



# SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

Report # 2024-077

To: Mayor & Council  
From: Rick Chesebrough, Fire Chief  
Date: June 28, 2024,  
Committee of the Whole Date: July 8, 2024,  
Title: Backyard Hen Survey Results

For Direction  
 For Information  
 For Adoption  
 Attachment 17 pages

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**Recommendation:** *Take no action as it relates to allowing backyard hens at this time based on the potential of the Avian Flu, the inability to inspect and enforce, the current By-Law staffing deficiency and the time required to complete the amendments to the Zoning and Animal Control Bylaws*

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**Purpose:** To provide members of Council with the backyard hen survey results and advise members of Council of the concerns that were identified in the survey responses as well as the responses supporting the program.

**Background:** At the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 27, 2024, CAO Morris presented the backyard hen report for Councils' consideration in Non-Rural Zoning areas in Smiths Falls. The report outlined some benefits of permitting backyard hens, but also some considerations for Council to consider.

Council directed staff to conduct an online public survey to gauge the level of interest of the proposed program. The online survey was posted on the Town's web site on June 10, 2024 with a closing date for submissions on June 24, 2024.

The online survey consisted of 5 questions and a comment section for the public to complete. The total number of responses to the survey was 851. There were a variety of comments, both supporting the program and not supportive of the program (Attached as Appendix A).

70% of respondents support the concept of backyard hens while 29% of respondents did not support, with 1% being undecided. 54% of respondents stated they would be interested in having chickens on their property while 45% were not interested and 1% undecided.

There were 2 major concerns contained in the comments section of the survey:

1. The Avian Flu Potential

With the current threat of a bird flu pandemic seriously affecting poultry and cattle stock in the United States.

2. Ability to Inspect and Enforce

The second concern identified the Towns ability to inspect, enforce and monitor the backyard hen program.

In consultation with our Public Health Unit, they have provided information on the safe handling of chickens and the proper hygiene practices to be followed.

**Analysis and Options:**

**Option 1.** Take no action as it relates to allowing backyard hens at this time based on the potential of the Avian Flu, the inability to inspect and enforce, the current By-Law staffing deficiency and the time required to complete the amendments to the Zoning and Animal Control Bylaws. (Recommended)

**Option 2.** Council directs staff to begin the process of amending the Zoning and Animal Control Bylaws and arrange the legislated public meeting to amend the Zoning Bylaw.

**Budget/Financial Implications:** To be determined.

**Consultations:** Kerry Costello, Clerk  
Karl Grenke, Manager Development Services  
Lanark Leeds Grenville Public Health

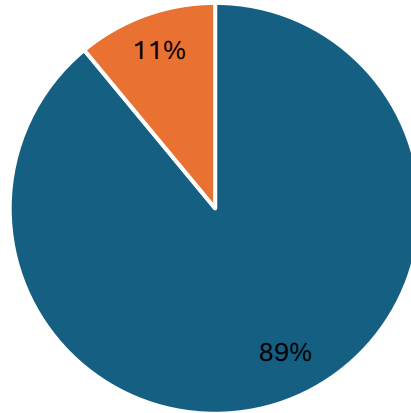
**Attachments:** Appendix A - Survey Comments  
Appendix B Survey Response summary

Respectfully Submitted by:

Rick Chesebrough  
Fire Chief/CEMC

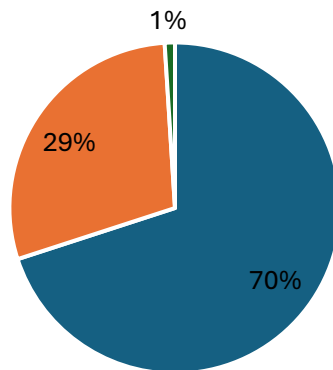
Approved for agenda by CAO:  
Malcolm Morris, CMO

Are you a resident of Smiths Falls?



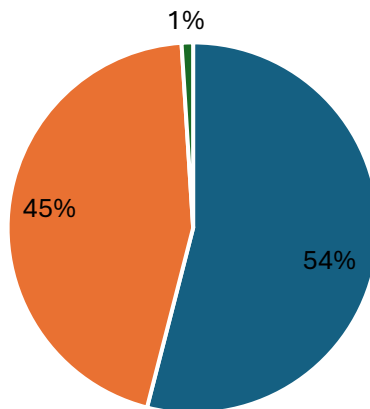
■ Yes ■ No

Do you support residents being allowed to keep chickens on residential property in the Town of Smiths Falls?



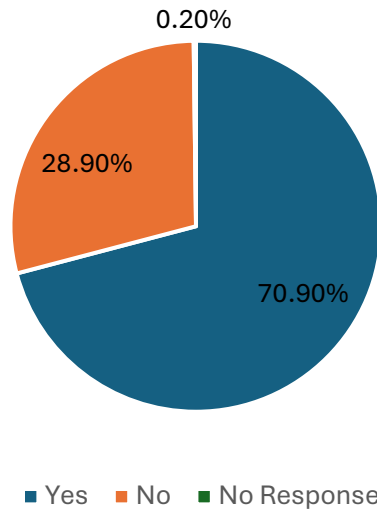
■ Yes ■ No ■ No Response

Would you be interested in having chickens on your property?

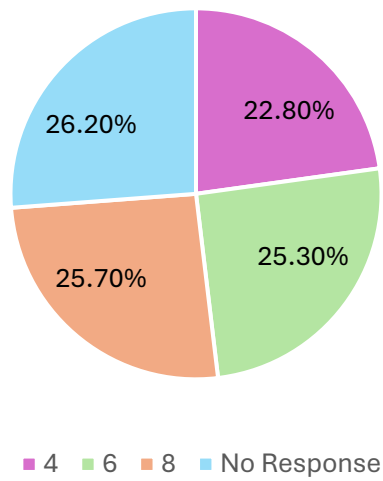


■ Yes ■ No ■ No Response

Would you support your neighbours being allowed to keep chickens on their residential property?



