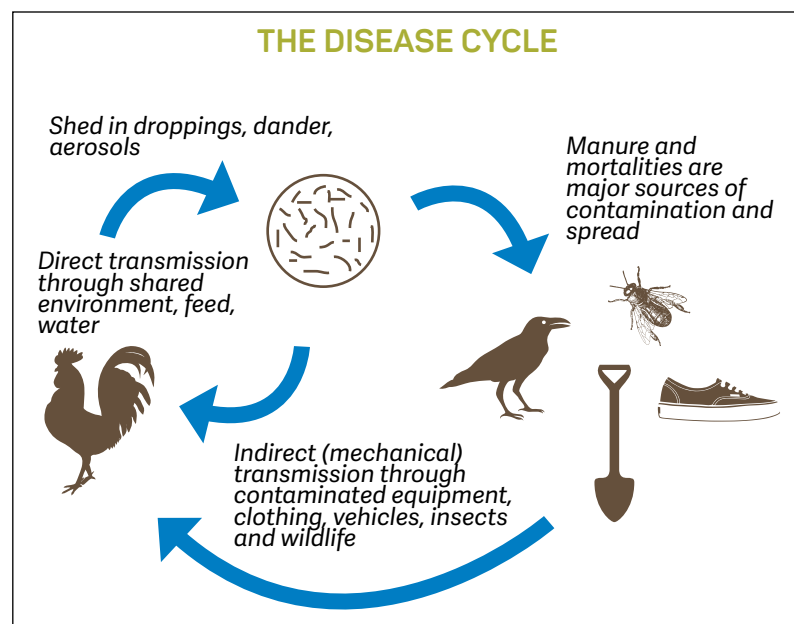
- The welfare of your birds.
- The health of those who care for the birds.
- The birds’ productivity (for example, egg production may decrease).
- Your farm income if you are selling eggs, meat, or by-products.
- Your farm expenses with increased veterinary costs.
- Other flock owners and the poultry industry as a whole if the disease spreads.

Keep what is inside in and what is outside out!

It is much easier and cheaper to prevent disease from entering your flock in the first place than to try to control a disease outbreak. If you do end up with a disease outbreak in your flock, you will need to act quickly to prevent it from spreading.

*Humans are often the source of spreading disease between birds or flocks through their clothing and footwear. Disease can also be spread by:*

- Introducing new birds to the flock without a proper quarantine period first. The risk can be greater if the birds come from a questionable source (for example, an auction where many birds have been potentially mixed together and are at risk of carrying disease).
- Other animals such as wild birds, pests, and wildlife.
- Contaminated soil, feed, water, or litter.
- The carcasses of dead birds.
- Contaminated equipment.
- Airborne particles and dust.



## GOOD BIOSECURITY PRACTICES

It is ideal to practice “all-in, all-out” management where birds in a flock are from the same source and are the same age. However, this is likely not practical in urban or small flocks.

### THERE ARE SOME SIMPLE BIOSECURITY PRACTICES YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THAT WILL MINIMIZE THE DISEASE RISK:

- Always wash your hands before and after handling your birds. If water is not easily accessible, alcohol based hand sanitizer will also work.
- Have dedicated clothing, footwear, and equipment for your coop. This clothing and footwear should never be worn off your property.
- Ensure that any new birds you intend to introduce to your flock are quarantined for at least 30 days.
  - Have dedicated clothing, footwear, and equipment for birds that are in quarantine. Do not share between these birds and your existing flock.
  - Place the birds in a quarantine area that is ideally located at least 30 feet from your flock.
  - Ensure birds come from reputable sources where they are less likely to carry disease.
  - Remember a bird can appear healthy while still being a disease carrier; therefore, it is important to monitor the birds carefully during the quarantine period for signs of disease including coughing, eye or nasal discharge, lack of appetite, diarrhea, etc.
- Consider getting your birds vaccinated as chicks from a hatchery, or sourcing adult birds that have been vaccinated.
- If you have multiple flocks on your premises, minimize contamination by doing chores from the flocks with the higher to lower health status and from youngest to oldest. If you have birds in quarantine make sure you tend to them last.
- Control who is visiting your birds, especially if they keep poultry.
  - Provide visitors with dedicated footwear or disposable boot covers. Foot baths can also be used although they need to be managed properly, as they must be changed regularly and can be difficult to use in winter as they can freeze depending on how your coop is set up.
  - If using a foot bath, ensure visitors scrub their shoes to remove organic matter prior to placing in the footbath.
  - Disposable boot covers should be disposed of on the property.
- Have a “No Entry” or “Do Not Enter” sign on your coop to discourage strangers from entering that do not have your permission. Add a phone number you can be reached at and consider putting a lock on the door.
- Keep wild birds and other animals that may harbour illnesses and parasites away.
  - Clean up any spilled feed immediately and store feed in secure containers.
  - Pick up any leftover feed the birds haven’t touched at the end of the day (for example, table scraps) and any broken eggs.





- Minimize entry points to the coop. Ensure the door to the coop is closed at night to keep your birds contained and wild animals out.
- Use galvanized wire mesh with openings no larger than half inch by half inch on the walls and roof of your outdoor run. The mesh should be extended a minimum of 18” below ground or the entire floor of the outdoor run will need to be covered with it to stop predators from burrowing under.
- Do not place wild bird feeders in near proximity to your coop.
- Keep the perimeter of the coop clear of any garbage and grass/weeds that could be used as hiding areas for rodents.
- Check for evidence of predators and rodents regularly and act accordingly, ensuring any traps are not accessible to domestic pets and your birds.
- Purchase feed and bedding from a reputable supplier.
- Do not share or sell eggs in cardboard egg cartons or flats as they cannot be cleaned properly.
- Consult with your veterinarian if you are observing sick or dying birds. Keep records of sick birds (date, signs of disease, and action taken) and any dead birds.
- Dispose of any dead birds immediately in accordance with your local legislation.
  - If you are having a post-mortem done on your bird, follow the directions from the laboratory or veterinarian for proper storage until the bird can be dropped off. Ensure the carcass is kept in a secure container where it is not accessible to wild animals.
  - For farm and acreage owners only, acceptable methods of disposal include composting, incineration, burial, rendering or natural disposal.
  - For urban flock owners, your options will be more limited as carcasses may or may not be placed with your household garbage, depending on your local bylaws. Your options include landfill disposal (for a minimum fee) or disposal through a veterinary clinic, similar to a dog or cat.

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF THE COOP AND EQUIPMENT

One of the most important steps to maintaining a healthy environment for the birds is to keep the coop and equipment clean. Chicken coops can become dirty quickly through accumulation of feces, feathers, dust, and dirt. For a list of daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal chores please see Chapter 3: General Management, Time and Financial Commitments.

When it is time to do a thorough cleaning of the coop and all equipment, make sure you follow the steps below. This will ensure a clean environment and can help destroy viruses and bacteria which may be harmful to you and your flock.

- Wear personal protective gear such as disposable gloves, a face mask, boots, and coveralls.
- Remove all birds in the coop to a different location.
- Remove all the equipment including feeders and waterers. Scrub to remove any organic material and allow to soak in a detergent. Rinse with water and air dry.
- Remove all bedding and organic material from inside of the coop (manure, feathers, feed, dust, etc.) and dispose of properly, in accordance with your local legislation.
- Use a hose, preferably one that is pressurized, to spray the inside of the coop with water. Make sure you spray the ceiling, walls, floors, and nest boxes. Next, spray with a detergent and allow to soak. Rinse with water and air dry.

- Apply a multi-purpose disinfectant available at your local farm supply store.
- If an outdoor run is provided, it may need to be raked.
- Once the coop is dry, replace with new bedding and return the birds to the coop.

## DISINFECTANTS

Many multi-purpose disinfectants are available for purchase at your local farm supply store that will work well for disinfecting your coop and equipment. One example is Virkon, which is effective against poultry diseases such as Salmonella, Avian Influenza, and Newcastle Disease. Exercise caution around disinfectants, as they are poisonous if swallowed or inhaled. Ensure if you are working with disinfectants that there is proper ventilation and that you are wearing personal protective gear. Follow all directions on the label for use, expiry dates, how to apply, etc.

It is not advisable to borrow equipment from another flock owner’s coop; however, if you must, ensure that it is cleaned and disinfected first using a multi-purpose disinfectant.

It is highly recommended to allow for a minimum of two weeks of downtime between poultry flocks. Once the coop has been cleaned and disinfected, wait two weeks before you place new birds.

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF VEHICLES

If your birds are being transported in vehicles, the vehicles and any equipment used to transport the birds, including crates and containers, must be cleaned and disinfected. This includes the interior and exterior of the vehicle. Organic matter needs to be removed first to ensure the disinfectant is effective. It can be difficult to clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment in cold weather; a car wash may be a viable option.

If your vehicle will be in proximity to another coop or live birds (for example at a show or auction), ensure that you clean and disinfect the tires on your vehicle, too.

## VISITING A FARM WITH BIRDS

If you are visiting a farm with birds, ensure that you:

- Avoid parking near the coop.
- Do not enter the coop until you have met with the flock owner to get instructions first.
- Be cognizant of the above biosecurity practices. Flock owners may have varying standards of biosecurity. Always follow the highest level of biosecurity.
- Ensure that you wash your clothing upon returning home and disinfect your footwear.

## IN A DISEASE SITUATION

If your flock or another flock near you becomes sick, additional biosecurity precautions should be taken:

- Segregate any sick birds immediately from the flock.
- If you have multiple flocks on your premises, always handle the sick birds last.
- Avoid visiting other poultry, including at auctions or shows, if your flock is sick or there is a disease outbreak in the area.

# CHAPTER 12: END OF LIFE PLANS



## LIFESPAN OF A BIRD

Before deciding to keep poultry, it is important to consider the lifespan of a bird and end of life plans. It is much easier to have a plan in place before you find yourself in the middle of a sensitive situation. Each flock owner will have a different idea of what is appropriate for end of life plans because this is based on their individual values, past experiences, and what is practical for their situation.

End of life plans can be especially difficult for layers because these birds are not typically raised for meat and can potentially

live several years. Layers will often be at their peak level of egg production around a year old before gradually declining in production. An urban flock owner may find themselves with a small flock of birds that are the same age, who are not producing eggs. If you decide to keep your chickens, you could have years of caring for birds that are not laying. There is no right or wrong answer; your decision will be based on what you are comfortable with.

## OPTIONS FOR “RETIRED” BIRDS

- Continue to care for the birds for the remainder of their life.
- Re-home your birds.
- Consult with your veterinarian about humane euthanasia.
- Consult with other operations permitted to dispose of birds (abattoir).

## EUTHANASIA

When raising your own birds, you will inevitably experience a bird that becomes ill or injured and you will need to make a decision about the bird's quality of life. Euthanasia may be the most humane option if recovery is not likely or treatment is not practical. If you live in an urban municipality, you are prohibited from killing birds on your property.

## EUTHANASIA DEFINITION

Euthanasia is the act of inducing humane death in an animal with minimal pain and distress.

## KNOWING WHEN TO CONSIDER EUTHANASIA

Flock owners need to be able to recognize normal bird behaviour and the signs of pain, injury, illness, and distress that may indicate euthanasia is the most humane option.

*The following questions may help you make a decision about euthanasia.*

- Does the bird appear to be experiencing pain or distress?
  - Signs of pain or distress in individual birds may include lethargy, hunched posture with head drawn in, ruffled or dirty feathers, physical abnormality or limited mobility, reluctance to eat or drink, severely injured, swollen head, discoloured comb, or poor body condition.
- Are feed and water readily available and can the bird access these?

- Can the cause of the pain or distress be addressed?
- Is recovery likely within 48-72 hours?
- Is the bird responsive to treatment and showing improvement?
- Is the bird likely to transmit disease to other birds?

Photos (Left to Right): Compromised chick (diseased), compromised chick (leg injury)



## EUTHANASIA CONSIDERATIONS

Once you have made the decision to euthanize a bird it should be carried out in a timely manner. Often times, small flock owners may delay euthanasia as they dread the task. However, this can cause the bird to suffer needlessly.

Many small flock owners are not comfortable or trained to perform euthanasia themselves. It is highly recommended to have a veterinarian perform humane euthanasia or to train you on how to do this properly. Establish a relationship with a veterinarian in your area before you find yourself in a sensitive situation. Even if the veterinarian does not treat poultry, they will likely still be able to help you with humane euthanasia.

While it is ideal to have a veterinarian perform the euthanasia, there may be circumstances where a veterinarian is not available or a bird is suffering and needs to be euthanized immediately. Two methods considered acceptable for small flock owners are discussed below. As you read through the options, keep in mind the following:

## THE BIRD'S WELFARE:

It is crucial that birds are restrained properly to ensure the euthanasia method is effective.

If possible, have a second person present, especially if you are handling larger birds.

## Your safety.

- The method selected must not pose a safety risk to individuals performing the euthanasia.

## Training.

- Euthanasia requires that the individual has been trained in order to ensure the bird is humanely killed in the most effective manner! Only individuals trained and competent in the procedure should perform euthanasia!
- Trained individuals will have knowledge of appropriate euthanasia methods, how to avoid operator injury, know how to confirm the bird is deceased, and the proper methods to dispose of the carcass.

- The individual must be comfortable with the procedure and confident in their level of skill.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that anyone who will be euthanizing your birds is trained and competent to do so.

Limitations

- Be honest about your physical and emotional limitations. You may not have the physical strength to handle live birds or be comfortable with performing euthanasia.

EUTHANASIA METHODS THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE

Some methods of euthanasia discussed on online forums and threads for small flock owners are NOT humane.

The following methods are NOT acceptable

- Leaving a bird that is suffering to eventually die on its own.
- Drowning the bird.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Suffocation.
- Blunt force trauma.
- Spinning the bird by the neck until it breaks, often called the “helicopter or windmill method”.
- Placing a broom handle across the back of a chicken’s skull and pulling up on the legs until the neck breaks, often called the “broomstick method”.
- Placing a live bird in the freezer.
- Poison.
- Shooting the bird.

EUTHANASIA METHODS THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE

With both euthanasia methods listed below, birds must be immediately rendered unconscious and stay insensible until death. Birds must be checked after the euthanasia method is performed to ensure the bird is deceased. If you are emotionally stressed at any point during the procedure, take care to ensure this does not negatively impact the bird’s welfare. Consultation with a veterinarian may be necessary.



Photos (Left to Right): Demonstrating decapitation (blade position and restraint), demonstrating cervical dislocation (holding head between thumb and forefinger)

If any of the following signs of consciousness are observed, the euthanasia method must be applied again or another method immediately administered (within 30 seconds).

- The bird blinks when the surface of the eye is touched.
- The bird is breathing (check for movement in the vent area).
- Vocalization.
- The bird attempting to right itself by holding its head up.

Death can be confirmed by the absence of breathing and a heartbeat. Death must be confirmed before birds are disposed of.

For a step by step guide, with photos, of the methods described below please see: <http://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/resources/euthanasia-resources-training-materials/>

For information on how to humanely euthanize a chicken by Dr. Mike Petrik, please see: <https://mikethechickenvet.wordpress.com/2017/02/16/euthanasia-for-backyard-birds>

METHODS OF EUTHANASIA ON-FARM		
(Adapted from National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practice 2016)		
EUTHANASIA METHOD	CONDITIONS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Decapitation	Instrument must be sharp and of appropriate size  Procedure must be carried out in one quick motion and result in a complete severance of the head	This procedure will be messy (blood) and is not aesthetically pleasing  Risk of disease transmission via blood
Cervical Dislocation- Manual	This method is generally restricted to smaller birds (e.g. <3 kg)	Performed correctly, cervical dislocation results in the luxation (dislocation) of the cervical vertebrae located at the base of the birds skull  The site of the dislocation should be as close to the head as possible
Cervical Dislocation- Mechanical	Device must be purpose-designed and appropriate for the size of bird	Cervical dislocation can be difficult to perform correctly in large birds and therefore may not result in immediate loss of sensibility

References:

National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practice 2016. Egg Farmers of Alberta Euthanasia Manual



# CHAPTER 13: BUTCHERING



If you live on a rural property, you may be interested in raising birds for meat. Urban communities have regulations that prohibit slaughtering chickens on the property or selling meat, manure, or other poultry products. Chickens raised in urban communities are intended for eggs only.

In Chapter 1: Regulations, we covered the provincial regulations around selling meat or by-products. Small flock owners must follow provincial and federal regulations if you are planning on selling meat or by-products to the public, which includes having the birds processed at a provincial or federally inspected plant.

Small flock owners looking to butcher birds for their personal consumption may not be comfortable with the process or have all the necessary equipment, and may opt for a mobile butcher or to hire it out to a custom butchering facility. Fees for butchering services will vary depending on your location, how the birds will be packaged, if the bird is whole or cut up, etc.

The provincial regulations in Alberta allow for a mobile butcher to slaughter your animals on your premises, but this meat can only be used by you or members of your immediate household; you cannot sell the meat to the public. The same regulation applies if you butcher an animal and process it yourself on your property.

## BREEDS FOR MEAT PRODUCTION

In Chapter 2: Breeds, we covered birds that are bred specifically for meat production. They have large, deep breasts, a large frame, and grow fast. They are generally ready to butcher as early as 10 weeks old, when they weigh around 5 pounds. Most broilers are raised straight run, meaning there are both males and females. Males do tend to grow faster, but it is a minor difference.

Dual-purpose breeds are suitable for butchering, but may need more time as they grow slower. Breeds that have been bred for egg production such as Leghorns or fancy breeds such as Silkies are generally not suitable for eating as they have a small body frame with very little meat. Birds raised on pasture may need more time before they are ready to butcher as they will grow more slowly.

As the bird ages, it is more prone to health issues and the meat will become tougher. Depending on how you manage your birds, they may taste different than chicken you purchase from the grocery store.

If you are new to butchering birds, you may want to start small with 10-15 birds. Plan ahead for when you will be raising the birds, as broilers and turkeys are very susceptible to heat stress. It is easier to butcher in the cooler months when the temperatures are lower.

