James Hogue

From: John Emrich [jemrich@chasewinters.com]
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2011 12:48 PM
To: James Hogue
Cc: David Lothspeich; John Emrich; Maria Rodriguez
Subject: Jim, could you please forward this to the Planning Commission members regarding Backyard Chicken code...

..thank you.
John

To the Planning Commission:

I was saddened to hear that the last open meeting at times lacked the civility that defined the prior Planning Commission meeting, as well as the two Village Trustee meetings over the summer.
I regret not being there, but a business trip took me out of town Tuesday and Wednesday. I will be there tomorrow night, but wanted to share my thoughts in advance, though I realize it might be too late to influence your recommendation to the Trustees. And, I preface these comments with the disclosure that I don't have a copy of the minutes of that last meeting, so I am addressing topics and outcomes that I heard about from other attendees of the meeting Tuesday night. Apologies in advance if accuracy was lost in translation. Here it goes:

1) In regards to the number of chickens one might be able to keep in their backyard coop and run, I felt pretty comfortable that this was one issue where we all agreed it was in the best interest of the animal itself to have at least four. This is primarily for warmth during the winter months, but also because hens are a social animal and would benefit from the extra company (relative to say 2 hens, which is what I understand you are considering for the overwhelming majority of lots in Long Grove). Moreover, a 2 hen restriction would send a family of four back to the store for conventional eggs, something all backyard chicken owners are explicitly trying to avoid. Lastly, as you recall from the information packets, 5 hens would produce ***half as much*** compostable manure as a single average dog would feces (And make less noise). So the conclusion based on the evidence doesn't make a whole lot of sense. I do understand that one petitioner, Neil Blumenthal (sp?), used signatures on a petition to make his case against the right to keep backyard chickens. All I can say about that is that though Mr. Blumenthal was at one of the two Village meetings this summer, **NONE** of the signors of said petition were at those summer meetings or the first Planning Commission meeting when we all got comfortable with the facts and dismissed the myths. The signers on that petition therefore only have information regarding backyard chickens from Mr. Blumenthal. I don't see how, after all the work that had been done at the Village level, those signatures are given much weight.

On to the second issue, acreage, though this is really all one issue (the number of chickens):

2) Is it possible that we have lost sight of the original intent of the code amendment which is to give the Village the ability to grant (or deny) exceptions to the existing Agricultural code, not to pass an all-encompassing code that allows for anyone to have chickens under a fixed set of guidelines? The wisdom behind the original intent is demonstrated by some simple examples. If you want to restrict chicken keeping to homeowners with one acre or more, then all of the lots in Prairie Trails which were sold and purchased as "1 acre lots" would be restricted because they actually are listed as .9 or .95 acres on the Village records. Is that really the intent of the Planning Commission? And what of the three quarter acre lots in our development, many of which back up to permanent Conservancy or, ironically, a farm? Would the Planning Commission not grant that individual the right to keep backyard chickens, especially if they had the blessing of only two contiguous neighbors? By sticking with the spirit of the amendment as originally conceived, the Village may decide that due to location or placement, a lot with 2 acres shouldn't have chickens but a half acre lot should. And remember, you are talking about less than

1% of Village residents that are likely to EVER show an interest in keeping backyard chickens. No one need worry that this is going to be somehow burdensome. In conclusion, a libertarian leaning government as conceived by the Village charter should consider 1) a very liberal code amendment, 2) letting the neighbors police themselves as they do for most other issues, and 3) only feel the need to get involved in an individual case when a resident such as Mr. Blumenthal remains unhappy with his one unique situation.

Anyway, my recollection is that it was universally and nearly unanimously agreed upon that backyard hens should be governed not dissimilarly from dogs and cats, and we seem to have gone off in a dramatically different direction. Again, I apologize for not being at the last meeting; I have and continue to offer my counsel in anyway that would benefit the Commission or the Trustees.