What is the maximum number of chickens that should be allowed per property?



Comments:
Town by law can't keep up with dog bite issues..not sure how they will deal with chicken issues....they stink and attack rats, fox and coyotes. They molt, don't produce eggs year round. And with Bird flu H1N1 on the rise not interested. Move to the country.
I put six but it really depends on the size of the yard and the structure
Town by law enforcement is poor at best. Too many people will not respect any by law that is put in place.
It seems like a nice idea but, there will be chickens all over the town constantly,there will be people that won't be able to afford to feed them constantly, people can barely afford their own housing let alone housing for chickens rental properties will probably be filled with chickens during the winter months due to lack of outdoor housing.
Smiths Falls is a town, not a rural municipality. Town lots are too close together. The smell of chicken feces is not a smell i want to smell as i sit in my back yard. Bird flu and other fowl bourne illnesses to consider. The waste of chickens, where does that go ? I have so many objections to this. If people want to FARM, move to the outskirts or county side. Chickens don't belong in town
I think only hens should be kept with a minimum sized yard. Yard size could be confirmed with Google maps and a picture of coop in yard for permit purposes. Only allow pullets so gender can be confirmed (no chicks from ██████████).
Backyard size should be considered
1 egg a day each person 😊
The disease implications of this are too high. As well, how would by-law have the time and resources to enforce the rules and ensure proper sanitation and conditions for the chickens?
The smell and who is going to ensure they don't have or spread avian flu!
Max four, NO roosters!
Too risky, disease, smell, avian flu, so many problems
Other communities allow this. Maximum of 10 per residential under 1 acre.
I am unsure the specifics for the allowable number but would think this should be linked to space available. I chose 8 but someone with a large yard versus someone with a small space would need consideration. Or maybe a minimum space required
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As a person whose mother raises chickens outside of town limits, I do not see a problem with people having chickens in town. Under the right conditions. Fenced in coops, so predators can't get to them and so that they cannot escape and pester other peoples pets. People who want them should have a big enough yard to properly house chickens. But only hens no roosters. Chickens would help with food waste, as a lot of veggie and fruits scraps can be fed to them. They would also keep down some bug populations, while providing eggs in return for their food.
I do not want my neighbors owning chickens. the smell and noise not to mention most of the residents cant follow simple bylaws like registration of animals and keeping cats inside or on a leash or dogs on leash or even picking up dog poop. I do not trust leaving backyard chicken ownership to be governed by bylaw which is simply complaint driven. No thank you, they want to own chickens buy property out of town and have chickens. I think we should be tackling housing shortages and insane rent prices. I think the town should replace all trees uptown with fruit bearing trees but I do not think town residents should have backyard chickens.
6 or a certain amount depending on how big the family is. So every family member can have 1 chicken.
Absolutely ridiculous. This is a town this close neighbors and small lot lines. Look at property standards first.

I do not support this initiative. We have so much construction, theft.. we do not need any more chaos. If my neighbour gets chickens I will move away somewhere else. Why does the town not start a community garden for food instead..?
For places like the low income areas Sussex empess ext should maybe have a joined community coop. So the places arnt overwhelmed with structures and for thoses area have maybe a camra set up and one person in charge of watching over things
None
An absolutely insane concept. This is an issue being considered in the face of threat of a bird flu pandemic currently seriously affecting poultry and cattle stock in the U.S. Regulate the chickens as much as you want, there can be no credible enforcement, and the concept will fail miserably. And the benefits are marginal, as a residence with any chickens will produce more eggs than the household can use, can't be sold or given to charity. Wake up Smiths Falls. This is pure idiocy.
As someone who lives rurally , we have to have 2 acres to have chickens, they need space and ability to roam ,
I like the idea of chickens being allowed however, it would be better if it were in a rural setting. I wouldn't be opposed to chickens in town if there is not a rooster. Roosters are quite noisy.
# of chickens depends on the size of the yard as they need appropriate space and shelter. Also something has to be drawn up in case the chickens wander into neighbours yards and cause damage.
As a resident in the downtown core I strongly disagree with this initiative. Too much construction, stray cats, theft going on in this town... do we really need chickens...???? y need to ad chickens to the mix..??? I will move. We pay as much tax here as Barhaven ...
Should also include quail to be allowed along with chickens as they are quieter and smaller than chickens so need less space for those with smaller yards.
No is the answer
Chickens bring rats, rodents. Also the sound of a roster in the morning will be annoying. We live in town and not the country!
It kind of depends on the property, a small lot of several acres
Important to note that area should be fenced to avoid traffic accidents or disruptions with the flow of traffic
Residents cannot care for their current animals properly, this will be a mess with substantial loss of life.
No one takes care of their stuff now they won't take care of chickens!
We need to subsidize rising costs of groceries somehow. Preferrably a local method to do so, like this initiative.
The number of permissible chickens should Depend on the size of the property, I would say
SF needs to enforce their current bylaws before implementing anything else!
Id prefer smaller birds like quail so would they be umbrella'd in with the chickens?
Minimize bylaw officer requirement by utilizing same approach as with other approved animals (i.e. focus efforts on nuisance complaints and not on inspecting all sites).
To be honest I think 10 would be best
Don't see any problems
I worry of the up keep and amount of space chickens need to have a good quality of life
I would happily have and support neighbors with as long as area nis fully fenced and kept CLEAN.. no roosters in town limits ..
I have a neighbor with a storage tote full of dog █. It's the summer. I can't get anyone do anything. But you will allow chickens.