## PREPARING FOR BUTCHERING

### FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES BELOW AS YOU PREPARE TO BUTCHER THE BIRDS:

- Plan ahead for what to do with the waste (blood, manure, feathers, organs, etc.). Waste can be composted, incinerated, buried, rendered, naturally disposed, or disposed of at the landfill for a nominal fee.
- Withhold feed from the birds for 8-12 hours prior to butchering. This allows the bird’s digestive tract to empty and prevents feed and fecal matter from contaminating the meat during butchering. If you are sending birds to a plant, they may be condemned if there is food left in the digestive tract.

- Follow all medicated feed withdrawal times.
- Provide water right up until the birds are killed.
- Have all your supplies set up prior to butchering.


Birds are easiest to catch in dim lighting conditions, either the evening before or in the early morning before daylight. Wear darker colors and talk quietly as you catch the birds to minimize any stress.

It is important that you assess each individual bird prior to butchering. Do not butcher birds that died from an unknown cause, are exhibiting signs of disease (Chapter 10), or are in poor body condition (Chapter 8).

Plan for up to an hour to process each bird, especially if you are butchering birds for the first time. Butchering is not an easy task; have others with you to help. It is strongly recommended to have someone present who has experience butchering poultry.

### EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Having the equipment ready beforehand will make butchering day much more efficient, easier, and safer. Most supplies can be purchased at your local farm supply store or a sporting goods store.

- Large freezer
- 
- Poultry killing cones
  - An axe
  - Heavy duty garbage bags
  - Buckets
- Garbage can
  - Running water supply
  - Large container with a way to heat the water to scald the carcasses
  - A thermometer
  - Proper butchering knives
  - Knife sharpener
  - Disposable gloves
  - Sink or container with a drain
  - Paper towels
- Packaging supplies (plastic wrap, Ziploc bags, etc.)
  - Sturdy work surface
  - Coolers with ice water to chill the carcasses in
  - Good lighting
  - Extension cords
  - Rubber boots
  - A waterproof apron

If you plan on butchering birds on a regular basis, you may want to consider investing in a mechanical plucker as this will speed up the process considerably.

## BUTCHERING DAY

### STEP 1:

Once all the birds have been caught, humanely euthanize one bird at a time. Birds must be immediately rendered unconscious and stay unconscious until death. Euthanasia requires that the individual has been trained in order to ensure the bird is humanely killed in the most effective manner! Only individuals trained and competent in the procedure should perform euthanasia!

Review acceptable euthanasia methods in Chapter 12: End of Life Plans. Death must be confirmed by the absence of breathing, corneal reflex, and a heartbeat.

All birds should be euthanized and bled before daylight, when they are still sleepy and will be easier to handle. Provide as calm an environment as possible to minimize stress.

It is highly recommended to use a poultry killing cone. A killing cone restrains the bird and is useful for euthanizing a small number of birds by decapitation. Most birds stay calm in a cone as they feel secure. Make sure to place a bucket under the cone to catch the blood as the bird bleeds out. This may take several minutes.



*Photos (Left to Right): Placing live chicken in a cone for restraint, knife placement*

### STEP 2:

The feathers must be plucked as soon as death is confirmed. Hold the bird by the feet and dip the carcass in scalding hot water for about ten seconds. This helps loosen the feathers for ease of plucking. If the feathers don't slide out easily, dip the bird in the hot water again. Water temperature should be 145 to 150°F (63 to 65°C). If the water is too hot, the carcass will start to cook. The water will need to be changed when it becomes dirty.

### STEP 3:

After the bird has been plucked, you should inspect it to make sure it is safe for human consumption. Check for tumours, abscesses, and open sores or wounds. The bird should have white or yellow skin. Birds that are raised on pasture have a more yellow tinge to the skin.

### STEP 4:

Remove the feet, head, and neck. You will also need to remove the crop, located at the base of the bird's neck/upper area of the breast. If feed was not withheld, work carefully around it as the feed could spill out and contaminate the carcass. Remove the oil gland, located at the back of the bird's tail at the bottom of the spine.

The organs also need to be removed. The organs are attached by the intestines to the vent. Depending on how you want to cut the bird up, you can either position your hand in the top of the body cavity and slowly and steadily pull them out, or cut the carcass along the backbone to remove the organs. Take care not to break the gall bladder when you are pulling out the organs.

The heart and lungs will still need to be removed. The heart is located in the center of the bird's chest and should pull out fairly easily. The lungs are bright pink; they can be difficult to grasp as they are tight to the bird's ribs and may need to be scraped out with your fingertips.

Take care any time you are cutting into the abdomen – you don't want to puncture the intestines!

### STEP 5:

Rinse the carcass thoroughly inside and out. Chill the carcass as soon as possible after butchering so the body temperature is brought down to 40°F (4°C). After the carcass is completely chilled, how you choose to cut and package the bird (whole or cut up into pieces) will be up to personal preference. The carcass must be completely cooled before being placed into a freezer for storage.

## HOW TO HANDLE MEAT SAFELY

### IT IS IMPORTANT TO HANDLE MEAT SAFELY BY:

- Washing your hands thoroughly before and after coming in contact with meat.
- Storing meat in your refrigerator (at a temperature of 40°F (4°C) or colder) or in your freezer.
- Washing all utensils, surfaces, dishes, and cutting boards thoroughly before and after coming in contact with meat.
- Preventing cross contamination of raw fruits, vegetables, and ready to eat foods.
- Cooking foods containing meat properly; poultry should be cooked to a minimum temperature of 165°F (74°C).
- Using a meat thermometer to ensure the meat is cooked thoroughly.
- Refrigerating or freezing foods within 2 hours of cooking.

When preparing to eat your own poultry, make sure to double check for any remaining organs and pin feathers and remove if needed.

# RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

## GENERAL POULTRY RE-SOURCES

Alberta Farm Animal Care: <http://www.afac.ab.ca/>

## ONLINE POULTRY RESOURCES

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Ag-Info Centre: 403-310-FARM (3276)

Specialists are available to answer inquiries. Ask to speak to a poultry specialist

Raising Chickens in Alberta: A Guide for Small Flock Owners: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet15323/\\$file/raising-chickens-in-alberta-06-15r.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet15323/$file/raising-chickens-in-alberta-06-15r.pdf)

Animal Health Act and Regulations: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/acts12272](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/acts12272)

Small Flock Poultry: [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/smallflock](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/smallflock)

Information on husbandry practices, disease prevention, and good management practices

The Poultry Site: <http://www.thepoultry-site.com/>

## ARTICLES AND RESEARCH ON POULTRY RELATED TOPICS

River City Chickens Collective: <http://www.rivercitychickens.org/>

Resources and information on keeping backyard chickens

## POULTRY FACEBOOK GROUPS:

Canada Liberated Urban Chicken Klub (CLUCK)

River City Chickens

High River and Area Chicken Keepers

Alberta Chickens Etc.

## POULTRY BLOGS:

Mike Petrik Chicken Vet Blog: <https://mikethechickenvet.wordpress.com/>

The Chicken Chick: <http://www.the-chicken-chick.com/>

Fresh Eggs Daily: <http://fresheggsdaily.com/>

## BOOKS:

Fresh Eggs Daily: Raising Happy Healthy Chickens Naturally

<http://fresheggsdaily.com/>

Raising Chickens for Dummies: [http://stupidityshouldhurt.com/reference/Raising\\_Chickens\\_Dummies.pdf](http://stupidityshouldhurt.com/reference/Raising_Chickens_Dummies.pdf)

Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens: <http://www.storey.com/books/storeys-guide-to-raising-chickens-3rd-edition/>

## CHAPTER 1: LEGISLATION

Current urban communities that allow residents to keep chickens: [www.afac.ab.ca](http://www.afac.ab.ca)

Premises Identification Number: [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises)

Application for obtaining a grading license from the CFIA: [http://www.inspection.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-about-cfia-sujetacia/STAGING/text-texte/c3043\\_re\\_1381168478009\\_eng.pdf](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-about-cfia-sujetacia/STAGING/text-texte/c3043_re_1381168478009_eng.pdf)

List of federally registered egg stations: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/eggs-and-egg-products/registered-stations/shell-egg-stations/eng/1391029540171/1391029591047>

Egg Farmers of Alberta: <http://eggs.ab.ca/>

Purchasing egg quota Alberta Chicken Producers: <http://www.chicken.ab.ca/>

Purchasing broiler quota Alberta Turkey

Producers: <http://www.albertaturkey.com/>

Purchasing turkey quota Marketing Eggs in Alberta: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex14045](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex14045)

Marketing Meat in Alberta: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex10326](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex10326)

## CHAPTER 2: BREEDS

DNA Bird Sexing in Canada: <http://www.accu-metrics.com/avian.php>

## CHAPTER 3: GENERAL MANAGEMENT, TIME AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Urban Egg Farmer: top ten list of chores: <http://www.realdirtblog.ca/urban-egg-farmer-top-ten-list-of-chores/>

Ladies First Chicken Door Opener: <http://ladiesfirstchickendoor.com/>

Farm Supply Stores in Alberta (Carry feed, medications, brooding supplies, coop building supplies, etc.):

<http://www.peaveymart.com/>

<https://www.ufa.com/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.homehardware.ca/en/index.htm>

## CHAPTER 4: BASIC NEEDS

Feed Manufacturers in Alberta: <https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app68/food-industry?section=category&cat1=-Feeds+%26+Other+Feedstuffs>

AgriLux Poultry LED Lightbulbs: <https://www.agrilux.ca/home.html>

Sensor Push Temperature and Humidity Smart Sensor: <http://www.sensorpush.com/>

List of Food Toxic to Chickens: [http://readynutrition.com/resources/10-foods-you-should-not-feed-your-chickens\\_09022014/](http://readynutrition.com/resources/10-foods-you-should-not-feed-your-chickens_09022014/)

Wild Plants Toxic to Chickens: <http://www.cbif.gc.ca/>

Livestock Water Calculator: [http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app19/calc/livestock/waterreq\\_dataentry1.jsp%20](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app19/calc/livestock/waterreq_dataentry1.jsp%20)

Dine-A-Chook Chicken Feeders and Waterers: <https://www.dineachook.com.au/>

## CHAPTER 5: DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTING A COOP

Alberta One Call: Locations of any underground utilities: <http://albertaonecall.com/>

Rental Coops/Hens and Incubators:

The Urban Chicks: <http://www.theurbanchicks.com/>

The Egg Plant: <https://www.facebook.com/abeggplant/>

## CHAPTER 6: EGG MANAGEMENT

Cooking Food Guidelines: [www.eggs.ca](http://www.eggs.ca)

Food Safety in Alberta: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/All/fs14746](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/All/fs14746)

Chapter 9: Breeding, Hatching, and Raising Chicks

Alberta Hatcheries:

Poultry Research Centre: <https://heritagechickens.ca/>

Rochester Hatchery: <http://www.rochesterhatchery.com/>

Hawthorne Hatchery: <http://www.hawthornhillpoultry.com/>

Miller Hatcheries: <http://www.millerhatcheries.com/>

## CHAPTER 10: HEALTH PROBLEMS/DISEASE

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Development Lab: 403-948-8575

Provides free diagnosis for poultry flocks

List of reportable poultry diseases: <http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/%24department/deptdocs.nsf/all/cpv12455>

Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian in Alberta: 1-780-427-3448 or 1-800-524-0051 (after hours)

Flu Advice for Backyard Swine and Poultry Owners:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/afs12665](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/afs12665)

ABVMA Veterinary Practice Directory: <http://abvma.in1touch.org/company/roster/companyRosterView.html>

Can search for veterinarians that treat Poultry – small flock

## CHAPTER 11: BIOSECURITY

ABVMA: <http://www.abvma.ca/biosecurity/SmallFlock.asp>

Biosecurity measures for small flock owners

Free Resource Kit: Keeping Your Birds Healthy:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/poultry/facts/hbresourcekit.htm>

How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Birds:

<http://inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/bird-health-basics/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>

## CHAPTER 12: EUTHANASIA

Poultry Mortality: [http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/flippingbook/agdex/450\\_29-1/html/index.html](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/flippingbook/agdex/450_29-1/html/index.html)

Poultry Industry Council Euthanasia Resource Materials:

<http://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/resources/euthanasia-resources-training-materials/>

How to humanely euthanize a chicken by Dr. Mike Petrik:

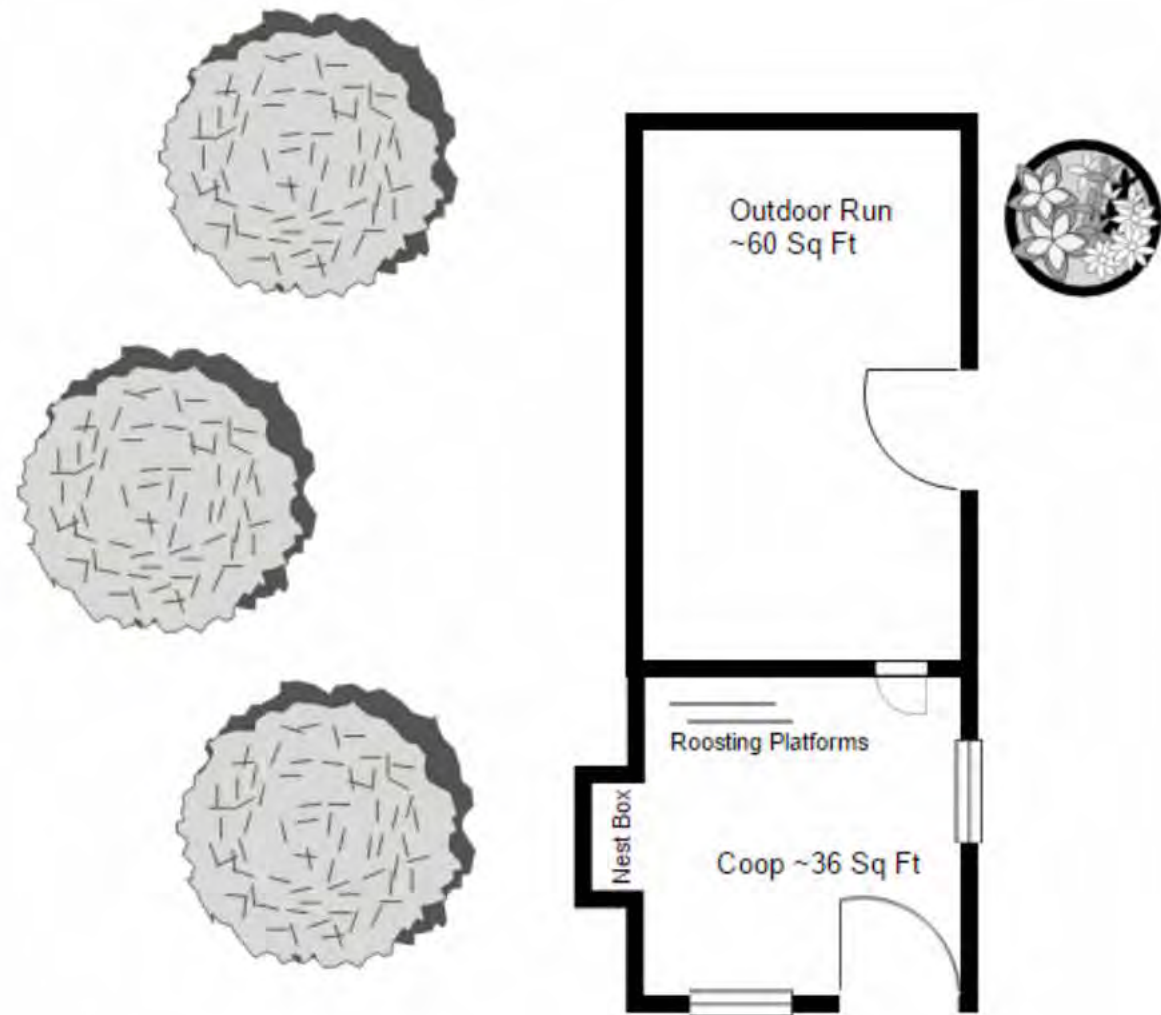
<https://mikethechickenvet.wordpress.com/>

## CHAPTER 13: BUTCHERING

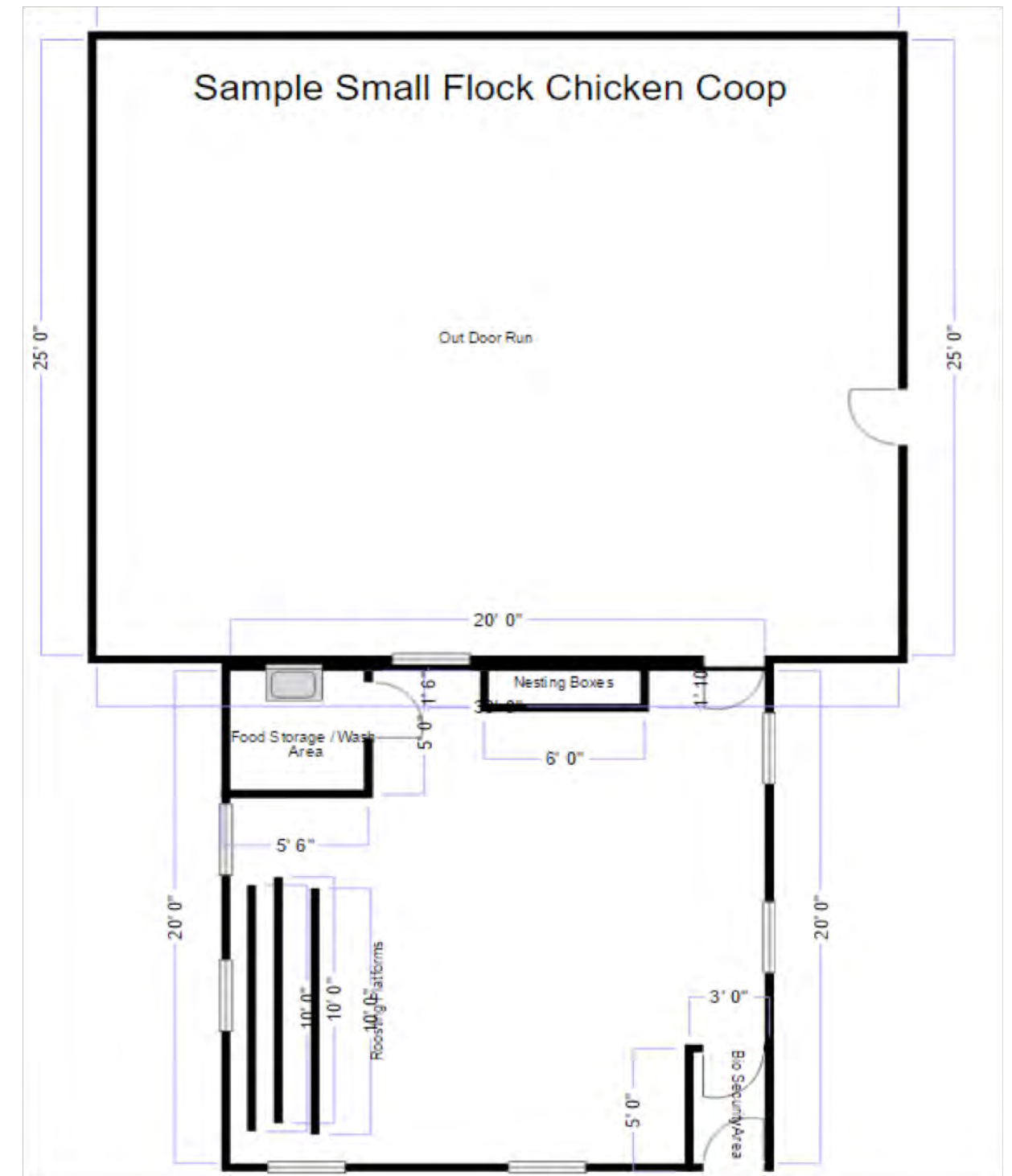
List of provincially registered meat establishments: <https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app68/foodindustry?section=category&cat1=Meat+++Provincial>

