



December 2, 2013

Re: Urban Agriculture Phase II

From: Sam Houghteling, EHO

MEMORANDUM: Survey Results

From November 6, 2013 through December 2, 2013, representatives from the City of Fort Collins conducted a twenty question online survey pertaining to Phase II of the Urban Agriculture Regulations. The survey was broken into three components, (1) Hoop Houses, (2) Animal Regulations in the four districts where they are currently allowed, and (3) participant demographic questions to identify trends. Overall, 87 citizens participated in the survey, which was advertised on the City website, through social media, and sent to the current Urban Agriculture email list of over 350 citizens. Postcards to over 1,700 homeowners and residents in the Urban Estate, Residential Foothills, River Conservation, and Rural Lands zone districts were also sent informing them of the survey and open house.

Survey results were clear in citizen support of Hoop Houses. Hoop houses are temporary and generally more cost-friendly than a greenhouse; they are constructed of a large hoops or bows, often made of plastic pipe, and then covered with a layer of heavy greenhouse plastic. Staff is proposing to add hoop houses to the list of allowable accessory buildings, structures, and uses in Section 3.8.1 of the Land Use Code. 89.7% of respondents felt that the City is moving in the right direction in exempting Hoop Houses from the building code. Additionally, 75.6% preferred that the City work to produce and distribute informational brochures illustrating best practices, versus 26.7% who felt that the City should develop specific standards for Hoop Houses. Citizen concerns generally surrounded visual impacts, improper mooring, and HOA restrictions. A number of citizens suggested that should problems arise, the City could move from informational brochures to standards and regulations.

Survey results were much more mixed regarding Animal Regulations in the four zone districts where they are currently allowed but not regulated. 57.7% of respondents felt that the City did not need regulations in the four districts, versus 38.8 who did. 55.2% felt that the City should not establish setbacks, versus 42.5% who thought that the City should. 66.7% felt that the City should establish standards for the amount of open space per animal, and 66.3% agreed that the City should establish buffers from water sources to protect water quality. Roosters in City limits continued to be the source of most contention, with 55.8% in favor of keeping Roosters in City limits, versus 39.5% who feel that they should be banned. Most participants (62.4%) do not own farm animals, but do have neighbors who do (62.8%). Roughly half had received a postcard. 88.2% had not experienced any problems with animals, and 88.2% were also in favor of a delay in regulatory enforcement should new regulations be implemented, for citizens to gradually make changes and transition.

City Staff is looking into the citizens who have had problems with farm animals and are in favor of banning Roosters in an effort to isolate trends, identify gaps in our public outreach pertaining to existing statutes, and address any procedural issues we discover. Staff is also preparing for 2 local farm visits, and preparing to present the Survey and Open House results to the local Food Cluster Policy Subcommittee to solicit advice and feedback on the appropriate next steps.