I think backyard hens would be a wonderful addition to some residents!
I think it would be a smart idea to help families in need
Local farmers could rent chickens for the summer. That way residents would benefit from tick control, fresh eggs and not have the burden of over wintering the birds. And the farmers would have a new income stream.
Maybe it should be based on property size. My yard is way too small to properly house chickens and many others would be in the same position.
Food security
Trying to be objective:
None
Hens only
Think my response is a sufficient comment
4 would barely feed a small family who bakes and consumes their own eggs daily.
Keeping chickens is one of the easiest ways to live more sustainably. They help eliminate scraps, produce a natural fertiliser, get rid of pesky garden pests, assist with composting and provide fresh eggs! Keeping chickens is one of the most rewarding ways to start living green and isn't that what the Town of Smiths Falls is all about? If Carlton place is allowed chickens, there's no reason we shouldn't be allowed.
My greatest concern is the additional need for by-law officers/ animal control. Will foul be limited to hens or will turkeys and ducks be allowed? 😊 I hope landlords do not allow on rental properties
This must be a joke because this is the dumbest idea ive ever heard of.
The maximum should be more than 8. It should be 12, which is a "full flock".
I don't think anyone should be allowed chickens in town and I would be very upset if my neighbours were to have chickens. They are noisy, if not taken care of properly can be smelly, and they attract skunks and other predators. Our homes are too close together in town to have them, they should only be allowed on large properties (an acre) where they would not be in close proximity to neighbours.
I have 8 chickens here in North Gower. So long as their needs are met they are quiet and peaceful birds. There should be guideline around size and cleanliness of the coop. Outside of that, they provide so much benefit to an area (food for community, soil, they eat scraps, tick and other pest control etc)
I've not had good experiences with current bylaw and have zero trust that they'll enforce any laws so adding some capable bylaw or training would also be great.
Help with food costs (eggs&poultry) reduces pests like ticks. Helps children learn responsibilities like feeding + watering + egg collecting
With the price of food this would be valuable to a lot of people.
The only way I would support this is if the property was inspected regularly. There is nothing worse than the smell of a chicken coop that is not cleaned regularly.
They eat ticks, so yes let's get them in our neighborhoods.
Unfortunately, a number of people wouldn't take care of the area,/ the birds properly, which will lead to various issues including devaluation of property, potential odors along with someone's complaints, then possibly I'm including escaped birds. A former neighbor here had chickens, and the birds would manage to get over the fence, our dog got two of them..
I think everyone should be allowed to have chickens. They help to lower garbage at the curbside as they eat the kitchen scraps, pest control, help with food security especially now. Etc etc etc
Where do you put their waste? How do you prevent unwanted animals (raccoons, foxes etc) how do eliminate their smell?

NONE. They belong on a farm where the smell and predators can be dealt with. How do town residents deal with waste disposal and chickens that are no longer laying eggs?
I dont think the amount of chickens matters but there should be a rule on roosters
i feel if chickens are kept in safe space (away from roads, sidewalks) especially people with fenced in yards. there's no reason if someone is going to keep everyone/the chickens safe & clean that they shouldn't be allowed to.
None
This would benefit in so many ways. Waste reduction. Ticks.
Chickens make neighborhoods stink and nobody wants to end up woke up by a rooster. Chickens should be for farms only.
Chickens stink and make too much noise for town/city life. If you're trying to avoid any potential population growth, allowing chickens will do just that!
We have enough issues with pigeons taking over our down town .. some people will get them just to get them and not take care of them or there surroundings properly and that just stinks .. I don't think this is a very good idea .. yes they give eggs but most people are having a hard time feeding themselves right now .. how are they going to get the proper things that the chickens need ..
No Roosters
but no roosters
Can't even police or monitor the beach , parks , cats and dogs , and you wanna add more for a bylaw enforcement that we don't even have monitoring situations ! Prioritize the issues and costing of policing and bylaws before adding more issues ! What happens in the winter , who enforces the mess , chickens in cold , rental properties that destroy the owners property, you really think we have bylaw enforcement for this lol 😏
There should be housing rules.
We are just 10min from SF - and would welcome anything to help families save on gruceriea
Chickens in this town is a bad idea. There are too many irresponsible people that live here. Look at the stray cat problem.
No roosters. Just laying hens
This is great! Keep up the postive momentum.
There shouldn't be a limit to the number of chickens. It should be based on space. It makes no sense for someone with a large yard to be limited to the same number as someone with less space to accommodate the chickens.
Great way for feeding families and keeping ticks population down
Just what we don't need... seriously... enough stray animals roaming the streets let alone chickens.... The smell 🤢
Allowing chickens to be as pets or livestock in town opens up Pandora's box. It could introduce avian flus/illnesses. It's a noise issue/annoyance.
Backyard chickens have provided so much for us. Kid goes outside. Eggs on demand. And adventures sprinkled in. KK
Amount of chickens should be based on available space
The more eggs the merrier!
I think the number of chickens should depend on size of yard and enclosure so the welfare of the chickens isnt comprised
None