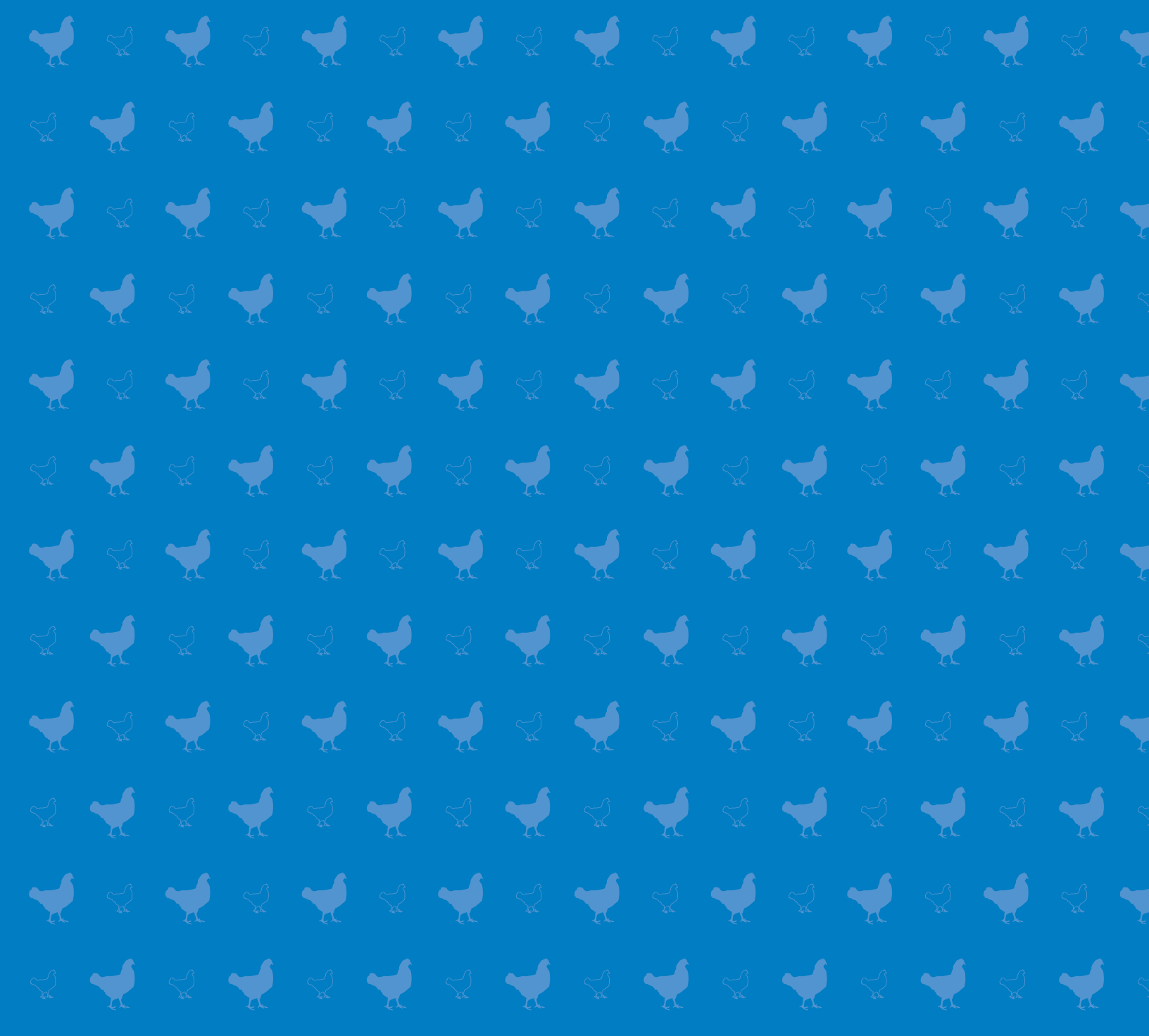


## SAMPLE PLAN FOR URBAN HEN COOP



## SAMPLE SMALL FLOCK CHICKEN COOP





**FOWL:**

## YOUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

*Your Comprehensive Guide to Keeping Urban Chickens and Small Flocks*

**Alberta Farm Animal Care**

High River PO Box 5201 • #5 112 Centre Street  
High River, AB T1V 1M4 • [www.afac.ab.ca](http://www.afac.ab.ca) • 403-652-5111



Alberta Farm Animal Care



@AbFarmAnimal





**Village of Hussar**  
**Request for Decision (RFD)**

Meeting:	Regular Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 31, 2022
Title:	Policy Review

Agenda Item Number:	4b.
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**BACKGROUND**

The following bylaws are attached for review:

- NEW 5.13 Compliance Certificate Policy
- NEW 5.14 Community Groups Policy
- NEW 5.15 Video Surveillance Policy

As per Policy & Bylaw review policy – Policies that are reviewed by Council with no amendments do not require a resolution but a note shall appear in the minutes listing all policies that were reviewed at that meeting

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Motion to adopt Administrative Policy 5.13 Compliance Certificate Policy
2. Motion to adopt Administrative Policy 5.14 Community Groups Policy
3. Motion to adopt Administrative Policy 5.15 Video Surveillance Policy
4. Motion for administration to revise \_\_\_\_\_policy as per Council's direction for adoption at a future regular meeting.

# Certificate of Compliance Policy

---

Date Approved by Council:

Resolution:

Review Date:

Related Bylaw:

Amendments:

---

## **Purpose**

This policy has been adopted to establish the requirements for and the processing of Certificates of Compliance. A Certificate of Compliance is a confirmation from the Village of Hussar that the location of the building(s) on a site comply with the requirements prescribed in the current Village of Hussar Land Use Bylaw.

## **Guidelines**

- A Certificate of Compliance can only be issued by a Development Officer or the Chief Administrative Officer
- An Alberta Land Surveyor's Real Property Report and Certificate of Compliance Application Form are required to apply for a Certificate of Compliance.
- The Real Property Report will only be accepted within three (3) years of the date of the Survey.
- An Alberta Land Surveyor's Real Property Report which states "Under Construction" or "Foundation Only" can only be accepted if it is submitted within six (6) months of the date of the survey.
- A minimum of two (2) original Real Property Reports must be submitted in paper form, electronic versions will not be accepted.
- If there are buildings or structures that encroach onto utility right-of-way, easements or Village owned land an Encroachment Agreement may be required. If required, the Encroachment Agreement must be obtained prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Compliance.
- Structures which may not require a development permit are still expected to meet appropriate setbacks (Ex. small shed).
- If the building(s) do not meet the proper setbacks, the document will indicate which structures are non-compliant.
- The Certificate of Compliance letter issued by the Village may confirm the zoning of the parcel and that the use of the land or structures are in accordance with the regulations of the Land Use Bylaw. The Compliance Certificate letter may also indicate the setback requirements and specify if any development permits have been issued for the parcel.
- A fee for a Certificate of Compliance is required. Payment will be set as per 5.3 Rates & Fees Policy and will be reviewed annually as per the 3.4 Policy & Bylaw Review Policy.
- Copies of the Alberta Surveyor's Real Property Report may be held by the Village as a record. Due to copyright laws, no copies of surveys will be provided to anyone other than the person/client named on the Real Property Report or the Individual who performed the Survey.

- Processing time for a Certificate of Compliance will be within 1 week of the request being received. Same day service will require an additional fee and must be received before noon.

**Certificate of Compliance Application Form****Required Documentation**

Prior to accepting payment the following documentation must accompany this completed application:

1. A minimum of two (2) original Real Property Reports must be submitted in paper form, electronic versions will not be accepted.
2. The Real Property Report will only be accepted within three (3) years of the date of the Survey.

**Property Location**

Legal Land Description: Lot\_\_\_\_\_ Block\_\_\_\_\_ Plan\_\_\_\_\_

Civic Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant & Owner information**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Delivery Method**

☐ Regular Mail

☐ Phone for Pick-up

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal information is collected under the authority of the *FOIP Act* for the purpose of creating a Certificate of Compliance. Questions about the collection may be addressed to the CAO at the Village of Hussar Office, 109 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, PO Box 100, Hussar, AB T0J 1S0 Phone (403) 787-3766.

\*We accept Cash, Cheque or Email transfer to [office@villageofhussar.ca](mailto:office@villageofhussar.ca)

**Office Use Only**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Roll # \_\_\_\_\_

Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Land Use District \_\_\_\_\_

# Community Groups Policy

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Date Approved by Council:

Resolution:

Review Date:

Related Bylaw:

Amendments:

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## **Purpose**

This policy has been adopted to recognize that community groups working together with the Village promotes increased collaboration and capacity building. Community groups are an essential component in providing sustainability to the Village.

## **Guidelines**

The Village works with local community groups and this policy will help to define the roles of the Village and community groups, when working towards common goals.

1. The Village recognizes that our community groups must and will play a role in development efforts.
2. The Village is committed to supporting and facilitating community groups in these efforts.
3. The Village is committed to send a minimum of one Councillor or the CAO to attend and participate in the annual community group meeting. Collaboration is crucial for success.
4. Community groups shall not complete any work to Village parks or green spaces without prior approval from Council.
5. Requests from a community group for any improvements to Village parks or green spaces shall be as follows:
  - a) A detailed write up of work to be completed with a site plan attached; and
  - b) Budget with all incoming financial sources indicated; and
  - c) Maintenance plan, if required.
  - d) Submit drawings and site plan after the work has been completed.
  - e) Any other requirements that the CAO or Council deem necessary, on a case-by-case basis. (Ex. locates, permits, etc.)
6. Any request made to the Village for financial support shall be made in writing with a dollar amount indicated and presented at a Council meeting.
7. Any request to the Village for improvements to be made shall be made in writing and presented at a Council meeting.

8. Any communication regarding maintenance concerns or requests for repairs, shall be made by the Chairperson or designate of the community group to the CAO.
9. Community Groups shall supply financial statements to the Village upon request when joint projects are undertaken.
10. The Village Council will be supportive of all projects being considered by community groups, if it is within reasonable financial expectations, and it has been given consideration for staff time regarding future maintenance.

# Video Surveillance Policy

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Date Approved by Council:

Resolution:

Review Date:

Related Bylaw:

Amendments:

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## **Purpose**

This policy has been adopted to establish the procedures for video surveillance at municipally owned properties in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) Division 1, 33 (a), (b), (c).

## **Policy Statement:**

The Village of Hussar recognizes the need to balance an individual's right to privacy and the need to ensure the safety and security of the Municipality's employees, clients, visitors and property. While video surveillance cameras are installed for safety and security reasons, the Municipality's video surveillance systems must also be designed to minimize privacy intrusion. Proper video surveillance, where deemed necessary, is one of the most effective means of helping to keep the Municipality's facilities and property operating in a safe, secure, and privacy protective manner.

## **Application:**

This policy applies to all types of camera surveillance systems, surveillance monitors and camera recording devices used for security purposes at municipally owned properties. This policy does not apply to video surveillance used for employment related or labour-related information nor to the videorecording, audio recording or broadcast of Council or Committee Meetings. If recording of Council or Committee meetings occurs, disclosure must be made to the participants and attendees through posted signs.

## **ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Chief Administrative Officer is responsible for

- approval of installation of video cameras at municipally owned properties based on Security Threat Assessment for the specific facility;
- implementation, administration and evaluation of the Policy and associated procedures;
- yearly evaluations of video surveillance system installations to ensure compliance with the Policy;
- review of the Policy annually as per the 3.4 Policy & Bylaw Review Policy, and forward recommendations for changes, if any, to Council for approval;
- disclosure of information from the video surveillance system as Head for the Municipality under FOIP;
- ensuring that information obtained through video surveillance is used exclusively for lawful purposes;



- any site under their responsibility with a video surveillance system; ensuring that the site complies with this policy, plus any site-specific procedures that may be required;
- conducting Security Threat Assessment to determine the requirement for a video surveillance system;
- overseeing day-to-day operations of the video surveillance system, and ensure all aspects of the video surveillance systems are functioning properly;
- ensuring monitoring and recording devices are stored in a safe and secure location, and are password protected, if required;
- documenting all information regarding the use, maintenance, and storage of records in the applicable logbook, including all instances of access to, and use of, recorded material to enable a proper audit trail;
- ensuring that no personal information is disclosed without proper approval;
- ensuring that no copies of data/images in any format (hardcopy, electronic, etc.) is taken from the video surveillance system without proper approval;
- recording all requests for access to video records

All municipal staff shall:

- adhere to the Video Surveillance Policy and not access or use information contained in the video surveillance system, its components, files or database for personal reasons, nor dispose, destroy, erase or alter any record without proper authorization and without following the Policy.

### **SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT (Schedule 1)**

Before deciding to install video surveillance, the following factors must be considered:

- the use of video surveillance cameras should be justified on the basis of verifiable, specific reports of incidents of crime or significant safety concerns;
- an assessment must be conducted on the effects that the proposed video surveillance system may have on personal privacy, and the ways in which any adverse effects can be mitigated;
- the proposed design and operation of the video surveillance systems should minimize privacy intrusion.

### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Municipality acknowledges the importance of public consultation when new or additional video surveillance systems are considered for municipally owned buildings and property. The extent of public consultation may vary depending on the extent of public access.

When new or additional video surveillance installations are being considered for open public spaces such as streets or parks, the Municipality shall consult with relevant stakeholders and the public to determine the necessity and acceptability. When new or additional video surveillance systems are being considered for municipally owned or operated buildings to which the public are invited, such as a library, art gallery, or municipal office, notice shall be provided at the site with an opportunity for public feedback. When new or additional systems are contemplated inside municipal buildings or staff parking lots where there may be a high risk to staff or clients, consultation shall not be required.

**DESIGNING AND INSTALLING VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT**

Video surveillance currently recorded by the Municipality is stored directly to hard drives. Other methods of recording/storage are acceptable provided requirements of this policy are met.

When designing a video surveillance system and installing equipment, the following must be considered:

- Given the open and public nature of the Municipality's facilities and the need to provide for the safety and security of employees and clients who may be present at all hours of the day, the video surveillance systems may operate at any time in a 24-hour period.
- The video equipment should be installed to only monitor those spaces that have been identified as requiring video surveillance. Front office, front door - including parking, shop and shop parking.
- Operators' ability to adjust cameras should be restricted, if possible, so that they cannot adjust or manipulate cameras to overlook spaces that are not intended to be covered by the video surveillance program.
- Visible and/or hidden surveillance cameras may be installed, however, equipment should never monitor the inside of areas where the public and employees have a higher expectation of privacy (ex. washrooms).
- Only authorized staff, or those accompanied by authorized staff, shall have access to the recording equipment.
- Monitors are displayed on the front counter of the Village Office.

**NOTICE OF USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS**

To provide notice to individuals that video is in use:

- The Municipality shall post signs, visible to members of the public, at all entrances and/or prominently displayed on the perimeter of the grounds under video surveillance.
- A sample notice is included as Schedule 2. Other formats of signage may be used, where appropriate, provided it includes the required notification requirements.
- Notice may also be provided via the Village of Hussar website.

**PERSONAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION REQUEST PROCESS**

The Municipality recognizes that an individual whose personal information has been collected by a video surveillance system has a right to access his or her personal information under FOIP Act. All inquiries related to or requests for video surveillance records shall be directed to the CAO. A person requesting access to a record should submit the prescribed "Request Form" under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act along with the prescribed fee. Processing of the request will be in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

If access to a video surveillance record is required for the purpose of a law enforcement investigation, the requesting Officer must complete the Municipality's Law Enforcement Officer Request Form (Schedule 3) and submit it to the CAO.

**CUSTODY, CONTROL, RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF VIDEO  
RECORDS/RECORDINGS**

The Village of Hussar retains custody and control of all original video surveillance records. Video records are subject to the access and privacy requirements of FOIP, which includes but is not limited to the prohibition of all municipal staff from access or use of information from the video surveillance system, its components, files, or database for personal reasons.

Since short retention periods minimize risk of improper use and disclosure, the Municipality shall ensure that there is a standard retention period for video surveillance records.

A record of an incident will only be stored longer where it may be required as part of a criminal, safety, or security investigation or for evidentiary purposes. Video requiring viewing by law enforcement shall be copied from the hard drive and set aside in a clearly marked manner in a locked area until retrieved by the law enforcement agency. If personal information on video is used for law enforcement or public safety purposes, the recorded information shall be retained for one year after its use. Following investigation and any corresponding legal action, the law enforcement agency shall be required to destroy the video. If staff has reason to believe that the video contains personal information for law enforcement or public safety purposes, they shall notify the police and immediately make a copy from the hard drive. Copies made from the hard drive should be secured in such a way that they cannot be recorded over.

