

# Neighborhood Eggs of Wilson

## *Poultry facts*

Hens do not require the presence of a rooster to produce eggs.

A flock of 10 birds makes approximately 165lbs of solid waste yearly (over 100lbs less than the waste produced by one average dog), 20lbs of which are the nutrients in fertilizer, N-P-K. Composted chicken waste makes a very effective lawn and garden fertilizer.

Neighborhood eggs can have significantly more important nutrients than commercial eggs, such as Vitamins E and A, beta-carotene, choline, lutein, and omega-3 fatty acids.

## *Best Practices for poultry*

Wash hands after handling birds, and after walking through the chicken yard, it's a good idea to remove your shoes before entering the house.

Keep birds' living area clean and raked out weekly. Provide fly control.

Provide fresh, clean water every day, along with plenty of feed. Access to bugs and greens yields eggs with maximum nutrition.

Refrigerate your eggs.

Be a good neighbor: Be aware of noise and odor issues.

## *Our Goal:*

To change the existing City of Wilson ordinance to allow a sensible amount of backyard poultry.

## *The current code:*

"It shall be unlawful for any person to house or stable any horse, mule, pony, sheep, goat, or other livestock, including poultry, in the city limits within 150 feet of any (building)... (and the lot must contain) 20,000 square feet in area (for each animal)."

## *Why should poultry be allowed?*

Chickens, ducks, quail, and other poultry are easy to raise and care for, and fun to observe.

They can provide fresh, wholesome eggs, as well as top-notch fertilizer.

Raising poultry is a great learning experience for both children and adults.

## *What do you need to raise poultry?*

Chickens need a fenced-in area protected from predators. They appreciate a coop structure with a roosting area and nesting boxes.

Ducks like a secure, fenced area with a shelter to sleep in. A pond or water tank is greatly enjoyed by ducks, but is not essential.

All birds need fresh, clean water and plenty of feed, quick daily care, and space to engage in their natural behaviors.

## *How many birds should I raise?*

Chicks obtained in the spring usually start laying in late summer. Egg production is highest from younger birds during the long-light, warm months.

A flock of 12 hens can produce at least 8-10 eggs daily during the summer, and 5-7 daily during the winter.

Birds are a flock animal and will be most happy in a group of at least 3 or 4, quite enough for a small family. A dozen birds will provide plenty of eggs (for eating and sharing!) for a larger family.

Older hens eventually stop laying and can be kept as pets. Hens can live to be 12!