Before we allow chickens which attract some other animals, can we please do a hyper catch on all the feral cats?
there is a lot of upkeep to having chickens ,and how do u keep someone from having a rooster u can expect lots of issues from this and I am sure that the town bi law have enough situations to handle
Unless more than 1 acre lot.
I think that many of us are looking to find ways of growing our own food. I have had a small garden for several years and would love to have chickens. Not only for the eggs but for the compost and also the bug control that they could provide to enhance my little garden.
Would love to have a few hens it would cut down ln
People already don't take care of their property ! Chicken
Residents with chickens should ensure sounds within acceptable bylaw limits. No roosters ( for sounds). Yards should be kept clean. Chickens should be contained with both wall fencing and overhead screen/roof in place to ensure chickens remain in yard.
Would help control the tick population and support food insecurity
This is a very bad idea.
I don't live in the town of Smiths Falls, nor do I support the motion for Smiths Falls residents to be allowed chickens.
Business Owner and Property Owner in town. Max should be 5 chickens and they must also register with the town. No fee license. This allows the town to withdraw support if a resident abuses the bylaw.
I feel like number of chickens might need to depend on size of space available but I feel like chickens will also help cut back on ticks in town
Depends on the size of the area the chickens occupy.
We had backyard chickens when we lived in another location and loved it. The neighbours appreciated seeing them and getting eggs as well. Not planning on chickens in our present home but do support the idea.
chickens are one of the highest carriers of salmonella ... if not looked after properly ... this could become a problem... along with the bugs that go along with poorly housed birds... being a retired farmer & knowing what is involved in raising egg layers & meat birds this is a huge concern along with the noise..hens do make noise not just the roosters ... it will also attract their predators...
I would want to have a 2 year trial period.
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If this becomes allowed, far too many people who know nothing about animal care will buy a cute coop and get l chickens which will then be mistreated and poorly cared for. IF chickens are to be allowed people should need to take a course showing basic competency around care.
I would absolutely support this as long as there would be a place that residents would be able to take the old hay or wood chips to dispose of. Smells would become quite offensive if left in yards during summer heat. I would also suggest that it would be open year round for convenience. But also have some sort of bylaw regarding not keeping the waste on the property passed once a month ( if not by-weekly).
If someone wants chickens, then perhaps country living is more suitable. Fire Chief Cheseborough raised very legitimate concerns at the council meeting that should be seriously considered.
Would be an amazing thing to allow smiths falls residents. I was a s.f. resident before moving to country where i now am a chicken owner. Teaches my children responsibility and about where food comes from.
Im co v
I don't believe people are aware of the cost and care required for chickens, I noted comments from citizens of Smiths Falls that they want chickens to save on the cost of eggs, but would it not be better to have a garden instead of chickens since vegetables are more expensive and an be frozen and uses all

year round! If they have room for chickens and money to set up for chickens they have room and the means to put in a garden
Number of chickens should depend on the size of the property. I have no idea about what kind of space chickens require. And there should be some sort of rule about fencing to avoid chickens roaming onto property that belongs to neighbours.
Chickens are not pets, they require care and maintenance which is expensive. Aside from the cost to keep them which includes Feed, Water, Hydro (for heat lamps in winter months = fire hazard around bedding ), Proper Pens and run area. You also need to consider that rodents such as rats, racoons, squirrels, chipmunks are all attracted to chicken feed and eat eggs. Coyotes are attracted to chickens. Points on council discussion - Table scraps are not acceptable food for chickens. Please also consider, that chickens can be noisy and improperly cleaned coups can smell VERY bad. You will get complaints and there will be more problems. One additional point - this will not solve the food security issue. Instead, council should be focused promoting fresh vegetable gardens and other economic securities. Thank you for asking our opinion.
Personally I believe the amount of chickens should depend on how much space one has in their backyard.regardless I am a huge supporter of this!
Laying chickens are wonderful! The eggs are so healthy and the therapeutic benefits the chickens give are astronomical!!!
They are great for eating ticks. And honestly dogs are more of a noise nuisance
They must be securely contained, to many chickens and ducks running across rural roads
As many chickens as they want they should be allowed to have but they have to remember dogs and cats are big predators for chickens
This should depend on certain variables.
BE EXCELLENT TO EACHOTHER
0 is the maximun that should be allowed
No matter how convincing the case for chickens seems, the first step should be a pilot project. Council must be prepared to side with a quiet majority over a loud or angry minority if it doesn't work out as expected.
I think it would a great idea as a educational lesson for children as well as helping to feed the family.
None!!!
I think yard space should be a consideration when selecting a maximum number. Those wishing to have chickens should pay to get a permit and demonstrate they meet requirements for shelter and space and sign a document stating they understand they will be held accountable for the well being of the chickens and that they must adhere to standards agreed upon by the town . The bottom line is there must be a willingness by both the town and owners to ensure humane treatment.
Feral chickens have never been a problem, anywhere.
i have foxes in my yard already 3 to 4 of them , one confronted me i scared it off i believe they are feeding on the cats and other animals aready adding chickens will just bring more preditors i say no thanks
Having chickens in town facinity opens a whole new level of bilaws, rodents are drawn to chicken feed, wildlife is already roaming the streets, this will draw them more. They are messy with feathers, digging & poop. People has problems keeping dog poop cleaned up, chicken poop is even more & stinks. Then think of the fallout of people accusing their neighbours of their pets killing their chickens. What happens when these animals die or need to be slaughtered. What about of chickens get loose, is there going to be chicken catchers. What about disease if they aren't cared for properly. Free eggs sound good until someone contracts samonilla. I don't think people have researched the responsibility involved but rather think it would be neat on the superficial level.