The Municipality will take all reasonable efforts to ensure the security of records in its control/custody and ensure their safe and secure disposal. Disposal methods will depend on the type of storage device.

**SCHEDULE 1 - SURVEILLANCE VIDEO SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT**

To determine the requirements for a Video Surveillance System

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Video Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is there already a video surveillance system and/or camera on site? If so, describe and advise if the set-up adheres to the Village of Hussar's Security Video Surveillance Policy. (Use separate page if required). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Video surveillance should only be considered after other measures of deterrence or detection have been considered and rejected as unworkable. Have the following security countermeasures been considered and rejected as unworkable?

Security Countermeasure	Yes	No	Comment
a) Security Procedure	_____	_____	_____
b) Duress Buttons	_____	_____	_____
c) Door Locking Hardware	_____	_____	_____
d) Alarm System	_____	_____	_____
e) Access Control System	_____	_____	_____
f) Signage	_____	_____	_____
g) Security Guard/Officer Patrols	_____	_____	_____
h) Lighting	_____	_____	_____
i) Other	_____	_____	_____

3. The use of each video surveillance camera should be justified based on verifiable, specific reports of incidents of crime or significant safety concerns. Are there any documented incidents of crime or significant safety concerns in any of the following formats?

Documentation Formats	Yes	No	Comment
a) Security Occurrence Reports	_____	_____	_____
b) Police Reports	_____	_____	_____
c) H&S Consultants Report	_____	_____	_____
d) H&S Committee Minutes	_____	_____	_____
e) Internal Minutes	_____	_____	_____
f) Other	_____	_____	_____

4. An assessment should be conducted on the effects that the proposed video surveillance system may have on personal privacy and the ways in which any adverse effects can be mitigated. Have the following effects and mitigation strategies been considered?

Effects & Mitigation Strategies	Yes	No	Comment
a) The location of the proposed camera is situated in an area that will minimize privacy	_____	_____	_____

intrusion?	_____	_____	_____
b) Is the proposed camera location one where the public and employees do not have a higher expectation of privacy (i.e. not in a washroom or change room, etc.)?	_____	_____	_____
c) Is the location of the proposed video camera visible?	_____	_____	_____
d) Can the video surveillance be restricted to the recognized problem area?	_____	_____	_____
e) Is space allocated for proper video surveillance signage?	_____	_____	_____
f) Has a drawing been attached showing the video location?	_____	_____	_____
g) Other	_____	_____	_____

5. The proposed design and operation of the video surveillance systems should minimize privacy intrusion. Have the following design and operation factors been considered for each proposed camera location?

Design & Operation Factors	Yes	No	Comment
a) Can the proposed camera be restricted through hardware or software to ensure that Operators cannot adjust or manipulate cameras to overlook spaces that a threat assessment has not been completed for?	_____	_____	_____
b) Is the reception equipment going to be located in a strictly controlled access area?	_____	_____	_____
c) Can the Video Surveillance Monitor be installed in such a way that it will be hidden from public view?	_____	_____	_____
d) Other	_____	_____	_____

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Completed By (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position Title

## SCHEDULE 2 – NOTICE OF COLLECTION

The logo for LOREX, featuring the word "LOREX" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is stylized with a white dot in the center, resembling an eye or a camera lens. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of the "X".

This area may be monitored by Video Surveillance Cameras (Closed-Circuit Television -CCTV).

The personal information collected by the use of the CCTV is used for the purpose of promoting public safety and reduction of crime at this site.

Questions about the collection of the personal information may be addressed to the CAO of the Village of Hussar, PO Box 100, 109 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, Hussar, AB T0J 1S0 Phone: (403) 787-3766.



**SCHEDULE 3 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REQUEST FORM**

## RELEASE OF RECORD TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

(under Section 40(1)(g)(q)(r)(gg) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act)

TO: Village of Hussar

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name of Police Officer) (Print Name of Police Force)

request a copy of the following record(s):

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time Period: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

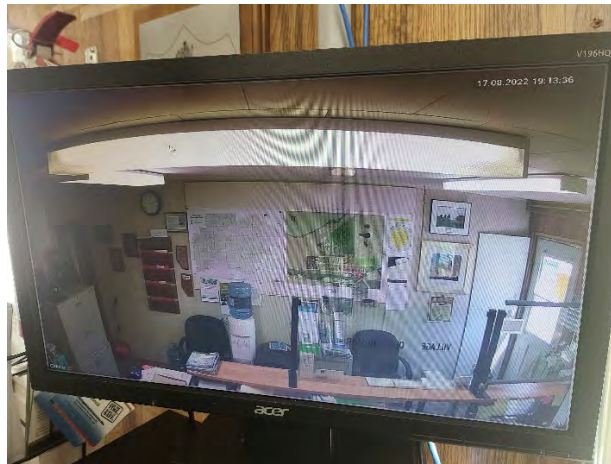
Municipal Facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Village Office)to aid an investigation undertaken with a view to a law enforcement proceeding or from which  
a law enforcement proceeding is likely to result.

I confirm that the record will be destroyed by the \_\_\_\_\_ Police after use by the agency.

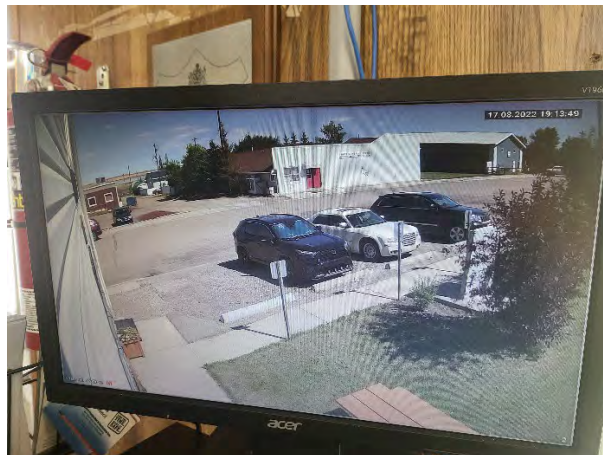
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Officer\_\_\_\_\_  
DateReturn completed original forms to the CAO at the Village of Hussar Office, 109 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East,  
PO Box 100, Hussar, AB T0J 1S0Personal information is collected under the authority of the FOIP for the purpose of creating a record relating to  
release of video surveillance record to law enforcement agency. Questions about the collection may be addressed  
to the CAO at the Village of Hussar Office, 109 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, PO Box 100, Hussar, AB T0J 1S0 Phone (403) 787-  
3766.

## SCHEDULE 4 – COVERAGE OF CAMERA

### Camera 1 - Office



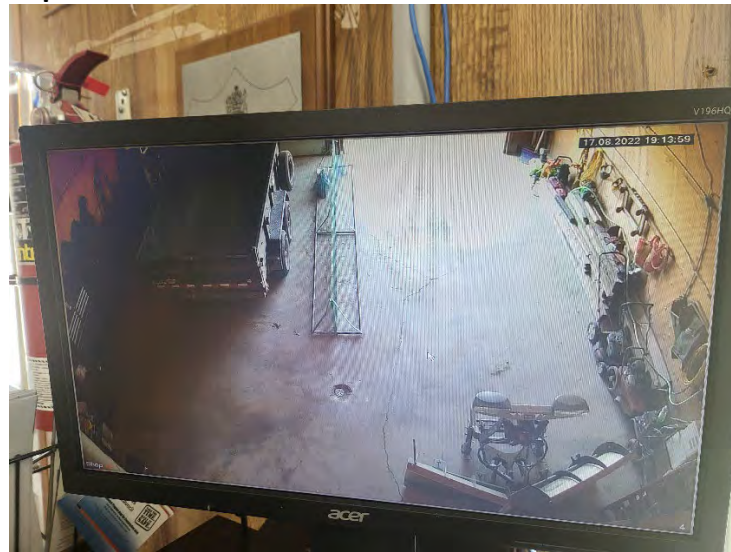
### Camera 2 – Outside Office



### Camera 3 – Outside Shop



**Camera 4 – Inside Shop**



**Video Surveillance Monitor**



## Village of Hussar

### Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Regular Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 31, 2022
Title:	Follow up from Public Hearing – LUB changes
Agenda Item Number:	5a.

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the Land Use Bylaw Public Hearing on July 20, 2022 many items were brought forward in a written submission. Many were for clarity and explanation but a couple were major items they were looking for Council to discuss and reconsider:

- Fence Heights

The Village currently allows 6.56ft high fence in the rear and side of a property and discussion was around an 8 or 10 ft height option. The LUB currently allows for a 20% variance which would be:  
 $6.56 \times .20 = 1.31$      $6.56 + 1.31 = 7.87\text{ft}$  height fence allowed with a variance

- Overall coverage of a site in each district

The LUB currently allows for 15% accessory buildings and 40% overall site coverage  
Devin explained the initial reasoning behind this was the impact it has on overland flooding.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Motion to hold a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 for the Land Use Bylaw with the following changes:  
LIST CHANGES
2. Motion to accept as information at this time

## Village of Hussar

### Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Date: August 31, 2022  
Title: Unsightly Premises

Agenda Item Number: 5b.

#### **BACKGROUND**

There are 2 properties owned by the same person that are unsightly. One is residential the other is commercial. The commercial property is in a fairly dangerous condition.

Sept 25, 2019 following a complaint received - Resident was provided a letter to provide Council with a plan to remedy the situation.

*September 12, 2019. Motion # 2019-09-12-172 MOVED by Councillor Frank to advise our CAO to send a letter to the property owner that explains that there has been a complaint and we would like them to bring forth a solution to this problem by our next regular council meeting.*

No real plan was ever submitted. It was winter so the snow covered everything. Was going to begin fixing the properties once the snow melted. Some communication during COVID that they would be taking some material to another property they own not in the village

July 19, 2022 -Resident was provided a letter to follow up on the progress of their plan to fix the unsightly conditions of their properties.

No communication since.

What resolution would Council like to see?

What is the timeframe that Council would like to see the resolution completed?

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Motion to have our CAO send a letter to the resident with the unsightly properties stating that \_\_\_\_\_(resolution) must be completed in \_\_\_\_\_(timeframe) as per our Unsightly Bylaw #521-18
2. Motion to accept as information at this time

**BYLAW #521-18  
VILLAGE OF HUSSAR**

**A BYLAW OF THE VILLAGE OF HUSSAR IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
REGULATING, CONTROLLING AND ABATING NUISANCES AND REMEDYING UNSAFE AND  
UNSIGHTLY PROPERTIES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000 c.M-26 as amended or replaced from time to time, the council of a municipality may pass bylaws for preventing of nuisances generally, and regulating untidy and unsightly private and public premises, and eliminating conditions on properties that are dangerous to public safety;

AND WHEREAS, the Village of Hussar Council deems it expedient and in the public interest to pass a bylaw to establish and enforce minimum standards relating to the state of maintenance of property and to regulate, control and abate nuisances and unsafe and unsightly properties;

AND WHEREAS, Council feels that it is important to maintain a high standard of property maintenance so that the community is kept and well cared for and believes that with the cooperation of property owners, this could be an important way to showcase the Village to residents and visitors alike;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Hussar, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

**BYLAW TITLE**

1. This bylaw may be referred to as the "Unsightly Premise Bylaw."

**DEFINITIONS**

2. In this Bylaw, unless the context requires otherwise:
  - a. "Act" means the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000 c.M-26 and associated regulations as amended or replaced;
  - b. "Abandoned Equipment" means equipment or machinery, which has been rendered inoperative by reason of its disassembly, damage, age or mechanical condition, or any household appliance stored outside of a residence or other structure regardless of whether or not it is in an inoperable condition;



- c. "Abandoned Vehicle" means the whole or any part of any motor vehicle that is in a rusted, wrecked, partially wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, or inoperative condition, and is not located within a structure or is located on a premises such that it can be concealed from view;
- d. "Animal Material" means any animal carcass, animal excrement including manure or any other form of waste litter, and includes any material accumulated on premises from pet pens or pet yards, stables, veterinary clinics, animal hospitals, kennels or feed lots;
- e. "Ashes" means the powdery residue accumulated on a property left after the combustion of any substance and includes any partially burnt wood, charcoal or coal or any other combustible substance;
- f. "Boulevard" means that portion of a street which lies between the roadway and the front property line of the land abutting said street;
- g. "Building Material" means all construction and demolition material accumulated on a property while storing, constructing, altering, repairing or demolishing any structure and includes, but is not limited to new or used metal, steel, aluminum, or tin, or earth, Vegetation or rock displaced during such construction, alteration or repair;
- h. "Bylaw Enforcement Officer" means a person authorized by Council to carry out the provisions of this bylaw and includes the Chief Administrative Officer, a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or a Peace Officer;
- i. "Chief Administrative Officer" means that individual appointed by Council as Chief Administrative Officer for the Village in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*;
- j. "Council" means the council of the Village of Hussar;
- k. "Day" means a continuous period of twenty four (24) hours;
- l. "Nuisance" means any condition or unauthorized use of Property which, in the opinion of a Bylaw Enforcement Officer constitutes an unreasonable interference with the enjoyment, use or value of other Property or the quality of life of Village residents;

- m. "Occupant" means any Person occupying, and/or residing on Property pursuant to a lease agreement, license agreement or other form of permit or permission;
- n. "Owner" means a person registered under the *Land Titles Act* as being the owner of a Property;
- o. "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, society or other legally constituted organization;
- p. "Property" means any land, buildings, structures, or premises or any personal property located thereupon;
- q. "Pest" means any animal, bird, reptile or insect which causes or could reasonably be expected to cause annoyance, damage or injury to any person, animal or plant;
- r. "Refuse" means all solid and liquid waste including but not limited to: any paper product, fabric, wood, plastic, glass, metal, organic waste, or any matter, substance or thing, which has been or appears to have been discarded, abandoned, or in any way disposed of;
- s. "Remedial Order" means a written order issued pursuant to section 545 or 546(0.1) of the *Municipal Government Act*;
- t. "Roadway" means any land as shown as a road on a plan or survey that has been filed or registered in a land titles office or used as a public road and includes an alley, lane or bridge forming part of a public road, and any structure incidental to a public road, or is used for parking or travel by vehicles;
- u. "Sidewalk" means the part of a pathway or Roadway especially adapted to the use of or ordinarily used by pedestrians;
- v. "Unsafe Condition" means Property that, in the opinion of a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, poses or constitutes an undue or unreasonable hazard or risk to the safety, health or welfare of any Person or other Property including, but not limited to, a structurally unsound condition, fire or explosive hazard;

- w. "Unsightly Condition" means any Property or part thereof that, in the opinion of a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, shows signs of neglect, or which otherwise exhibits a significant lack of general maintenance, clean-up, or upkeep, and includes:
- i. Property having an excessive, unusual, or unreasonable accumulation of:
    - A. Abandoned Equipment;
    - B. Abandoned Vehicles;
    - C. Animal Material;
    - D. Ashes;
    - E. Building Material;
    - F. Refuse; or
    - G. Vegetation;
  - ii. Any building, structure, or other improvement that exhibits significant physical deterioration, including buildings and structures that suffer from:
    - A. Broken or missing windows, siding, shingles, shutters, eaves, roofing, or finishing materials; or
    - B. Clearly visible exterior or structural deterioration, damage or decay, including significant fading, chipping or peeling of painted surfaces;
- x. "Vegetation" means grass, weeds, bushes, shrubs, trees or any other plant;
- y. "Village" means the Village of Hussar;
- z. "Violation Tag" means a Bylaw Violation Tag issued pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*;
- aa. "Violation Ticket" means a ticket issued under Part 2 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*;
- bb. "Warning Letter" means a letter issued by a Bylaw Enforcement Officer advising an Owner or Occupant that a Property is in contravention of this Bylaw and directing the actions that the Owner or Occupant must take in order to remedy the contravention, stating a time frame in which the Owner or Occupant must comply with the directions and advising if the Owner or Occupant does not comply with the directions within the specified time frame that the Village may pursue further enforcement action;

### UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

3. No Owner or Occupant of a Property shall cause, permit or allow the Property to become or to continue to be in an Unsightly Condition.
4. No Owner or Occupant of a Property shall cause, permit or allow the Property to become or continue to be in an Unsafe Condition.
5. No Owner or Occupant of a Property shall cause, permit or allow the Property to become or continue to be a Nuisance.
6. If there is more than one Owner or Occupant of a Property, all Owners or Occupants of the Property are jointly and severally responsible to ensure that the Property complies with this Bylaw.
7. The Owner of a Property is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Property complies with all provisions of this Bylaw.

### VEGETATION

8. An Owner or Occupant of a Property shall control all weeds and grass on the Property, and on any Boulevard which abuts or adjoins the Property, including up to the centre of lanes or alleys at the rear or side of the Property, by preventing them from growing to a height of more than six (6) inches.
9. Trees and bushes whose branches overhang a road, lane or alley shall not encroach over the property line so as to allow unobstructed flow of traffic through these thoroughfares.
10. Trees and bushes whose branches overhang a sidewalk shall be pruned so as to not encroach onto or over the sidewalk or obstruct or prevent the flow of pedestrian traffic.

### GARBAGE

11. No Owner or Occupant of a Property, whether presently occupied or not, shall permit or allow Refuse, Abandoned Vehicles, Abandoned Equipment or any other matter to be placed or remain on a Property that may allow the Property be considered, in the opinion of the Bylaw Enforcement Officer, to be or become an Unsightly Property.
12. No Owner or Occupant of a Property, shall permit or allow Refuse, garbage, debris, Building Material, yard material, or other material to be blown off or otherwise scattered beyond the boundary of the Property.

13. No Person shall personally, nor by his employee, servant or agent, discard, place deposit or leave any Refuse, garbage, debris or other material upon any private Property, without the permission of the owner of such Property.

#### FENCES

14. All fences, barriers and retaining walls around or upon the Property shall be kept in a reasonable state of repair. No Owner or Occupant shall allow a structure or fence to become a safety hazard.

#### VEHICLES

15. One (1) vehicle that does not bear a current registration may be stored on a Property, as long as that vehicle is not considered by the Bylaw Enforcement Officer to be an Abandoned Vehicle.

- a. A vehicle stored under this section must not be parked on the front lawn of the Property.

