



December 2, 2013

Re: Urban Agriculture Phase II

From: Sam Houghteling, EHO

**MEMORANDUM: Open House 11/20/13**

On Wednesday November 20, 2013, representatives from the City of Fort Collins and the Larimer County Humane Society hosted the second Urban Agriculture open house, specifically pertaining to (1) Hoop Houses and (2) Farm Animals in the four zone districts where they are currently allowed but not regulated. Approximately 15 citizens attended the meeting, and they brought with them a wide range of opinions and concerns. City Staff was available to answer questions, explain the current process to date, present the survey results, and assist citizens complete the online survey that had not yet done so.

Survey results were clear in citizen support of Hoop Houses. 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. These results fell in line with the feedback received at the Open House; citizens were in favor of encouraging urban agriculture and local food production, and felt that these changes would work in doing so.

Survey results (and Open House feedback) 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.

Citizens who attended the Open House fell on both sides of this issue as well, and conversation centered on the Rooster debate. Three participants felt that they should not be allowed in City limits; at least two of these citizens themselves affected by noise related nuisances of a neighboring Rooster. One adamant Rooster supporter asked that if the City does ban Roosters in the 4 districts currently allowed, could there be an exemption added to the Urban Agriculture License if the noise was addressed through surgery, if they were for 4H, or if they had neighbors sign off? Another participant felt strongly that new standards for open space should reflect proper animal health, not necessarily the pastures ability to feed that animal 100%. City Staff is preparing to present the Survey and Open House results to the local Food Cluster Policy Subcommittee, and solicit advice and feedback on the appropriate next steps.