<p>Looking at all the posts on FB many people have a problem with owning dogs &amp; cats. Many lose them, let them roam, etc. chickens are maintenance. If people work &amp; existing Petcare is a problem for walking, feed cost, not to mention personal issues that they now need to surrender their pet, where does this leave chickens. People complain of kids noise, gripe over inconvenience of not having access to things they want , what happens when chicken feed isn't accessible for supply or proper coop needs to be installed &amp; safety for them applied, more griping. Chickens in town is asking for trouble on many levels that people are having tunnel vision with. It doesn't matter either what other communities are doing, repercussions haven't been reported yet. I do hope Smiths Falls thinks this through from all angles &amp; not on a fleeting moment. The new visual of the town has no room asthetically or from a tourist aspect. There's already complaints of wild bird poop in parks that gross people out, backyards will turn into a stenching slaughter house. Just visit any rural farm that has chickens &amp; talk with the owner. They will tell you the behind the scene story.</p>
<p>Must have fenced in back yard/chicken coop.</p>
<p>Consider the cost/benefit to the Town and residents and make a reasoned, thoughtful, informed decision.</p>
<p>I love the idea but I know people will mistreat them/be really dirty and possible slaughter them in their backyards. I feel it is a high risk of animal abuse + the chickens might fly out of yards etc. I have dogs and worry they would harm a stray chicken and then both me and the dog would be in trouble. I worry also about smell and mess. I have cared for chickens and they are lovely, but they are very messy, prone to disease and people don't treat them well</p>
<p>dirty, smelly, we are increasing pop. density and this would be a problem. Some people struggle to maintain their houses let alone chicken coops. the town doesn't have the resources to monitor this</p>
<p>This is great! Very needed!</p>
<p>They're great for the environment. They make fertilizer, provide meat and eggs and keep they keep ticks and other annoying insects population down</p>
<p>About time! Families have a right to feed their kids and teach them valuable skills like animal husbandry!</p>
<p>In times of high grocery costs and high rates of food bank use, people should be allowed to have their own egg-laying hens. This would also promote community safety and well being, as people are more likely to share their abundance of eggs with neighbours, creating connections. NIMBYism shouldn't prevent people from food.</p>
<p>I am worried about property values and buying and selling homes in Smiths Falls. Buyers from other areas may not want to buy a home IN TOWN that chickens are beside the home they are interested in buying or chickens in the neighbourhood. Not good for propey values</p>
<p>Chickens also eat ticks so they are great at keeping the tick population at bay!</p>
<p>I think it is a fine idea allowing people to raise chickens to have fresh eggs. With the cost of food these days this seems like a good option for those who want it.</p>
<p>We've wanted to keep chickens since we moved to smiths falls almost 5 years ago. Especially with the tick populations rising, chickens would be a great way to control this!</p>
<p>In a time where the average 2 person income household cannot afford food, why keep free food from them and their families.</p>
<p>Free eggs. Free fertilizer for produce. Tick control.</p>
<p>Depends on the size of the property</p>
<p>Don't want the smell or the mess anywhere near my backyard. If anyone wants to raise chickens move to the country.</p>
<p>No roosters!</p>
<p>I think the amount of chickens should be decided by size of property</p>

Chickens eat ticks. Their waste is some of the best garden fertilizer available. Egg laying chickens would help combat food insecurity in these times. Its very important that we are able to keep chickens in Smiths Falls.
no fee license with zero tolerance for not following rules and regulations. No allowance on properties that are rentals unless authorized by the property owner as chickens are destructive. Also no selling of the eggs, so consumption would be strictly for personal use only. Any person found breaking the laws would be fined or have their chicken licence revoked. Must have a secure coop, no free range unless yard is fully fenced.
Best idea ever! Anything to empower people towards self sustaining food is good. They can eat scraps, provide garden fetilizer, eat bad bugs... would be good to provide very clear expectations and educational resource links for good coup builds and cleanliness habits. Good summer student project....
It should also include ducks as they lay eggs as well
I think for directly in town they should also be fenced and not free in the front yard where they can cause traffic issues...
We don` t live in town to be poultry farmers and I would not welcome hens close by, ohly encourages vermin.
0 chickens should be allowed. People in this town don't clean up after their dogs so I dread to think what they would do if they have a chicken coop that can have odour issues,
council should insure chickens if allowed are properly housed , not free range, inoculated, vet available, dead birds not put in trash, by law has all ready got too much to keep up with
The town should not adopt this idea.
Many people already have them in town, you might as well get some money from it.
Let's say you have two chickens laying an average of one egg per day each. So let's say you're getting an average of 12 eggs a week. And let's say a carton of 12 eggs goes for about \$4. So for having to deal with two chickens, and everything that comes with that, getting a coup, making sure they're good over the winter, dealing with their occasional medical issues, and everything else, you're saving, what, \$16 a month? You can make that up in an hour of minimum wage work. Unless you're going all-out on backyard chickens, your time and money for the coup and keeping things in working order, is worth more than that. I don't think I'll be picking up chickens any time soon.
None allowed! If you have the space for chickens plant a garden!
What is better than a sound of rooster waking you up in morning.
My address is [REDACTED]. We are therefore in Rideau Lakes. There is an undertaking (can't remember the legal term) in our little subdivision that precludes keeping livestock on our property. I don't know how that would be accepted by my neighbours. We would probably keep a few hens on our property if we were allowed. (One resident does keep pigeons and I don't believe he has experienced any negative reaction.
No chickens!!! Seriously!!! 🙄
I don't live in the town of Smiths Falls. We live on the outskirts. We have 6 laying hens. Hens are a lot of work. They can't be left alone for long periods of time. And are there chicken sitters? No. They need a secure locked space for safety at night from predators. (Raccoons can turn knobs). They require poop and scoop and clean indoor/outdoor environment, otherwise it will smell. 4 chickens per household is plenty. That's 4 eggs a day during hen production years. Will you allow residents to sell their eggs on their property if they have too many? And... hens are not quiet. They are vocal. Especially when they lay an egg... they do the chicken song. It's nice to hear, but probably not in town. Just wanted to give my 2cents worth into the survey. Thanks.