16. A Bylaw Enforcement Officer may provide approval for additional vehicle storage on a Property taking into account any or all of the following:

- a. Screening of the vehicles from adjacent properties;
  - b. Maintenance of Vegetation around the vehicles;
  - c. Size and lot coverage of the Property;
  - d. Number of vehicles;
  - e. Length of time the vehicles will be stored;
  - f. Whether or not the vehicles will be covered with a vehicle tarp; and
  - g. Any other factors the Bylaw Enforcement Officer deems appropriate;

Approval will be provided on a case-by-case basis and may be with or without conditions.

#### PESTS

17. Any permanent opening in a basement, cellar, crawl space, accessory building, or other structure that might permit the entry of rodents, vermin or other Pests shall be screened or covered so as to completely cover the opening in a way that does not allow access to these Pests.
18. Where a Property or portion thereof is infested with vermin, insects, rodents or other Pests, all necessary steps shall be taken to eliminate the Pests in order to prevent their reappearance.

## CONSTRUCTION

19. An Owner or Occupant of a Property under construction, renovation or demolition shall ensure that Building Material and waste Building Materials on the Property are contained and secured in such a manner that prevents such material from being blown off or scattered throughout or from the Property.
20. A Nuisance, Unsightly Condition or Unsafe Condition may include the accumulation of Building Materials, whether new or used unless the Owner or Occupant can establish that a construction or renovation undertaking is being carried out on the Property and that the undertaking has begun or the beginning of work is imminent and that the material is stacked or stored in an orderly manner.

## SNOW REMOVAL

21. The Owner or Occupant of a Property adjacent to a Sidewalk or pathway shall remove ice and snow from that portion of the Sidewalk or pathway adjacent to the Property so that the Sidewalk is cleared within 48 hours after the snow or ice has been deposited to ensure that the Sidewalk does not remain in an Unsafe Condition.
22. A Person may, in such a way as to not injure or unduly interfere with any other Person lawfully using the Sidewalk, use a power driven device that is sufficiently light and of such construction that it will not injure the surface of the Sidewalk to remove snow or ice from any portion of a Sidewalk.
23. Where a person uses an ATV or other vehicle to remove snow from a Sidewalk, as provided for above, approval for such use will be required from the Village. In order to obtain this permission the Village may require the following:
  - a. The operator of the ATV must be at least 16 years of age;
  - b. The operator must provide proof of insurance and registration for the ATV;
  - c. The operator must provide a map of the area to be cleared by the ATV; andthe operator may be held liable for any damages to private Property or Village Property, including, but not limited to, Sidewalks and Roadways.
24. A Person who removed snow or ice from public or private Sidewalks or Property shall not deposit said snow or ice upon any Sidewalk, Roadway, or public or private Property without permission from the Owner of such Property and, shall not impede storm water runoff, including runoff caused by melting snow or ice, or block access to any fire hydrant, driveway, or wheelchair ramp.



## ENFORCEMENT

25. When making the determination as to whether a Property is in an Unsightly Condition or Unsafe Condition, or as to whether the Owner or Occupant of a Property has allowed the Property to become or continue to be a Nuisance, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer may consider:

- a. The general condition and state of upkeep and tidiness of other Properties located in the same neighbourhood, community or vicinity;
- b. The nature, size, location and permitted use of the Property, and whether or not the Property is located within a predominantly residential area;
- c. The nature of the Unsightly Condition, Unsafe Condition or Nuisance condition complained of, and the period of time that such condition has persisted;
- d. Whether the Property is undergoing construction, renovation, or demolition, and the period of time that such activity has been ongoing;
- e. Whether the Owner or Occupant of the Property had been previously notified of compliance with the provisions of this Bylaw; and
- f. Any other circumstances or factors relating to the Property which the Bylaw Enforcement Officer considers to be relevant to the subject determination.

26. A Bylaw Enforcement Officer is a designated officer of the Village for the purposes of ensuring that the provisions of this Bylaw are being complied with and may enter in or upon any Property or structure in accordance with section 542 of the *Municipal Government Act*, to carry out an inspection, enforcement, remedial action or other action authorized or required by this Bylaw or the *Municipal Government Act*.

27. No provision of this Bylaw nor any action taken pursuant to any provisions of this Bylaw shall restrict, limit, prevent or preclude the Village from pursuing any and all other remedy in relation to contravention of this Bylaw provided by the *Municipal Government Act*, or any other law in the Province of Alberta.

28. It is the intention of Council that all offences created by this Bylaw be interpreted to be strict liability offences.

## WARNING LETTER

29. The Bylaw Enforcement Officer may issue a Warning Letter to any Person who contravenes this Bylaw.

30. If the Person to whom the Warning Letter was issued does not comply with the Warning Letter, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer may issue a Remedial Order to the Person requiring that the Person bring the Property into compliance with this Bylaw and/or the *Municipal Government Act*.

## REMEDIAL ORDER

31. Regardless of whether or not a Warning Letter has been issued, at any time where a Bylaw Enforcement Officer finds that a Person is contravening this Bylaw, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer may issue a Remedial Order to that Person. The Remedial Order may:
- Direct the Person to stop doing something or change the way in which the Person is doing it;
  - Direct the Person to take any action or measures necessary to remedy the contravention of this Bylaw or the *Municipal Government Act*;
  - State a time within which the Person must comply with the directions set out in the Remedial Order and provide proof of compliance to the Bylaw Enforcement Officer; and
  - That if the Person does not comply with the directions within a specified time, the Village may take action or measure at the expense of the Person.

## VIOLATION TAGS

32. A Bylaw Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Tag to any Person whom the Bylaw Enforcement Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.
33. The Violation Tag shall be in a form approved by the Chief Administrative Officer and shall state:
- The Person's name;
  - The offence;
  - The appropriate voluntary penalty for the offence as in this Bylaw;
  - That the voluntary penalty shall be paid within ten (10) Days of issuance of the Violation Tag in order to avoid further prosecution; and
  - Any other information as may be required by the Chief Administrative Officer.
34. Where a contravention of this Bylaw is of a continuing nature, further Violation Tags may be issued by the Bylaw Enforcement Officer provided, however, that no more than one Violation Tag shall be issued for each Day that the contravention continues.
35. Where a Violation Tag has been issued in accordance with this Bylaw, the Person to whom the Violation Tag has been issued may, in lieu of being prosecuted for the offence, pay to the Village the specified penalty within the time frame specified in the Violation Tag.

#### SERVICE OF WARNING LETTERS, REMEDIAL ORDERS AND VIOLATION TAGS

36. In any case where the Bylaw Enforcement Officer issues a Warning Letter, Remedial Order or Violation Tag to any Person pursuant to this Bylaw, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer shall effect such service either:

- a. By causing a written copy of the Warning Letter, Remedial Order or Violation Tag to be delivered to and left in a conspicuous place at or about the Property; or
- b. By causing a written copy of the Warning Letter, Remedial Order or Violation Tag to be mailed or delivered to the last known address of the Owner or Occupant as disclosed in the land registry system established by the *Land Titles Act* or the Village's assessment roll for that Property, as shall appear to the Bylaw Enforcement Officer to be most appropriate in the circumstances.

#### VIOLATION TICKET

37. Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent a Bylaw Enforcement Officer from immediately issuing a Violation Ticket.

38. Where a Bylaw Enforcement Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a Person has violated any provisions of this Bylaw, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer may commence court proceedings against such Person by:

- a. Issuing a Violation Ticket pursuant to the provisions of Part 2 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*; or
- b. Swearing out an Information and Complaint against the Person pursuant to Part 2 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*.

39. Where a Bylaw Enforcement Officer issues a Person a Violation Ticket in accordance with this Bylaw, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer may either:

- a. Allow the Person to pay the specified penalty for the offence as listed in this Bylaw by including the penalty amount within the Violation Ticket; or
- b. Compel the Person to attend Court by way of a Part 2 Violation Ticket, without specified penalty, if the Bylaw Enforcement Officer believes that it is in the public interest pursuant to Part 2 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*.

40. A Violation Ticket may be served on such Person who is an individual either:

- a. By delivering it personally to such Person; or
- b. By leaving a copy for such Person at his/her last known residence with an individual at the residence who appears to be at least 18 years of age;

and such service shall be adequate for the purposes of this Bylaw.

41. A Violation Ticket may be served on a Person which is a corporation either:

- a. By sending it by registered mail to the registered office of the corporation; or
- b. By delivering it personally to the manager, secretary or other executive officer of the corporation or the Person apparently in charge of a branch office of the corporation at an address held out by the corporation to be its address;

and such service shall be adequate for the purposes of this Bylaw.

42. Where a contravention of this Bylaw is of a continuous nature, a contravention shall constitute a separate offence in respect of each Day, or part of a Day, on which that offence continues.

#### PENALTIES

43. The minimum and specified penalty for a violation for any provision of this Bylaw shall be a fine in the amount of \$250.00.

44. If a Person violates the same provision of this Bylaw a second time within a twelve (12) month period of the date of the initial Violation Tag or Violation Ticket being issued the minimum specified penalty for the second, and any subsequent violation, shall be a fine in the amount of \$500.00

#### REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF REMEDIAL ORDER

45. Any Person who receives a Remedial Order to remedy a Property under this Bylaw, or the *Municipal Government Act*, may file a written notice with the Chief Administrative Officer requesting Council to review the Remedial Order in accordance with section 547 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

46. After reviewing the Remedial Order, Council may confirm, vary, substitute or cancel the Remedial Order.

#### APPEAL OF COUNCIL DECISION

47. Any Person affected by a decision of Council under section 547 of the *Municipal Government Act*, may appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench as per section 548 of the *Act*.

#### REGISTERING A COMPLAINT

48. All complaints concerning violations of this Bylaw shall be in writing and must specify the exact Property location, details of concern, and remedial expectations in relation to the complaint. All complaints shall be directed to the Chief Administrative Officer.

49. Complaints may be received anonymously in respect to Property in an Unsafe Condition.

#### RECOVERY OF COSTS

50. Any expenses or costs of any Remedial Order or action or measure taken by the Village under this Bylaw are an amount owing to the Village by the Owner of a Property which is in contravention of this Bylaw.
51. The expenses and costs incurred by the Village in the enforcement of this Bylaw may be added to the tax roll of the Property which is the subject of any enforcement proceedings as per section 553 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

#### SEVERABILITY

52. Each provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions. If any such provision is declared invalid by a court of jurisdiction, all other provisions of this Bylaw remain valid and enforceable.

#### REPEAL

53. This Bylaw repeals Bylaw 336-77; Bylaw 418-93; Bylaw 442-99 and any other bylaws of similar context or content.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

54. This Bylaw shall come into full force and effect upon third and final reading.

READ a first time this 9 day of August, 2018.

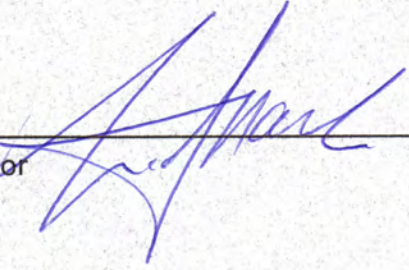
READ second time this 13 day of September, 2018.

READ a third time this 13 day of September, 2018.




Signed this 19 day of September, 2018.

Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer





**Village of Hussar**  
**Request for Decision (RFD)**

Meeting:	Regular Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 31, 2022
Title:	10 Year Capital Plan REVISED

Agenda Item Number:	5c.
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**BACKGROUND**

The Village approved the Action plan and 10-year capital plan on May 19, 2022 and was submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs by the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

M# 2022-05-19-170

They requested some changes to the plan.

Council approved a REVISED submission of the plan.

M#2022-06-30-213

They are still requiring some changes to the 10-year capital and rationale – Last meeting Council saw the letter from the Minister providing us an extension to September 15, 2022 so we can make the necessary changes and resubmit the application.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Motion to approve the 10-year Capital Plan and rationale with the changes as presented
2. Motion to approve the 10-year capital plan and rationale with the following changes:  
List Changes
3. Motion to accept as information at this time

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR**  
**CAPITAL PROJECT SUMMARY (2019-2032)**

#	STUDY REF.		PROJECT	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	TOTAL
			Project 19 - 2nd Avenue E from 1st Street E to Centre Street															
				\$ 28,970	\$ 648,520													
			Intersection Paving - Centre Street and 2nd Avenue & 3rd Avenue W and 1 Street W															
						\$ 56,057												
			Project 1 & 4 - 1st Avenue E from 2nd Street E to 1st Street E & Lane at 1st Street S of 1st Ave								\$ 1,065,520							
			Project 6 - 1st Avenue W from Centre Street to 1st Street W															
								\$ 946,622										
			Project 7 - 2nd Avenue W from 1st Street W to 2nd Street W															
													\$ 756,003					
			Project 9 - Centre Street from 1st Avenue to 2nd Avenue															
																\$ 409,579		
			Project 14 - 2nd Avenue W from Centre Street to 1st Street W															
																	\$ 504,835	
			Lagoon Cleaning															
																	\$ 213,000	
TOTALS				\$ 28,970	\$ 648,520	\$ 56,057	\$ -	\$ 946,622	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,065,520	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756,003	\$ -	\$ 409,579	\$ 717,835	\$ 3,911,271
REVENUE SOURCES																		
TAXATION																		
RESERVES				\$ -	\$ 194,615	\$ 7,823	\$ -	\$ 332,562	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 396,700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 251,388	\$ -	\$ 73,169	\$ 212,670	
MSI CAPITAL				\$ 1,375	\$ 284,772	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356,072	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 244,820	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 183,615	\$ -	\$ 122,410	\$ 211,205	
FGTF/CCBF				\$ 27,595	\$ 106,191	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145,823	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 220,391	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 150,000	
WC VIF					\$ 62,942			\$ 112,165			\$ 203,609			\$ 171,000		\$ 114,000	\$ 143,960	
MSP						\$ 48,234												
TOTAL				\$ 28,970	\$ 648,520	\$ 56,057	\$ -	\$ 946,622	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,065,520	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756,003	\$ -	\$ 409,579	\$ 717,835	\$ 3,911,271

FGTF Federal Gas Tax - now CCBF  
CCBF Canada Community Building Fund  
WC VIF Wheatland County - Village Infrastructure Funding  
MSP Municipal Stimulus Program

Check

### **Rationale for changes to the 10 Year Capital Plan**

- All years were revised to predict closer to actual cost estimates for projects. The infrastructure study did not provide usable cost estimates.
- 2019 – 2021 were revised to include actual costs from the projects that were completed
- 2019 was engineering costs for the project that occurred in 2020. Project 19 came in under budget.
- 2021 the Village received funding for shovel ready projects through the Municipal Stimulus Program (MSP). We paved 2 intersections that were washed out due to high rain. {Motion# 2020-08-13-203}
- Project 6 will occur in 2023 instead of Projects 1 & 4 due to a water and sewer break occurring within Project 6. {Motion# 2022-06-08-196}
- Projects 1 & 4 were postponed to 2026 due to another project requiring urgent attention and reduced funding means the Village is unable to complete multiple projects in the same year.
- The cleaning of the lagoon has been pushed back to later years but may not be necessary at all if a sufficient volume of ground water infiltration into the wastewater system is eliminated. This will continue to be evaluated.
- Project 14 was missed and has been added to this revised version
- Each project has been quoted at around double the cost since the quotes provided in the Infrastructure Study. This combined with a decrease in grant funding has resulted in each project being postponed until future years when there will be sufficient enough funding available to cover the costs.
- Council will continue to have a discussion around taxation to help pay for projects. At this time Council does not wish to raise taxes through a special tax or improvement tax to pay for infrastructure projects.
- The Village is in the final years of paying off a debenture (2023 is the last payment). At that time Council may consider borrowing to pay for capital projects again.

# Village of Hussar

## Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Date: August 31, 2022  
Title: Asset Management Training

Agenda Item Number: 5d.

### **BACKGROUND**

I'm happy to share that Alberta Municipalities, in partnership with Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and Infrastructure Asset Management Alberta, have received funding to offer asset management training to municipal administrators and elected officials at **no charge**, under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP).

We have offered this training in past years, but as this is the last year that MAMP funding is available we wanted to offer a more fulsome program. The training available for this year will include:

- 1-day workshops for elected officials in five locations across the province
- Introductory and Advanced Asset Management Cohort Workshop Series for administration
- A community of practice group learning opportunity offered by Infrastructure Asset Management Alberta

We have already launched registration for the elected officials workshops and the introductory and advanced cohorts on our website: <https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/infrastructure/asset-management/asset-management-courses>

Registration in the cohort workshops for administrators requires a council resolution to support participation and is part of our reporting requirements to FCM. If you are unable to secure a resolution prior to September 16, 2022 we will accept a draft resolution with a commitment to secure a council resolution prior to the end of the training opportunity. If you have any questions about this offering, please email Clint Neufeld at [clint@abmunis.ca](mailto:clint@abmunis.ca)

<https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/infrastructure/asset-management/asset-management-courses>

In collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Infrastructure Asset Management Alberta (IAMA), and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), Alberta Municipalities is providing the following asset management courses to municipalities through funding received from FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP):

- **Asset Management Cohorts:** There are different cohort workshops available: The introductory cohort workshop is for municipalities with little to no asset management experience and will guide municipalities on how to develop asset management processes and policies. The advanced workshop is for municipalities with some asset management uptake and will help further develop and improve current asset management capacity. Program staff will review the applications for the cohort-based workshops and determine the best fit for participants based on the information in their applications. To register [\*\*click here\*\*](#).
- **Previous Asset Management Courses:** Review presentations, workbooks, and learning materials from **MAMP1 - An introduction to Asset Management**, **MAMP2 - Development of Asset Management Policy, Governance, and Capacity**, and **MAMP3 - Data Collection and Communicating Levels of Service** here. These opportunities focused on developing

partnerships between municipalities to share information and seek solutions to asset management challenges.

***Please Note: Due to low registration numbers, we will be postponing the Elected Officials Workshops scheduled in September. We will launch a new call for applications and email everyone who already registered when the new dates are confirmed.***

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Motion to register Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ to complete asset management training workshops through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM ) and Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) program
2. Motion to accept as information at this time

## Village of Hussar

### Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Regular Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 31, 2022
Title:	Gazebo benches

Agenda Item Number:	5e.
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#### **BACKGROUND**

The Muir's have presented Council with some colour choice options for the benches that were approved in the Grain bin gazebo project funding.

