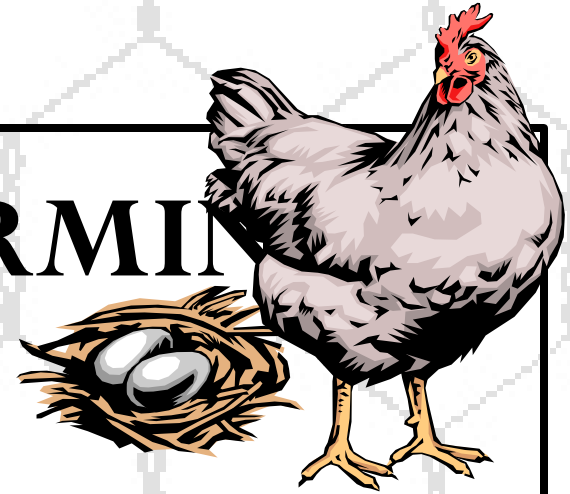


# **URBAN CHICKEN FARMING**



**GAIL MEAKINS**

**METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER**

**UNIVERSITY OF UTAH**

# PURPOSE

Urban dwellers are asking their city leaders to let them become active members of a “new” yet “old” movement— that of farmer.

Urban agriculture is a necessary component and a positive influence in cities and towns.

*“Despite all that farming can do for the city landscape and the urban soul, politicians, businesses, and planners continue to regard food as a rural issue that does not demand the same attention as housing, crime, or transportation.”*

*State of the World 2007*

**Urbanization**

**Urban Agriculture**

**New Agrarianism**

**Issues associated with “Urban Chickens”**

**Common Regulations**

**Case Studies**

**Conclusion**

# URBANIZATION

- Increased agricultural efficiency and the
- Ability to transport food to distant places

Resulted in a population shift as people moved from the farms to the cities to take advantage of the growing employment opportunities provided by the industrial revolution

# URBAN AGRICULTURE

*Urban Agriculture is an industry located within or on the fringe of a town, a city or metropolis, which grows and raises, processes and distributes a diversity of food and non-food products...*

*(Mougeot, 2000, pg10)*

Cities have been a part of the human culture for the last 10,000 years through the development of agriculture as man became capable of cultivating crops and producing food.



# THE NEW AGRARIANISM

Agrarianism is a term used to explain a relationship with or connection to the land.

*“In short, a land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow members, and also respect for the community as such.”*

*Aldo Leopold*



“There is a quiet revolution stirring in our food system. It is not happening so much on the distant farms that still provide us with the majority of our food; it is happening in cities, neighborhoods, and towns. It has evolved out of the basic need that every person has to know their food, and to have some sense of control over its safety and security.

Michael Ableman



Youth from the NY City Children's Aid Society garden on building rooftop.  
<http://homepage.mac.com/cityfarmer/PhotoAlbum42.html>

# THE CHICKEN NEXT DOOR

- Concerns for health and safety
- Nuisance (smell and noise)
- Differences in value systems



# COMMON REGULATORY THEMES

- Number
- Regulation of Roosters
- Permits/Registration
- Enclosure/Runs standards
- Setbacks
- Nuisance Clause
- Slaughtering



# CASE STUDIES

## Billings, MT

Population— 89,847

Land Area— 33.712 square miles

Housing Units— 39,293

1,000 housing units per square mile



Chickens are not allowed within the city limits and are regulated by the county 4.5 miles outside of the city boundary.

# Denver, CO

Population— 554,636

Land Area— 153.35 square miles

Housing Units— 251,435

Housing units per square mile- 1600



## Criteria For Keeping of Animals Use Exception

### Keeping of Animals:

- Filed by the property owner and the owner must occupy the premises
- The animal shall be kept solely as a pet; a hobby; for educational, research, rehabilitation or propagation purposes; or for the production of food products for personal consumption by the resident;
- Ensure that the exception will not substantially or permanently injure the appropriate use of adjacent conforming properties.
- Notify abutting property owners and give serious consideration to any opposition.
- Structures must comply with all regulations and maintained according to housing and building codes.
- Upon receipt of a complaint an investigation will take place to determine validity of complaint and any action required.

# Cleveland, OH

Population-478,403

Land Area— 77.58 square miles

Housing Units— 215,856

2800 housing units per square mile



Cleveland is making a serious commitment to urban agriculture through new ordinances which will allow a greater number of residents to raise both produce and farm animals including chickens. These regulations include:

- Number-

- 1 per 800 square feet of parcel or lot area.

- Setbacks.-

- 5 feet from a side yard line and 18 inches from a rear yard line.

- Prohibitions-

- No roosters on a lot less than 1 acre and 100 feet from all property lines.

- Slaughtering of Animals-

- Chickens, ducks, rabbits and similar small animals may be slaughtered on site only if for consumption by the occupants of the premises.

# Chicago, IL

Population-2,896,016

Land Area— 227.131

Housing Units-1,152,868

5000 housing units per square mile



Chicago is the third largest city in the United States. Chicago has a population density of 12,750.3 people per square mile and a housing unit density of 5,075.8 units per square mile yet has no restrictions specific to raising poultry within the city limits.

# Salt Lake City, UT

Population-181,743

Land Area— 109.081 square miles

Housing Units-77,054

700 housing units per square mile

## Salt Lake City Code<sup>15</sup>

**1860**

Prevents running at large

**1914**

Unlawful to keep, run, or feed fowls within 20 feet of any dwelling

**1926**

Unlawful to house, keep, run or feed fowls within fifty (50) feet of a dwelling

Unlawful to keep more than two hundred (200) unless if kept one hundred (100) feet or more from any dwelling

**1945**

Unlawful for any person to keep without first making application for and obtaining a permit

Unlawful to keep more than 25 chickens

**2009**

Unlawful to keep within fifty feet (50') of any house used for human habitation

St. Mary's Subdivision



Avenues (2<sup>nd</sup> between S and T)



# CONCLUSION

In the United States there are varying degrees of both tolerance and acceptance:

- Pre-existing bias and misconceptions
- Unfamiliarity with farming practices
- Uncertainty related to quality of life and housing values
- Cultural values greatly influence the decision making process

As the interest in urban agriculture continues to grow there is a desperate need for analytical research to quantifiably support or refute specific restrictions and regulations while carefully documenting impacts and benefits.