Look at the roads. look at the infrastructure. Get back on task.
If you pass this there will be chickens running around all over the place..look at the stray cat and rabbit's too many irresponsible people in this town SF has enough problems
0. Animals are not ours to exploit.
There are far too many homeless chickens. Breeders kill the males by throwing them alive in shredders. And the females get discarded when they get old and lay less eggs. Ottawa has a sanctuary for chickens but it is overflowing. Too many end up killed and eaten, or abandoned in the wild. Also, there is avian flu infecting many animals and even humans. Chickens may attract predators. It is better to instead offer free tickets to a farm sanctuary.
No chickens should be allowed.
reasons not to house chickens in a residential neighborhood - promotes predators - overburdening shelters when people change their minds - how to dispose of bedding - killing of male chicks - noise complaints - Risk of disease ie E coli and Salmonella
I would be concerned about the animals chickens would bring into town. I would also be concerned regarding the chicken waste not being disposed correctly. Who will be monitoring these back yard coops, bylaw is almost nonexistent in this town now.
Please do this!
I think the idea of keeping chickens or any other farm animals in your back yard is of poor taste it could be a call for diseases or who knows what else.
who would be responsible for the chicken manure? The smell of chicken waste can be disgusting. what kind of fencing is required? I think chickens should be in the country.
Allowing backyard chickens poses significant public health risks, including the spread of diseases such as avian flu and salmonella, and often results in neglect and improper care of the animals. Additionally, urban chickens can attract predators and create noise and odor issues, negatively impacting neighborhood environments.
Quails should be allowed as well - smaller, quiet and eat so many ticks!
sounds fun! I bet kids would get a kick out of that :)
I cannot properly answer the maximum number of chickens. That needs to be decided upon yard size.
No chickens allowed.
Provides fresh eggs; keeps us close to our food source, a good source of protein especially when meat is prohibitively expensive to many people; people in many, many counties worldwide keep chickens in towns
Looking forward to having chickens. I hear very positive benefits from raising chickens and having eggs.
██████████ likes chicks
Farm animals have no place in a municipality
Residents should need a permit to keep poultry, and a welfare check every 6 months to maintain the permit.
I think 4-6 hens on a residential property is good provided the roosting area is maintained and the yard they are in is fenced. I would not permit roosters unless there is a way to stop them from crowing.
BAD IDEA..we'd need more bylaw enforcement \$\$\$\$\$\$
Such a great idea for the people of Smiths Falls to raise a bit of their own food!
This would be great!
I grew up in Smiths Falls and now that I have hens living in an adjacent town, I would ever so love to move back to the thriving Smiths Falls and bring my 8 sweet hennies with me!!
A valuable bird. Bring em home to roost.

We need to stop exploiting animals... and reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases
10 chickens would be better. Thanks
The average maximum in Ontario municipalities (that allow chickens) is 10 and, if this was allowed, we would want it.
People are naive to the amount of work, shelter, food, maintenance, cleanup, etc etc. That chickens need. Yeah, they're cute. Yeah they give the odd egg but there are many problems including predators housing in the winter nesting issues it goes on
Thank you for revisiting this idea.
Only hens!
You have no choice .its a United nations human right Canada signed off on to " secure your own source of food' Chickens have gone everywhere with humans ..and they will be there with us on a mars colony
Would this also apply to quails?
Quails are also a prominent domestic poultry. Smaller and quieter than chickens as well.
Maximum number of chickens is zero. First naturalized lawns and now chickens. We do not have enough officers to keep the bylaws in check currently and I don't believe that is where the town should spend funds.
Town can't handle the existing by-laws..how are they going to ensure chickens are properly farmed? Nope if you want backyard chickens move out of town to a nice rural property.
Zero is the number of chickens a person living in town should be allowed to keep. People are extremely unreasonable and only think about themselves. When its hot and a coop hasn't been cleaned it is going to be very smelly. People can't keep their houses and yards clean how are we going to expect them to keep their chickens cleaned up? This is a horrible idea.
No thank you.
Can you imagine feral chickens? I can totally see it happening if this becomes a thing.
NO
I choose to live in town to avoid living next to a barn yard.
Lol I can already see the facebook posts... "My kid left the gate open and my chickens got out" "Someone in a black car hit my chicken this morning" "Chicken missing have you seen her?"
People in this town can't keep track of their cats or pick up after their dogs. I do not see this going very well.
I don't want my neighbors being able to have chickens in their yard.
The smell is going to be horrendous on hot days.
I am terrified of birds if my neighbors get chickens I will no longer be able to use my yard :(
Please do not let this happen. My neighbors can't even take care of their dogs properly
We are not seriously considering this? Bylaw is barely able to keep up now they really don't need chickens to govern too. People in this town are extremely selfish and will not have enough respect for others for this to be a good idea. What is the town doing about the feral cat problem? Can we solve that issue before introducing a new problem please.
Great idea.
The homeowner should ensure there is a fence to keep the hens in the yard and predators out.
Great idea!
I support backyard chickens if properties are far enough apart that the smell and sound do not bother any neighbours.
Chickens are for farms or hobby farms or at the very least in the country. Allowing chickens in Smith's falls would make the town a joke and would further hurt it reputation.