Please see attached photos for the colour options. The Village is able to get 3-4 benches through the funding.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Motion to approve \_\_\_\_\_(colour/#) for the grain bin gazebo project benches
2. Motion to accept as information at this time





#1



#2

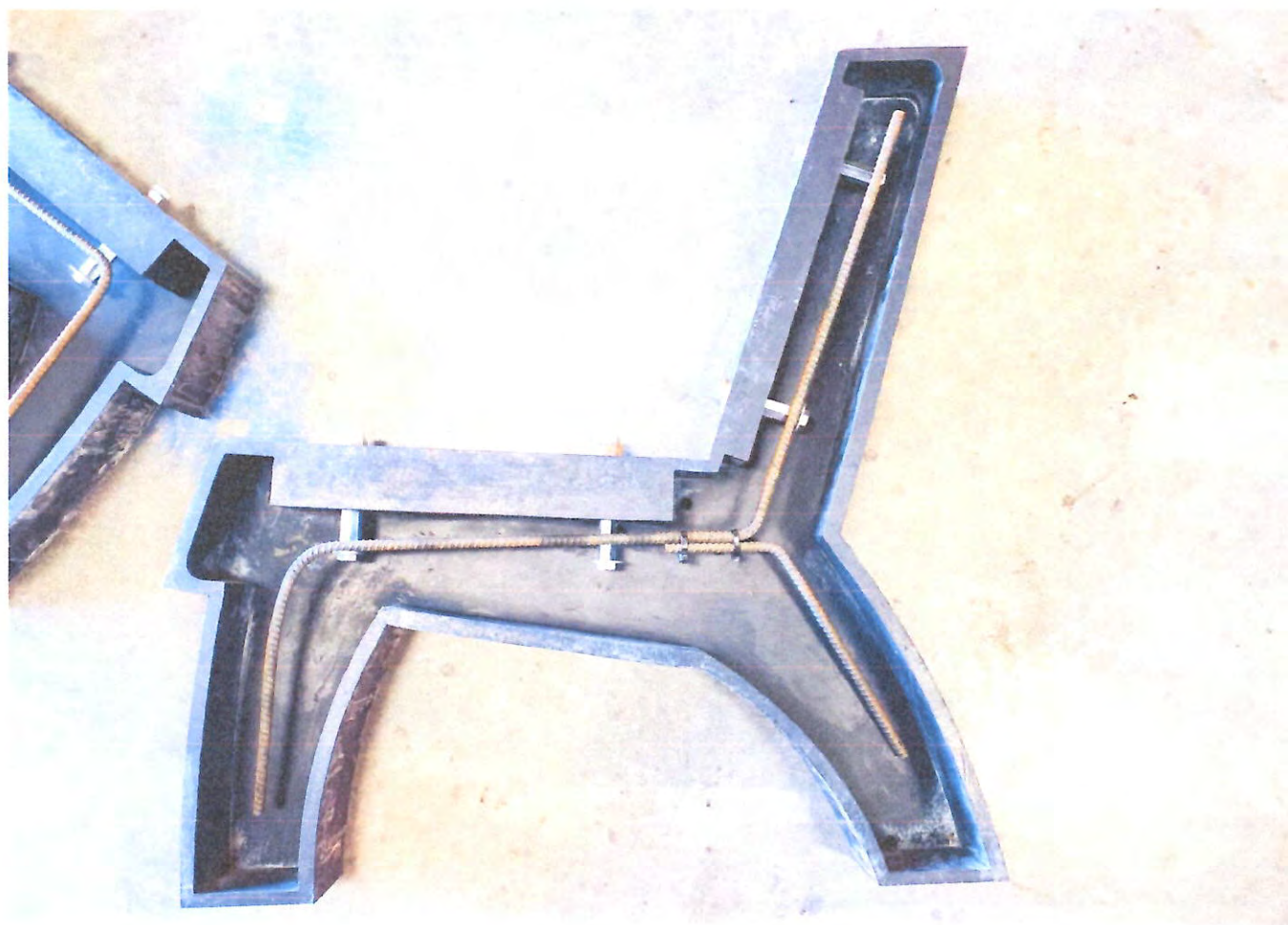
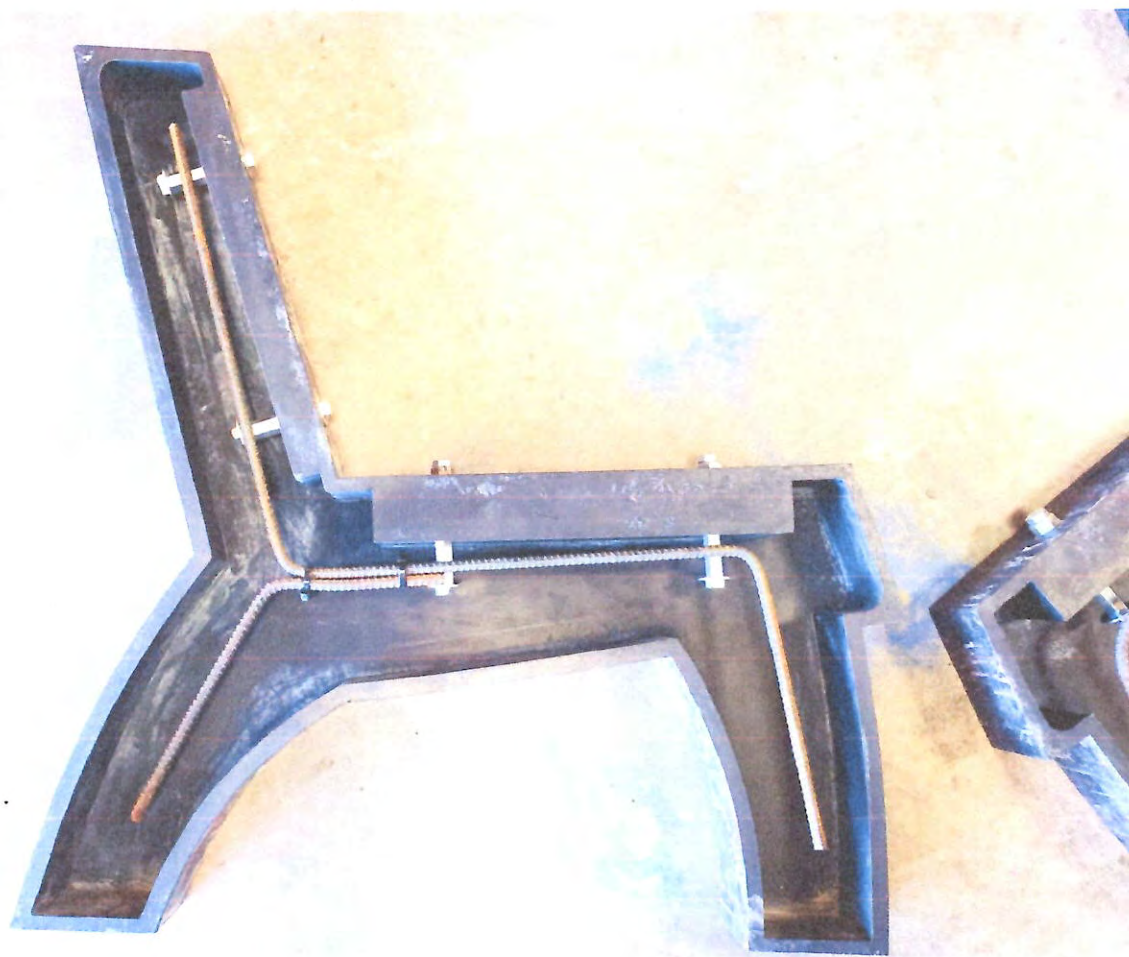




#3











## Village of Hussar

### Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Regular Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 31, 2022
Title:	School Survey Quote

Agenda Item Number:	5f.
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#### **BACKGROUND**

We wanted to get a quote for a Survey at the old school site so we know where our property line is and where the trees are in relation to our property line.

See below quote

This is a bit of a tough one, this parcel is an old title and doesn't even have a plan. It is a described meets and bounds description. I attached the title so you can see how it is described. We need to set up the surrounding subdivision boundaries to determine this parcel. It will cost **\$1460 + GST** to mark those boundaries. There wouldn't be any survey posts at the corners of this parcel since it is a meets and bounds description title. I am also concerned that the trees or bushed are actually straddling the line. If this is the case we may need to mark and offset line either 15 feet inside the line or outside the line since we wouldn't be able to mark in the actual trees. If the line falls to one side of the tree we would mark true line. Let me know if you want us to book this for field work.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Motion to approve the Survey quote for the school grounds and to pay for it through Village \_\_\_\_\_ (reserves/operating) account
2. Motion to accept as information at this time

Wheatland Housing Management Board meeting Thursday Aug.25<sup>th</sup> 2022

Had an Orientation meeting on Tuesday Aug. 23rd for about an hour and a half with the CAO of the Lodge.

Attended our first board meeting as a member on the Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> even though we are waiting on confirmation from Municipal affairs and until that time we do not have a vote. There were 14 members in attendance with one other member also waiting for word from the province to have a vote.

The Chair and all members welcomed Hussar to the board.

The financials were presented and accepted and also the maintenance report.

Earlier this year there was a Strategic Planning meeting and it was decided to have Wendy at Community Futures prepare a draft Plan for the board to consider with input from the board. Wendy was in attendance to present the Strategic Plan and we went through it and added points and suggestions. This was the bulk of the meeting as we spent approx. 2 hours on just that. Wendy will revise the Plan and bring it back to a Special Strategic Planning meeting at a later date for discussion.

We continued with the rest of the meeting with some policy reviews and changes put forward to the lodges application forms, and medical report forms. The forms hadn't been updated in some time and the new ones passed.

A board member is working on a Tee shirt project that will see company's and Municipalities being able to purchase shirts with their Logo on the front and the lodge and hospice slogan and info on the back. A sample was presented but its not a fundraiser its more to get the message out about building a new Lodge/Hospice and the need of donations.

Short reports were given by the Resident Manager and the CAO

Next meeting is Sept 8<sup>th</sup> and a Strategic meeting to be determined also.

Meetings also on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> and Nov.10<sup>th</sup>.



Wheatland Regional Corporation... August 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 6:30 Standard

Operations are running fairly smoothly according to the CAO Leah Jensen.

Throughout the summer there was some maintenance and repairs and replacements of valves done to different systems and some were done in the middle of the night as to avoid disruption to service as much as possible.

There is an upgrade being done to the furnace system at the Office because of an issue found out while trying to run the fan to circulate air on these hotter days. It kept throwing the breaker and was found the fan motor and a line needed replacing.

The financials and cash flow were presented and passed.

Operations agreement between WRC and the County is still being reviewed.

The Unanimous Shareholder Agreement is still with the lawyer being reviewed and updated.

Next meeting is October 19<sup>th</sup> 2022

Martin Shields .... Informational Zoom August 24<sup>th</sup> 2022 9am

Martin will be holding an open house Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> in Drumheller

There's a new Federal Riding Proposal out and they look at it every 10 years for a redistribution of the Federal Electoral Districts and the current change shows that Alberta gains 3 seats...2 in Calgary and 1 in Edmonton. There is ongoing discussion with the commission and MPs on changing certain parts of the new map that don't make sense to the respective MPs in their riding.

The Riding Proposal has a long timeline attached and has to be completed by April 2024 and if there is a Federal Election called before this date then the Electoral Districts will remain the same as previously.

RCMP...Alberta Police Issue:

Martin always gets asked about this but he says he has to be careful what he says about it because as the Federal MP he has information that some don't but it's a Provincial issue to decide and really can't say much.

As for the back pay to RCMP that was negotiated...It was negotiated by the Federal Govt. and not the Province so in his opinion and many others that the Municipalities should not be on the hook for the back pay to RCMP. Most MPs and Municipalities are pushing for the Feds to pick up the bill for this and his opinion is that he's hopeful the Municipalities get this decision.

**VILLAGE OF HUSSAR**  
**CAO REPORT**  
**August 31, 2022**

**Financial Statements**

I have to work with the auditors to correct the financial statements for next year regarding our grant funding. Both CCIB and MSI were recorded wrong on the financials for deferred revenue. It caused an issue with our Statement of Funding and Expenditures (SFE)

**Bugs in the Office**

There has been a significant increase in bugs in the office. I have had to vacuum them up frequently. The new door should be installed this week.

Main focus was on policy and bylaw creation.

The next main focus will be on LUB public hearing and creating new Development Permit Forms, creating gopher policy and getting quotes for projects that I have not been able to get contractors to provide quotes for and/or begin work on projects.

**License Plate Issue**

I was talking to someone about a Safety Certificate Renewal for the Village and they couldn't give me information on it but said I could go to the registry and get a printout of every vehicle registered to the Village. I went to the registry and they can't print that for me but they did write down all the plate numbers. We have a bunch of plates that are still registered to the Village however they aren't connected to vehicles which means the plates were never returned and cancelled. In order to cancel them they require a police report to show them as "lost". I am working with the RCMP to get a file for the plates and then I can remove them from our registration at the registry office. Government plates automatically renew so there are no fees. The only fee will be 9\$ per plate cancellation at the registry office.

**Upcoming Office Closures/Meetings**

Thursday Sept 1 – RCMP meeting 6 pm

Monday September 5 – Labour Day (Stat Holiday – Office Closed)

Sept 21 -23 ABMunis Convention (Wednesday – Friday)

- Thursday September 8, 2022 (9-2:30) Facility Management
- Wednesday September 14, 2022 (morning) ESS Basics
- Thursday September 15, 2022 (full day) Donation Management
- Wednesday September 28, 2022 (full day) ESS Coordinator
- Thursday October 6, 2022 (full day) RRCP & MAERS

August 31, 2022 Regular Council Meeting

Meeting Date	Resolution #	Resolution	Assigned to	Action/Comment	Date Completed
April 8 2021	2021-04-08-410	continue looking for new and used trucks	CAO	One thing Council can consider is making payments on a new/used truck. This would appear as a line item in the annual operating budget. The amount going to reserves could be reduced to allieviate some of the difference	ongoing
April 8 2021	2021-04-08-411	village sanding units	CAO	purchase after we know what truck we are getting	ongoing
Jun 10 2021	2021-06-10-454	look into the process to sell lot 6PUL 9 0310282 and subdivide it	CAO/Palliser	This is on hold due to residents complaint letter sent to Municipal Affairs.	on hold
Jun 30 2022	2022-06-30-215	proceed with a subdivision of the land located at 223 3rd Ave W and to beign the process to sell the portion of the lot	CAO/Palliser	This is on hold due to residents complaint letter sent to Municipal Affairs.	on hold
Oct 14 2021	2021-10-14-570	Armstrong Auto Bay quote to correct the concrete on the North bay that does not require the sidewalk to be removed	CAO	Working on getting quotes	in progress
Jun 8 2022	2022-06-08-194	Gopher control policy	CAO	Michelle found other policies that I can use to help us create our policy, while I was awy	in progress/ on hold
Feb 3 2022	2022-02-03-037	more information on IT services through Alberta Municipalities	CAO	Too expensive currently so MA is looking at having them come up with a program for Villages where once could house the infrastructure and others could access it from there at a cheaper rate. Will contact me in a few months with their proposal still waiting for a second quote. Received one so far, followed up to get more quotes	on hold
Mar 17 2022	2022-03-17-093	Bulk Water - quote so we can send notice to residents	CAO/JG		in progress
Mar 17 2022	2022-03-17-094	Possibility of creating a new multi position	CAO	This will be ongoing for a while	on hold
Apr 14 2022	2022-04-14-131	WCB Partnership in injury reduction	CAO/PW	update our health and safety program/policies before applying for COR	on hold
Jun 8 2022	2022-06-08-193	Water research - wells vs. regional water	CAO	this will take time to get answers to all the questions	in progress/on hold
Jun 30 2022	2022-06-30-233	Sundowners letter to transfer building to the community group	CAO	letter sent. Will update once they respond	in progress
Jun 30 2022	2022-06-30-220	Campground grainbin gazebo	CAO/Lorilee	Will begin coordinating the construction of the grain bin gazebo at the campground. Locates will be completed prior to the work being done. Estimated to start after harvest	in progress
Jul 20 2022	2022-07-20-244	create a plan for maintenance and repair and put on our website	CAO/PW	Create a plan to communicate better to the public regarding proper care and maintenance to our taxpayers as well as other important information about things we are working on. Update as needed.	on hold
Jul 20 2022	2022-07-20-246	Put forth an offer to the homeowner with provision that liability does not rest with the Village after it has been accepted	CAO	invite resident to discuss the potential offer from council for the repairs	in progress
Aug 11 2022	2022-08-11-259	salvage power line	CAO	documents submitted to FORTIS for the Salvage.	In progress
Aug 11 2022	2022-08-11-260	Barbers complaint letter response	CAO	sent this week	complete
Aug 11 2022	2022-08-11-261	quote for sidewalk repairs at Barber's house	CAO	Will get quote from CIMA for the sidewalk repair/replacement	in progress
Aug 11 2022	2022-08-11-262	create a task list for different season of the year for PW to maintain the camp kitchen and change the locks	CAO / PW		in progress
Aug 11 2022	2022-08-11-264	Dust abatement services for 3rd Ave E & W and 1st Ave W	CAO	submitted application to the County. Will try and give notice when I find out date for the dust control	in progress
Aug 11 2022	2022-08-11-267	Mono walk quote	CAO	monowalk approved. Began the process to have the streetlight moved.	in progress
Aug 11 2022	2022-08-11-268	ABMunis Convention	CAO	CAO & Councillor Schultz attending in person, Councillor Schindel virtually	
		Alberta Day funding in future years		Decision on what potential celebrations look like in 2023 will be made in the new year.	

# Public Works Report.

- (School Ground) Playground bike Rack primed ready for painting
- office letters Being installed - Had to cut down to fit + repaint.
- Tractor Had a major problem. Broken bolts that hold side plate that supports loader arm. in process of repairing. Russell helping with Parts of it.
- Major <sup>grass</sup> areas that had not been cut have now been cut.
- More weed whipping this year than I have seen in the last couple of years.
- Passenger rear window was broken. suspect from weed whipping.