Many people don't take proper care of their animals and animal welfare laws are lax and difficult to enforce :(
Permits should be required and no roosters
There shouldn't be a cut off of how many chickens anyone could have there's no cut off on how many cats or dogs someone has. And I don't care what the laws are I'll have chickens wherever I live and as many as I want I won't be controlled
This is a great opportunity to allow your citizens to practice the most natural way of providing food. Not only does it allow us to provide food for ourselves and families. It brings communities together, they trade amongst each other and create friendships. This is the right step forward. Chickens can be so rewarding
I always think it's odd how people are allowed dogs and not hens. We have neighbours with dogs that bark all night. Neighbours that never clean up the dog poop. Neighbours with aggressive dogs. Chickens can be kept clean and odourless. They are quiet most of the time with the odd egg song. They provide eggs that are 100% better than store eggs. They're great for kids and make fantastic pets and companions. Let alone make you feel happy. I think it's the responsible thing to do to allow backyard chickens.
The township should back off on legislating everything to death. Allow the people to become more self-sustainable on their own land
Larger cities like Toronto have allowed these backyard pets and haven't had issues as long as roosters are not involved. I think it would be a great learning experience for children to have a greater understanding of our agriculture and food system/programs.
Great idea. Eggs are great.
No chickens, lower the town's debt! Stop wasteful spending!
A good understanding of predator proofing your pen is essential. This can be done with a frame and hardware cloth (traditional chicken wire is actually too big), and these frames can be moved to allow fresh grazing. I have a gabby farm at a different location and happy to help share what we have learned.
I think chickens provide a source of food, joy and tick removal. Being allowed to have chickens has more pros than cons and can help a lot of families out.
Chickens in more rural areas, not in town, should be allowed. Chicken coops tend to attract disease, and rats, as well as predators.
No roosters
It would be noisy and would attract wild life to the locations
A terrible idea, bylaw needed to ensure proper conditions for chickens and the spread of disease being rampant in chickens now, salmonella, e.coli and avian flu, plus noise and smell for neighbours close by in town
What a horrible idea.
Permits required and only if you are the home owner.
people won't take care of them - and they smell if the coops aren't kept clean - plus the feed attracts rats!!!!!!
Neighbors in Rideau Lakes have some & they tend to wander around the neighborhood.
Absolutely no chickens. Because of zoonosis children, pregnant women (all humans really) are subject to e.coli outbreak, salmonella and possibly other infections that are getting increasingly worse
How will this program be administered to those without backyards? Will there be a communal backyard housing chickens for residents without access to a backyard?
Do not agree.
I think it will become a real pain for bylaw...it seems to be that they have all they can cope with now, without adding chickens!,

If residents want chickens - it time to move to the country
0 chickens....bad enough we hear loud music don't need chickens to blend in 🗨️
0 chickens...I honestly think our decision doesn't matter they will do what that want anyway.....
Roosters also it helps you get up and get moving
It is hard keeping chickens. Especially in winter, keeping them warm and water from freezing. Also, obtaining and keeping chicken feed. Brings rodents.
Chickens belong on the farm
Egg-cellent opportunity for children, teens and adults.
I wouldnt have an issue with backyard chicken as long as any rules and regulations were enforced and inspections of properties were done on a regular basis. Any resident who wants to raise chickens on their property should have to apply for permits and have the property inspected before approval was given.
Only if animal welfare is taken as a priority with someone checking in on them, It's sad to see some of the purchased chicks at [REDACTED] when I've been shopping
If people are allowed to have 150 pound dogs on their property, 6 chickens will be no issue... No roosters though send .
No roosters!!
We love fresh eggs!
There should be substantial rules in place to protect the health of backyard chickens and ensure they are safely kept to prevent them from attracting vermin.
Who is responsible to make sure these chickens are cleaned properly and stay in their own yards? Chickens are expensive and require a lot to take care of them.
It is very easy to differentiate between personal chicken possession and a commercial farming operation, and much louder pets that are fully permissible within town and city ordinance – with much less overall benefit to residents and the community due to egg-laying hens aiding with rising grocery costs and worsening food deserts.
It should depend on the size of the property to determine how many chickens allowed.
We live in Smiths Falls from the end of April to the first week of October. We buy fresh eggs from a nearby small family farm, these fresh eggs taste so good and different than the store bought. My family had chickens in their backyard in a city. I don't see why it's not allowed to keep a few. Healthy eggs that don't need to be put in a fridge.
They are noisy & dirty and would require a bylaw officer which would cost taxpayers more money. Follow the examples learned in other cities, i.e. Ottawa
so many other places already do this - with rising food and gas prices this seems like a perfect fix. Lots of good lessons for kids as well, I grew up with chickens and loved it.
I think there are no drawbacks to having laying hens whatsoever
The max number should be 10000
yes, if they are well taken care of and given the space to thrive within an enclosed area.
This is a really poorly designed survey! The only answer I can provide with any confidence is that I am a resident and home owner of the Town. In theory I'm in favour of backyard chickens. I may even consider it but I need more information. Perhaps an in-person evening info session or pamphlet so I can provide useful responses...Asking me how many chickens should be allowed seems a bit ridiculous at this point...wouldn't that depend on available space, coop size and maybe even house occupancy?
There would also need to be a bylaw to cover approved structures to ensure proper containment of the chickens as well the bylaws would have to make sure that smells from unkept coops would be dealt with



for health reasons. My suggestion is no chicken coops within 6 feet of property like and needs to be in a fenced back yard. Treat them like pools
our bylaw officers do not have enough time to enforce present bylaws without adding more. There are many cats and dog running around without anyone taking responsibility that this would be another issue to deal with. Its unfortunate that the responsible owners pay the price for irresponsible owners.
Yes yes yes! More food security please!
I think it is a great idea to let people go back to the basics, it would be an amazing learning experience for everyone!
No roosters!!
What a "stupid idea"! If you want to raise chickens move to a farm
I'm afraid the proper care of chickens would not last long and then trouble would begin!
No roosters
Chickens and their feed and poop attracts pests and vermin like rats. My daughters neighbours have chickens and the rats are hiding to her home and she can't get rid of them. Chickens are called barnyard fowl for a reason.
Chicken feed would attract rodents and foxes. And chickens must be kept warm and watered in our cold winters.
I would
I am for this only if there is a staff that can followup with those who decide to participate in having chickens on their property. Checkups randomly yo make sure criteria are being followed etc.
Chickens are a source of food. Their manure can be composted and used as fertilizers for gardens. It a great way to be more self reliant. And sustain your family when prices keep going up and wages dont
There is work involved in raising chickens I am sure not all people are aware, I do think chickens are to should be in outdoor fenced area, good hen house that is kept clean . Who is going to check on the living conditions of the chickens and ensure the hen house is kept clean
This town has enough problems and costs for bylaw as it is with feral cats and other bylaw infractions. Chickens belong on a farm, not town property which would cost the taxpayer even more for bylaw services with this being allowed.
Too many irresponsible people and who is going to police it ?..by law ? Chicken attract rats foxes and other vermin
A lot depends on the situation for the family and next door is fine if it's kept clean.
Chickens have loads of benefits for everyone and don't think this should even have to be a debate it should be allowed :)
Max of number of chickens 0 Chickens belong on a farm not in town
These bird should not be free ranging.
0 chickens should be allowed in town
They must be caged at all times
Or more
Livestock belong on Farms. Thank-You.
This will help the tick population decrease
Not at all.
Next it will be goats,cows ,why not go all the way.Donkeys, etc.Who is going to want to buy a house next to someone that has chickens. It is going to hurt property values.