2022-08-01

Sergeant Raimo Loo  
Bassano RCMP Commander  
Bassano, Alberta

Dear CAO Kate Brandt,

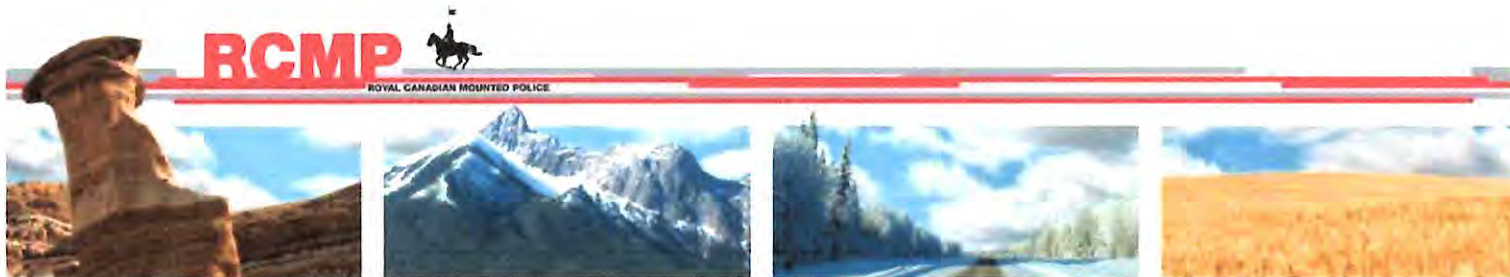
Please find attached the quarterly Community Policing Report that covers the April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 reporting period. The attached report serves to provide a quarterly snapshot of the human resources, financial data and crime statistics for Bassano and area.

In addition to the local priorities established collaboratively between your community and our local Detachment team, the Alberta RCMP has developed broader priorities for the provincial police service. Also attached as an appendix is the Alberta RCMP/Alberta Justice and Solicitor General 2022-2025 Joint Business Plan (JBP), which has been finalized and is now in effect. Created through a united effort between the Alberta RCMP and Justice and Solicitor General, this three-year plan is focused on ensuring Albertans are safe and protected.

Meetings with subject matter experts from the Alberta RCMP, Justice and Solicitor General, and community partners were a foundational aspect in developing collective priorities for the next three years. These meetings, in addition to recommendations from the Interim Police Advisory Board, helped identify emerging trends and best practices while providing clarity on the needs of our communities.

The 2022-2025 Joint Business Plan is focused on the following six priorities:

- **Enhancing Engagement and Communication with Communities and Stakeholders:** Engaging with our communities to collectively develop policing priorities that are community-led and enhancing communication about matters related to local policing services.
- **Community Safety and Well-Being:** Working with partners in an integrated, multifaceted manner to interrupt the cycle of crime and victimization.
- **Indigenous Communities:** Strengthening relationships, working together in support of Reconciliation, and responding to the needs of Indigenous communities in Alberta.



- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:** Promoting inclusion and building trust with diverse communities by addressing the behaviours that threaten their sense of safety and belonging.
- **Crime Reduction:** Understanding the drivers of crime and focusing on priority offenders to increase community safety.
- **Enhancing Service Delivery:** Ensuring service delivery models and strategies effectively meet the policing needs of our communities.

The Alberta RCMP is committed to a transparent and collaborative approach in assessing performance, including establishing appropriate indicators to track progress in achieving these goals. As such, the Alberta RCMP has secured an external Consultant to assist in developing performance metrics with ongoing consultations with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta and Alberta Municipalities to ensure alignment with the needs and expectations of our communities.

The result of our collaborative efforts is a plan that is robust, responsive to community needs, and in alignment with Ministry and partner plans and priorities. You can download a full copy of the 2022-2025 Joint Business Plan at: <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ab/publications/joint-business-plan-2022-25-plan-d'activites-conjoint-eng.htm>.

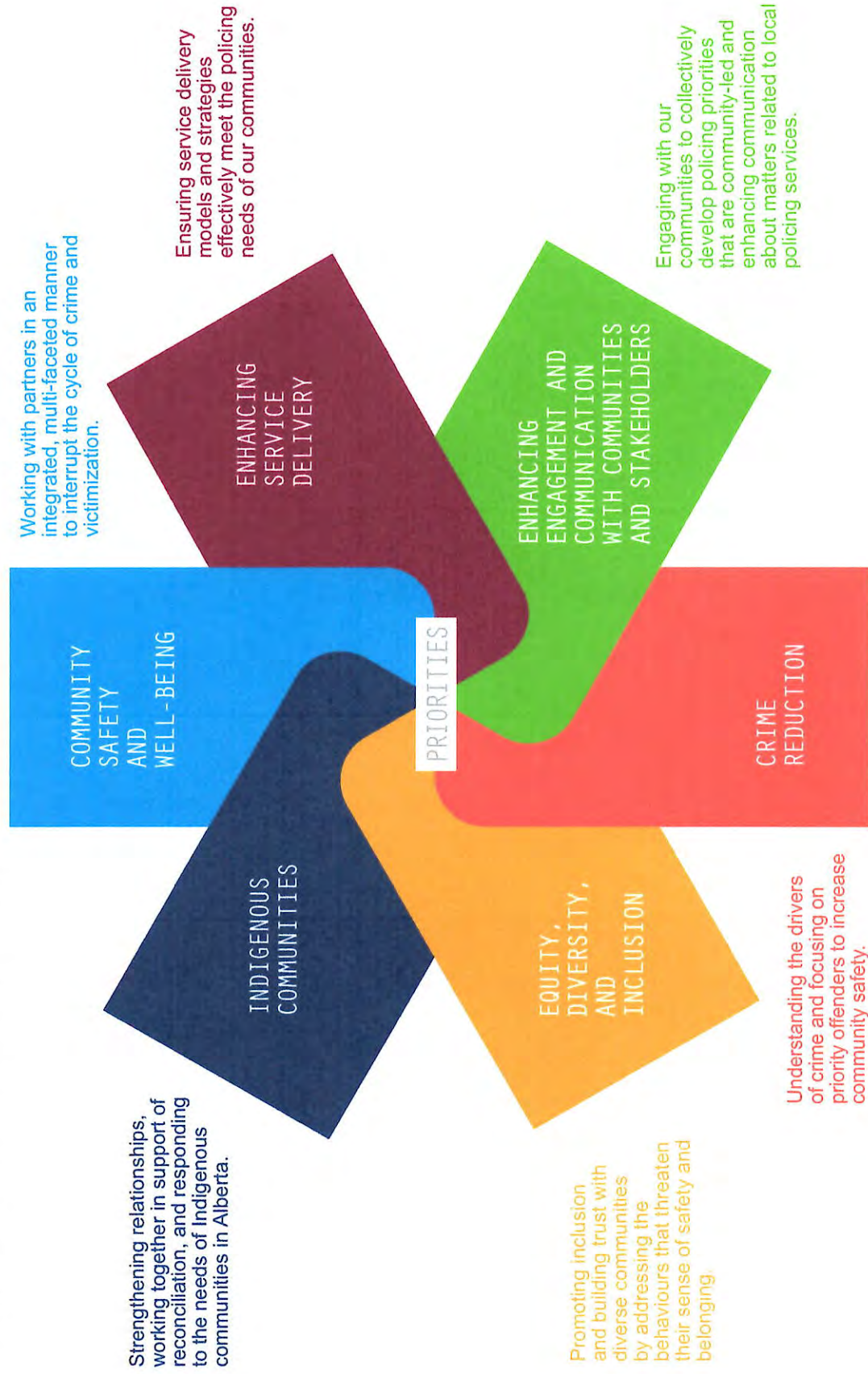
As the Chief of Police for your community, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sergeant Raimo Loo  
Bassano RCMP Commander  
Bassano, Alberta



## Alberta Provincial Police Service Priorities Alberta RCMP and JSG Joint Business Plan (2022-2025)



For more information about the Alberta RCMP's provincial policing priorities, please visit:  
<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ab/publications/joint-business-plan-2022-25-plan-d'activites-conjoint-eng.htm>



## RCMP Provincial Policing Report

Detachment	Bassano Provincial
Detachment Commander	Sgt. Raimo Loo
Quarter	Q1 2022
Date of Report	2022-07-27

### Community Consultations

Date	2022-05-05
Meeting Type	Meeting with Elected Officials
Topics Discussed	Introduction as temporary Detachment Commander, update as to previous quarterly results, Q and A for any concerns.
Attendees	CAO's, Elected officials
Notes/Comments	6 meetings during this quarter with representatives of Hussar, Bassano and Rosemary.





## Community Priorities

Priority 1	Enhance Awareness and Education
Current Status & Results	School visits, Hussar Summer Daze, Bassano rodeo. With only 2 members and neither reside in Bassano, minimal interest to participate unless mandated resulting in lower than target number.
Priority 2	Enhance Road Safety
Current Status & Results	58 tickets written in this quarter with only two members. 2 impaired drivers/warnings issued. Good effort considering the amount of call outs and on call coverage required. Alberta Sheriffs/Traffic Unit did 63.
Priority 3	Rural Crime
Current Status & Results	146 patrols of rural areas with 103 specific patrols of the crime hot spots (oil field location for copper thefts or equipment).



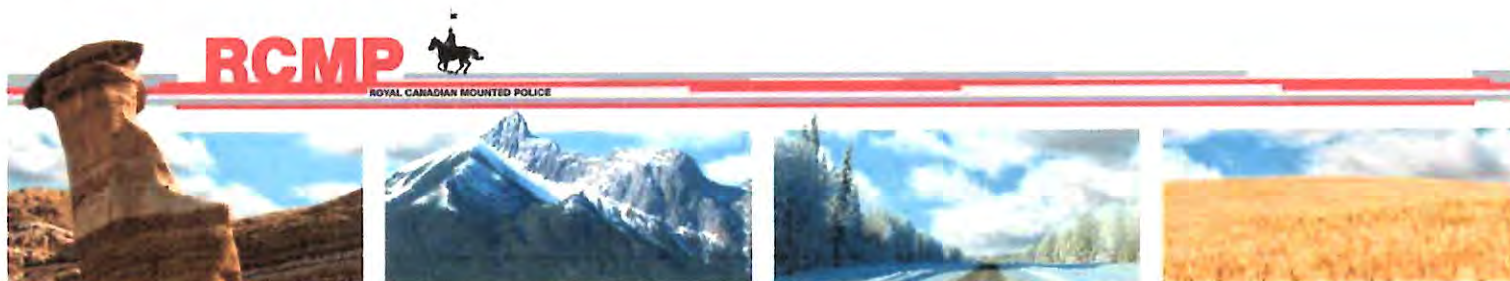


Priority 4

Employee Development and Leadership

Current Status & Results

Members are encouraged to develop their own programs by encouraging available training at any time possible. Training just recently lifted from Covid lock down. Detachment lunch BBQ's held to foster good partnerships and employee wellness.



## Crime Statistics<sup>1</sup>

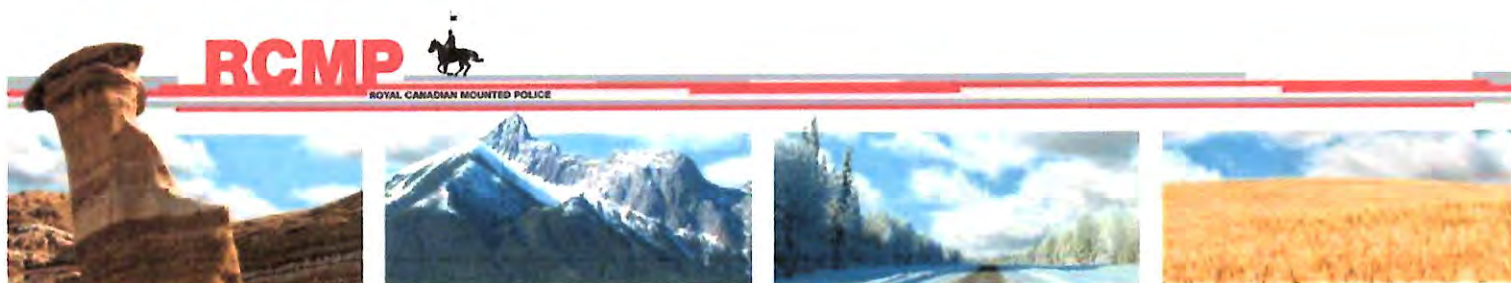
The following table provides policing statistics on actual offences within the periods listed. Please see Appendix for additional information and a five-year comparison.

Category	April - June			January - December		
	2021	2022	% Change Year-over-Year	2020	2021	% Change Year-over-Year
<b>Total Criminal Code</b>	46	37	-20%	159	187	18%
<i>Persons Crime</i>	16	7	-56%	41	68	66%
<i>Property Crime</i>	25	19	-24%	100	96	-4%
<i>Other Criminal Code</i>	5	11	120%	18	23	28%
<b>Traffic Offences</b>						
<i>Criminal Code Traffic</i>	4	1	-75%	18	10	-44%
<i>Provincial Code Traffic</i>	122	87	-29%	432	490	13%
<i>Other Traffic</i>	0	0	N/A	8	5	-38%
<b>CDSA Offences</b>	0	0	N/A	1	0	-100%
<b>Other Federal Acts</b>	1	0	-100%	3	1	-67%
<b>Other Provincial Acts</b>	17	15	-12%	72	62	-14%
<b>Municipal By-Laws</b>	2	0	-100%	7	8	14%
<b>Motor Vehicle Collisions</b>	8	16	100%	62	54	-13%

<sup>1</sup> Data extracted from a live database (PROS) and is subject to change over time.

## Trends/Points of Interest

Criminal activity dropping. With CoVid restrictions lifting more vehicle traffic occurring thus the increase in motor vehicle collisions. Increase of 'other Criminal Code' is a result of several persons breaching conditions of their release.



## Provincial Police Service Composition<sup>2</sup>

Staffing Category	Established Positions	Working	Soft Vacancies <sup>3</sup>	Hard Vacancies <sup>4</sup>
Police Officers	4	4	0	0
Detachment Support	1	1	0	0

<sup>2</sup>Data extracted on June 30th, 2022 and is subject to change over time.

<sup>3</sup>Soft Vacancies are positions that are filled but vacant due to maternity/paternity leave, medical leave, etc. and are still included in the overall FTE count.

<sup>4</sup>Hard Vacancies reflect positions that do not have an employee attached and need to be filled.

## Comments

Police Officers – Of the 4 established positions, all 4 are currently filled. There is one surplus to establishment.

Detachment Support – The 1 established support position is currently filled.

## Quarterly Financial Drivers

One subject generated increase in officer call outs due to the priority of the call for service - missing person (13 yrs old female). As of June 30, this subject returned to Ontario.





**Bassano Provincial Detachment  
Crime Statistics (Actual)  
April to June (Q1): 2018 - 2022**

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

July 7, 2022

CATEGORY	Trend	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2018 - 2022	% Change 2021 - 2022	Avg File +/- per Year
Offences Related to Death		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Robbery		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Sexual Assaults		0	0	2	1	1	N/A	0%	0.3
Other Sexual Offences		0	0	2	1	1	N/A	0%	0.3
Assault		11	7	6	9	1	-91%	-89%	-1.8
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Extortion		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Criminal Harassment		0	3	2	4	0	N/A	-100%	0.1
Uttering Threats		3	2	5	1	4	33%	300%	0.1
<b>TOTAL PERSONS</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-50%</b>	<b>-56%</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Break & Enter		4	13	7	4	2	-50%	-50%	-1.3
Theft of Motor Vehicle		2	3	1	3	0	-100%	-100%	-0.4
Theft Over \$5,000		4	11	0	0	1	-75%	N/A	-1.7
Theft Under \$5,000		4	7	3	3	1	-75%	-67%	-1.0
Possn Stn Goods		5	5	0	2	1	-80%	-50%	-1.1
Fraud		4	4	8	7	2	-50%	-71%	-0.1
Arson		0	0	0	0	2	N/A	N/A	0.4
Mischief - Damage To Property		0	0	2	4	5	N/A	25%	1.4
Mischief - Other		8	12	3	2	5	-38%	150%	-1.6
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-39%</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>-5.4</b>
Offensive Weapons		0	0	0	0	2	N/A	N/A	0.4
Disturbing the peace		10	1	2	0	0	-100%	N/A	-2.1
Fail to Comply & Breaches		5	6	0	1	3	-40%	200%	-0.9
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>120%</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-38%</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>-7.6</b>





## Bassano Provincial Detachment Crime Statistics (Actual) April to June (Q1): 2018 - 2022

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

July 7, 2022

CATEGORY	Trend	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2018 - 2022	% Change 2021 - 2022	Avg File +/- per Year
Drug Enforcement - Production		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Drug Enforcement - Possession		1	0	0	0	0	-100%	N/A	-0.2
Drug Enforcement - Trafficking		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Drug Enforcement - Other		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
<b>Total Drugs</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Cannabis Enforcement		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Federal - General		0	2	0	1	0	N/A	-100%	-0.1
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	<b>-100%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Liquor Act		5	2	1	1	2	-60%	100%	-0.7
Cannabis Act		0	0	0	2	0	N/A	-100%	0.2
Mental Health Act		2	11	6	6	6	200%	0%	0.3
Other Provincial Stats		7	17	8	8	7	0%	-13%	-0.9
<b>Total Provincial Stats</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Municipal By-laws Traffic		0	0	0	1	0	N/A	-100%	0.1
Municipal By-laws		4	3	0	1	0	-100%	-100%	-1.0
<b>Total Municipal</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	<b>-100%</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
Fatals		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Injury MVC		1	0	4	3	2	100%	-33%	0.5
Property Damage MVC (Reportable)		10	8	7	4	10	0%	150%	-0.4
Property Damage MVC (Non Reportable)		5	2	1	1	4	-20%	300%	-0.3
<b>TOTAL MVC</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Roadside Suspension - Alcohol (Prov)		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roadside Suspension - Drugs (Prov)		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Provincial Traffic</b>		<b>177</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>-51%</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>-23.8</b>
<b>Other Traffic</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Criminal Code Traffic</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-89%</b>	<b>-75%</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
<b>Common Police Activities</b>									
False Alarms		11	5	0	4	2	-82%	-50%	-1.9
False/Abandoned 911 Call and 911 Act		3	3	4	1	3	0%	200%	-0.2
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property		21	11	10	14	7	-67%	-50%	-2.5
Persons Reported Missing		1	2	1	3	24	2300%	700%	4.7
Search Warrants		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Spousal Abuse - Survey Code (Reported)		4	10	9	16	4	0%	-75%	0.6
Form 10 (MHA) (Reported)		0	0	2	1	0	N/A	-100%	0.1





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W [www.tofieldalberta.ca](http://www.tofieldalberta.ca)

August 23, 2022

The Honorable Tyler Shandro  
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General  
204, 10800-97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister,

Re: Victim Services Redesign

Minister Shandro, Town of Tofield Council have only recently become aware of the Victim Services Redesign, and to say that we are both shocked and disappointed would be a vast understatement. Victim Services play an integral part in our community, and rural Alberta. Victim Services staff are as essential as first responders, and work cohesively with RCMP. These people help families and individuals through what could be the most traumatic experience of their lives. Having experience in dealing with trauma, unexpected loss, and extreme shock cannot be measured. Now, your government is looking to remove this from our community and proceed with a centralized approach.

The MLA led review did not engage municipalities, nor did it fully engage Victim Services Boards. Had our local Victim Services Board Chair not come forward to Mayor and Council, we would not be aware of this ill-thought-out change. Of interest, the two MLA'S leading this charge were from major urban centres, with no tie, nor thought to the impacts this would have on rural Albertans.

Not only will this change see a loss of jobs within our community, but more importantly it will leave this service to become reliant on an individual(s) residing outside our community boundaries. What does this mean for response time? Does this mean that response could be upwards of hours before assistance is provided, or does this also mean that it will be based upon the availability of staff? Neither of these scenarios is ideal, especially when dealing with crisis. Our current structure is comprised of hard working, caring individuals who provide an immeasurable service in what is the most trying of circumstances. These people respond in a quick, professional, and caring manner. Now, your government is removing this service from our community, and failing those who require what is often the immediate assistance of Victim Services.

Honorable Tyler Shandro  
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General  
Page 2

Minister Shandro, we can not fathom the rationale behind this decision, once again without input or consultation from those that this affects most. In our opinion this is a recipe for disaster and stands to only continue to fail rural Alberta. Mayor and Council implore you to pause on this decision and seek input from those forgotten, rural Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debora L. Dueck".

Debora Dueck  
Mayor

C.C     AUMA Membership  
         RMA Membership  
         Jackie Lovely, MLA

# Alberta Provincial Police Service Deployment Model

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Alberta Municipalities' Summary and Analysis

August 2022





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## Background

On August 16, 2022, Justice and Solicitor General released a [report](#) on a potential Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS) deployment model. This report, prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), is part of the larger APPS transition study. The news release accompanying the report states that “while Alberta’s government hasn’t made a decision about establishing a police service, this process can help ensure Alberta is ready to make a transition on its own terms if the federal government ends RCMP contract policing or reduces subsidies to provinces, territories, and municipalities policed by the RCMP under contract.”

The proposed deployment model is based on seven values, also referred to as design principles, which are reiterated throughout the report. A summary of these values, along with PwC’s explanation of how their deployment model supports each value, is provided in Appendix I. The deployment model prioritizes:

- Balancing the distribution of resources across the province to prioritize service delivery to rural, remote, and Indigenous Communities.
- Decentralizing specialist resources and services.
- Implementing structures and roles to deliver consistent ‘core’ policing services throughout the province.
- ‘Right sizing’ detachments to ensure adequate local coverage and establishing a ‘floor’ or minimum number of resources for all communities.
- Sharing resources to manage capacity and maintain service.

The report claims that the impacts of this model on frontline services will be:

- An increase in the number of sworn officers in rural, remote and Indigenous Communities, achieved by rebalancing resources to rural communities and reducing the number of sworn members deployed in headquarters or administrative roles.
- The implementation of a ‘minimum viable’ detachment size of 10 sworn officers, increasing the number of officers in the smallest 37% of detachments by an average of 65% (i.e., adding 275 front-line police officers to the smallest 42 detachments).
- Improved access and service coverage in rural and remote areas due to decentralization of specialist teams and resource sharing.

The deployment model describes five detachment prototypes, all of which would be fully staffed and resourced to deliver the following core services: community policing, investigations, mental health and addictions response, traffic operations, community engagement, and victim services (see following table).

Detachment prototype	Number of detachments	Number of sworn officers	Community characteristics	Types of services provided
Headquarters	1	n/a	Located in Edmonton	Not specified, but likely to include corporate services (finance, procurement, human resources, asset management, IT, communications, and legal services)
Regional (urban) hub	3	125-200	Larger rural communities acting as centres in Northern, Central, and Southern Alberta	Full range of operational and strategic services
Service hub	20-30	48-192	Medium sized rural communities in Alberta, likely acting as a “centre” in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community policing and field operations</li> <li>• Investigation teams</li> <li>• Mental health and addictions response</li> <li>• Specialist service teams</li> </ul>
Community detachment	10-80	65-85	Rural and remote communities in Alberta, likely smaller in size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community policing and field operations</li> <li>• Investigation teams</li> <li>• Mental health and addictions response</li> <li>• Specialist service teams</li> </ul>
Detachment in Indigenous communities	TBD	TBD	Indigenous communities that chose to contract the APPS to provide services	To be determined with input from Indigenous communities and leaders

Detailed descriptions of the types of services to be provided in each detachment, as well as the top-level organization for the APPS, are included in the report’s appendix. The report does not specify where each type of detachment would be located, but suggests several factors that should be considered when determining these locations, such as:

- Population (size and service needs)
- Location and geographic characteristics
- Physical size/infrastructure of detachments
- Number of officers and frontline resources required in the detachment to serve the community
- Relative location of other detachments:
- Access to other service providers (municipal police services, mental health and addictions, child advocacy centres)
- Demand for services and historical crime data
- Community input

Key assumptions and cautions in the report include:

- The physical space and available infrastructure that exists today can accommodate the deployment model proposed.
- Team supervisory ratios and composition are presented for illustrative purposes only and must be refined and validated for alignment with leading practice guidelines and considering capabilities and service complexity.
- Staffing levels in community detachments are based on having a minimum of two officers on shift for a single shift 7 days a week (i.e., will not have 24-hour availability).
- Staffing levels in service hubs are based on having 24-hour frontline availability as well as teams of investigative and specialist services.
- Numerous additional data points should be considered in further detailed analysis, including crime volume, community service demands, other agency demands, population projections, Crime Severity Index scores, case clearance ratios, and geographic spread of jurisdictions for each detachment as a part of detailed deployment model design.
- Input from communities should be incorporated into the deployment model including required resources, public safety priorities, and needs as an additional data point to be incorporated into a detailed deployment plan.

## Analysis

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The PwC report describes a high-level, conceptual deployment model that was developed in a top-down manner based on design principles, organizational priorities, and a pre-defined target operating model. The report acknowledges that the model was not developed in consultation with the communities that would be served by an APPS and would need to be validated based on community need, as well as numerous other relevant data points (crime rates, caseloads, etc.). ABmunis has previously expressed concerns with the province's failure to engage meaningfully with municipalities throughout the APPS transition study. This latest report again demonstrates how provincial models for an APPS are being developed in isolation from key stakeholders, including municipalities and the RCMP.

In 2021, ABmunis approved set of principles that would apply to any provincial police service, regardless of the service provider (Appendix II). In evaluating PwC's deployment model against these principles, there is broad alignment between the model's design principles and ABmunis' principles. In particular, the model's commitment to provide a province-wide minimum standard of core policing services significantly aligns with ABmunis' principle on police service levels. ABmunis also supports the model's recognition of the need to integrate police services with other key services within the public safety ecosystem, such as mental health and addictions services.

However, certain elements of the deployment model directly contradict the stated design principles. For example, the methodology used to develop the deployment model contradicts the principles of community-oriented and collaborative. The deployment model notes that the resourcing and sizing requirements for Detachments in Indigenous Communities will be co-developed with those communities; it is unclear why this collaborative, community-centre approach is not being offered to all Alberta communities. Additionally, the report states that the design principle of efficient and integrated will be achieved by "centralizing services and capabilities where it is operationally and fiscally advantageous to do so", which contradicts the stated priority of "decentralizing specialist resources and services out of urban centers and into rural, remote, and Indigenous communities."

In PwC's previous [transition study](#), the cost of contracting the RCMP as Alberta's provincial police service was estimated at \$783 million to support 3,097 regular members and 933 civilian members in 148 detachments.<sup>1</sup> The transition study proposed that an APPS could provide 3,153 officers and 1,036 civilian members in 113 detachments for a total cost of \$759 million. The latest report on the deployment model provides an updated projection of APPS strength that takes into account additional funds raised through the police funding model implemented in 2020. According to the report, these funds can be used to support 3,696 officers and 1,046 civilian members by 2025-26 for a total operating cost of \$819 million. This represents a 17% increase in the number of officers with only an 8% increase in funding. Justice and Solicitor General staff have explained that the apparent disparity in police funding compared to police service strength reflects the movement of officers out of administrative positions into frontline positions. The report does not provide any further information on costs or a potential police funding model. Additionally, since the report does not specify what kind of detachments will be located where, municipalities still do not know what service levels in addition to core policing will be available to them locally.

Many of the questions ABmunis identified in our [analysis of the first PwC transition study](#) remain unanswered by the PwC report on a deployment model. Some additional questions and concerns related to the proposed deployment model include:

- As local needs and data were not considered in developing the deployment model, PwC recommends that their model be validated against this information, as well as through community consultation. When will this process take place and how will the projected APPS costs and resource allocation be impacted?
- How does province plan to fill positions, particularly those in rural and remote communities, for an APPS that is projected to be larger than the current provincial police service, at a time when police services across the country struggle with recruitment and vacancies?
- How will community detachments and service hubs work with municipalities to set local policing priorities and be accountable to the communities they serve?
- The proposed deployment model prioritizes "balancing the distribution of resources across the province in a way that prioritizes service delivery to rural, remote, and Indigenous Communities." How will the province ensure equitable service delivery and responsibility for policing costs between communities served by the APPS and communities that contract the APPS as their municipal police service?
- How will specialist service teams be deployed across the projected 20-30 service hub detachments? Will each service hub contain all types of specialist service teams? If not, how will the placement of specialist service teams be determined? What are the costs associated with duplicating and decentralizing these teams and their equipment in a dispersed deployment model to improve access and responsiveness to calls for services that are further away from large centers?
- The deployment model assumes that the physical space and available infrastructure that exists today can accommodate the proposed model. Is this a realistic assumption given the model's stated priority to improve access and service coverage in rural and remote areas by decentralizing resources?
- The report proposes a top-level organizational structure whereby the Chief of Police reports to a Provincial Police Commission, who in turn reports to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. How does this structure support increased civilian oversight of police, transparent decision-making, and accountability to the people and communities served?

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<sup>1</sup> This cost estimate includes the normalization of RCMP salaries; includes the cost of Alberta sheriffs; and reflects both Provincial Police Service Agreement and Municipal Police Service Agreement detachments and staff.




- The report's appendix reviews the metrics commonly used to determine the optimal number of officers needed for a particular community and concludes that "the takeaway from these metrics seems to suggest that Alberta is experiencing higher caseloads, as well as more complex and serious. Matched with an overall lower proportion of officers per population, this suggests that the current ratios of officers may not be adequate to properly address the community safety demands placed on officers in Alberta." This statement aligns with feedback ABmunis has heard repeatedly from its municipal members, so we support the deployment model's proposal to make significantly more resources available for policing. At the same time, we endorse the idea that the broader ecosystem of public safety includes health, mental health, and social services, as well as the justice system. How will the province ensure that these sectors and the public-safety related services they deliver are appropriately resourced and accessible to all Albertans, in support and alignment with the proposed deployment model?

After the report's release, ABmunis drafted an [official statement](#) in response to media requests. For more information about the APPS proposal and related ABmunis' advocacy, please visit our [online policing hub](#).



## Appendix I – Summary of APPS Deployment Model Values

Design Principles	Description	How the Model Supports the Value
 <b>Community Oriented</b>	Community engagement at the heart of the service and establishing mechanisms to facilitate relationships between the provincial police and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger minimum detachment size</li> <li>• Consistent portfolios of services and capabilities</li> <li>• Enhanced community policing front line officer role</li> </ul>
 <b>Transparent</b>	Transparent in actions, decisions and communications with each other and those that are served. Ensure honesty and openness in interactions and decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional leads for functional areas to ensure consistency and accountability throughout the province</li> <li>• Local Commissions to bring in the Community wherever possible</li> </ul>
 <b>Fair</b>	Fair dealings with citizens and communities at every contact through appropriate and continuous training, oversight and support so service members are empowered to do the right thing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly trained members of the APPS are deployed in all communities in Alberta</li> <li>• Consistent standards and defined ways of working are required to share resources across locations</li> </ul>
 <b>Responsive</b>	Effective response systems to ensure that the future provincial police are responding to calls for service in a timely manner while producing outcomes that satisfy citizens' needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More effectively placing front line officers where they are needed in the community, at times they are needed</li> <li>• Providing service coverage and surge capacity in Service Hubs for all Community Detachments</li> <li>• Placing specialized services where they are needed and accessible to all communities</li> </ul>

Design Principles	Description	How the Model Supports the Value
 <b>Efficient and Integrated</b>	Integrated services across the province with infrastructure and resources shared to achieve economies of scale and joined-up outcomes for citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centralizing services and capabilities where it is operationally and fiscally advantageous to do so</li> </ul>
 <b>Collaborative</b>	Establish and reinforce effective collaboration and working relationships with communities, agencies and organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embedding community collaboration leads into the organizational structure to drive the ecosystem approach</li> <li>• Appoint regional leads responsible for collaboration and community partnerships</li> </ul>
 <b>Consistent</b>	Consistent and dependable level of services provided throughout the province. Having adequate resources and the level of staff for standard police services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximizing staffing efficiency by not having a one-size-fits all approach</li> <li>• Layering services to all communities by the implementation of service hubs</li> <li>• Optimizing staffing and shifting models by community need and capability demand</li> </ul>

## Appendix II – ABmunis Principles for an APPS

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1. Police governance and oversight
  - An Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS) must ensure that all municipalities have meaningful input into developing local policing priorities.
  - Governance and oversight bodies for an APPS must include municipal representation at local, regional, and provincial levels.
  - An APPS must provide regular reporting on policing priorities and outcomes to the municipalities it serves.
2. Police service levels
  - An APPS must establish and deliver a minimum standard of policing infrastructure, supervision, administration, and front-line services necessary to respond to calls for service and provide adequate proactive policing in all Alberta municipalities.
  - This minimum standard must exceed current RCMP performance.
  - The Government of Alberta must create, with input from municipalities, metrics to demonstrate that the minimum standard is being met or exceeded in all Alberta municipalities.
  - The Government of Alberta must publicly share reporting on APPS performance.
3. Policing costs
  - Municipalities must not bear any of the costs associated with implementing and transitioning to a provincial police service.
  - Police funding must be based on the principles of fairness, transparency, and predictability.
  - The Government of Alberta must fill the funding gap associated with the loss of federal funding for using RCMP services.
  - Municipal policing costs for an APPS must be at minimum 5% below current RCMP policing costs.
  - All municipalities must pay an equitable share of policing costs for the minimum standard of policing.
  - Municipalities must retain the ability to negotiate contracts with an APPS. Municipalities requesting contract enhancements, e.g., additional dedicated officers or staff, would be responsible for paying the additional cost of providing these.



Friday August 26, 2022

Wheatland Housing Management Body would like to thank everyone for your continued support for the building of our new hospice and seniors' lodge. We are still looking to locate our new facility on the site of the currently undeveloped land east of Kinsmen Lake.

To help advance our project the Wheatland Housing Management Body Board has hired an outside consultant (Derek Weiss) who has specific experience with the current funding/financing programs for affordable housing. The consultant has successfully delivered several other projects within our province, including the new seniors lodge that opened this year in Hinton Alberta. To watch a video on this project, please go to Pine Valley Seniors Lodge – Exterior and Amenities – YouTube.

In June of this year, together with Derek Weiss, the housing board reviewed options related to capital costs, revenues and related funding and financing requirements. The National Housing Strategy and related programs managed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation were also reviewed to understand the requirements and implications.

The new construction option of the National Housing Co-Investment Fund provides low-interest and forgivable loans to build new affordable housing. The fund prioritizes partnerships between governments, the private sector, and other partners.

For more information on the National Housing Strategy and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation please go to Guide Page- Strategy | Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation ([CMHC-schl.bc.ca](http://CMHC-schl.bc.ca))

There are two key challenges for the project under review:

1. Assembly of capital through partner contributions, guarantees, donations and/or debt financing.
2. Refinement of the project cost needs to meet possible financial limitations.

Wheatland Housing Management Body will continue to provide regular updates. If you require further information or clarification, please contact:

Glenn Koester - [gkoester@telusplanet.net](mailto:gkoester@telusplanet.net)

Vickey Cook – [cao@whmb.ca](mailto:cao@whmb.ca)



August 26, 2022

Hello Neighbours,

We hope you have been well since our last communication about the Wheatland Wind Project.

The Wheatland project team has been working hard to complete the construction of the Project before the end of 2022. Since the last update letter in March, we have completed all construction of the access roads and turbine foundations. The substation was successfully energized earlier in August, and all of our turbine components have been delivered onsite therefore the majority of the increased truck traffic on the roads should subside.

We are pleased to announce that nine turbines were erected as of mid-August and turbine erection will continue through into October. We are anticipating the first turbine to start operating later this fall and the entire project fully operational by the end of the year. Reclamation of the Project site will begin later this fall. Our teams will aim to do as much as possible in 2022 dependent on winter weather conditions. We will complete all reclamation activities by end of summer 2023.

As always, thank you for your ongoing cooperation, accommodation, and support for the Wheatland Wind Project. We are excited to complete the Project this year and we look forward to hearing from you with any questions or concerns.

Later this year, we will be introducing our operational teams to the community via another newsletter. In the meantime, please reach out to our Construction Manager or Project Manager at any time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Silvio Martinez". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "S" and a prominent vertical line.

Silvio Martinez  
Construction Manager  
647-823-9012  
[smartinez@potentiarenewables.com](mailto:smartinez@potentiarenewables.com)