I want the resident to keep chickens in good health , clean up after them, provide proper food and housing and keep them on their own property. If they get a rooster I have the right to shoot it if it crows and wakes me before 7:00 am
The pets that people have are noisy enough without adding to the problem. Have you ever been down wind of a chicken coop on a hot day?
I think this is an amazing idea for our community! I would 100% love to be a part of this.
Enforce bylaws concerning the number of pets ( dogs ) per household - My neighbour currently has 5 large dogs . Chickens are less intrusive
Keeping chickens is fine . I do have a problem with feeding pigeons, which my neighbour currently does. Please improve bylaw enforcement to address the growing pigeon problem in our town.
Chickens would be a welcome addition to our neighbourhood! Ducks as well!
Chickens provide good food in this horrible economy.
While it's a great idea, like most initiatives in this town, it will get out of hand. There are already MORE than enough issues with by-laws adherence in Smiths Falls.
Absolutely not because people don't follow the by-laws already and the town staff have enough to deal with, they don't need a chicken issue too.
Although I have no objections to having chickens in a rural setting, the issues that arise in a suburban area can be problematic (i.e. predators, coops and/or chickens not being cared for (odours, etc.) and create an unfriendly environment between neighbours.
No chickens should be allowed within the town limits
Chickens are great, not too noisy - especially if it's just hens, and they only need 3 to 5 sq feet per chicken.
Having home chickens has long been common practice in Poland and other European countries, so it is certainly feasible. It will take some adjustment initially and regulations will need to be worked out, but it will be worth the effort as it will contribute towards greening our towns.
<b>NO CHICKENS, STOP WASTEFUL SPENDING. S.F. POLICE AND BY-LAW NEED TO ISSUE MORE PARKING TICKETS, ESPECIALLY ON BROADVIEW E.! BY-LAW NOT RESPONDING TO ANIMAL COMPLAINTS ON WEELEND!</b>
No Chickens, in terms of food it costs more to keep them then to buy eggs...if you don't drive how will you get their feed? If they are sick will you take your pet chicken to the vet? Vet costs are so high it's not affordable.
My answers only apply as long as the chickens are completely confined to their respective properties and are unable to escape to the neighbours property.
Nothing against chickens.....my concern is the chicken POOP. We currently have issues in SF with dog owners not picking up dog poop. and general lack of taking responsibility for animals. I grew up on a farm, and I know the potency of chicken poop smell. Accumulation of chicken poop in the resident's back yard, especially during summer heat will be brutal for the neighbours. Please consider this aspect of the proposed chicken ventures. Thank you.
Depends in size of property. But more small eggs growers would be great.
I used to live in SF. I own a condo there. You DO NOT have adequate SPCA officers to respond to animals in distress NOW. I can't imagine how there would be timely responses to chickens in distress. DO NOT allow chickens in town. They need to live on rural large properties. ANIMAL WELFARE should be considered first.
This is a town, not a rural setting to have livestock. No
Not in support of chickens in town

Chickens and other poultry pose significant health risks to citizens and neighbours, especially with the rise of avian flu, and should not be allowed in town limits.
eggs from healthy backyard hens that are well-fed and in clean surroundings pose less of a Salmonella risk than store-bought eggs. The low risk of Salmonella is certainly no reason to hold you back from getting a backyard flock. <a href="http://www.chickencoach.com">www.chickencoach.com</a>
I picked the max of 8 because I love chicks!
To the above question, I don't know how many chickens an individual family should have. Having a chicken to lay eggs would require a rooster and and we object to that.
Thanks sf. Finally chickens.
Great pest control
Chickens need area to roam , not to be confined to a small cage ,
Very interested and a good sensible idea. Backyard chickens would help by eating ticks and providing a valuable food source.
This is a bad idea for public health and property values. Please consider the negative impacts carefully. Thank you,
And ducks they lay better eggs with more omegas and protien
the chicken cope smell is great if not cleaned often. there is a lot of work in raising chickens/ Are people prepared for the added cost for chicken food and getting the pen and cope ready. Chickens should not be allowed to venture around on the properties.
noisy,and chicken poop stinks, sorry to say there would no way you could control the number of chickens and some people would not tend to them as they should.
No chickens should be allowed to be kept in town limits.
I support laying hens but no roosters
NONE
In my area the houses are close together so more than 4 would probably get chaotic, but as long as people could keep it contained, live your life.
In town a smaller amount- number increase based on property size and proximity to town
Already concerned with the state of some properties in the neighbourhood. If this gets supported, max 4 chickens
Most folks are unfamiliar with how to care for them properly, we have no means of disposal, they attract wildlife, they need proper shelter etc. diseases etc.
There is really no reason this shouldnt be allowed.