Regards,

John

John Emrich
4979 Wild Rose Ln
Long Grove, IL

Fred Phillips

October 14, 2011

VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE

TO PRESIDENT, MANAGER, PLANNER, ALL TRUSTEES AND ZONING BOARD COMMISSIONERS

RE: CHANGING CHICKEN ORDINANCE

After recently finding out that Long Grove was possibly going to change their current ordinance regarding raising chickens in back yards I have spent hours researching this subject on the net.

To my knowledge the current ordinance requires you to have 10 acres in order to raise or have chickens on your property. That seems reasonable to me.

I will try to write this as succinctly as possible since from all I have learned I could write a book on this subject.

Right now you are trying to change the "chicken" ordinance for one resident who has 2 chickens and wants to keep them. However, consider this. Another 1000 residents get 2 chickens. Now we have 2000 chickens. Then someone decides they want 4 chickens. Now we have 4000 chickens. Are you really going to go around and police how many chickens everyone is keeping?

In addition, the property that you are considering changing the ordinance for is completely wide open. There is no fencing nor any large trees and shrubs to seclude it from the other neighbors. Please keep in mind when you are going through the information I am providing, any child (or animal for that matter) can run into that back yard and get chicken feces and spread it all over. Not only that, they can get salmonella bacteria on them and if not careful to wash their hands they can get sick. How many news shows have you seen advising you of washing your hands when handling chicken and using separate boards when preparing chicken,

I will try to address the most important issues which concern me as well as many other neighbors.

WELL WATER

It is my understanding that most homes in Long Grove have wells which supply them with their water.

NITRATES

Drinking water supplied by municipal water systems is monitored by the EPA under the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act. However if water comes from a private well the safety of this water is your responsibility.

Infants under 6 months are most affected by excess nitrates in the water. It can cause death.

Animals such as cows, sheep, pigs and CHICKENS have nitrate converting bacteria in their digestive systems. They can be exposed to nitrate in feed as well as water. Nitrate can get into ground water.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT 1. I have only sent you the first page but you can look up the rest of the article on the net

QUESTION: Is it possible to contaminate our well water with too many nitrates once you allow chickens to start grazing on our lands?

SALMONELLA BACTERIA IN WELL WATER

Chickens do have salmonella bacteria. They can affect our wells.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT 2 AND 3.

HOW DOES SALMONELLA GET INTO WELLS?

SEE ATTACHMENT 4.

CHICKENS RUIN THE SOIL AND ARE VERY DIRTY AND SMELLY

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT 5. Lots of info here. Way too much for me to go into. Please read it as it might be helpful.

There are thousands of articles on the net about some of the problems with chickens. I know it is time consuming to research it but I would highly recommend it. One article I read was about chickens running into other peoples yards. Imagine if you had to put up

UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension

Your Drinking Water: Nitrates

ATTACHMENT 1

Tony Tyson
Extension Engineer,
Department of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

and Mary Lou Dixon
Former Extension Clothing & Textiles Specialist,
Department of Housing and Consumer Economics

and William Segars
Extension Water Quality Coordinator,
Department of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Document Use:

Drinking water supplied by municipal water systems is monitored for many contaminants. As authorized by the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act and its amendments, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established the concentration of certain drinking water contaminants allowed in public water supplies. However, if your water comes from a private well or a system that serves fewer than 25 people or has fewer than 15 service connections, it is not covered by these standards. The safety of the water from these sources is your responsibility.

Health Effects in Humans

Infants under six months of age are most affected by excess nitrates in the water. They may develop a condition called "methemoglobinemia" (blue baby syndrome), which causes a bluish color around the lips, spreads to the fingers, toes and face, and eventually covers the entire body. If the problem is not dealt with immediately, the baby can die.

This problem occurs because human infants have bacteria in their digestive systems that convert nitrate to nitrite, a very toxic substance. When nitrites are absorbed into the blood, they make the hemoglobin (red oxygen-carrying blood pigment) incapable of releasing the oxygen and mild symptoms of asphyxiation appear.

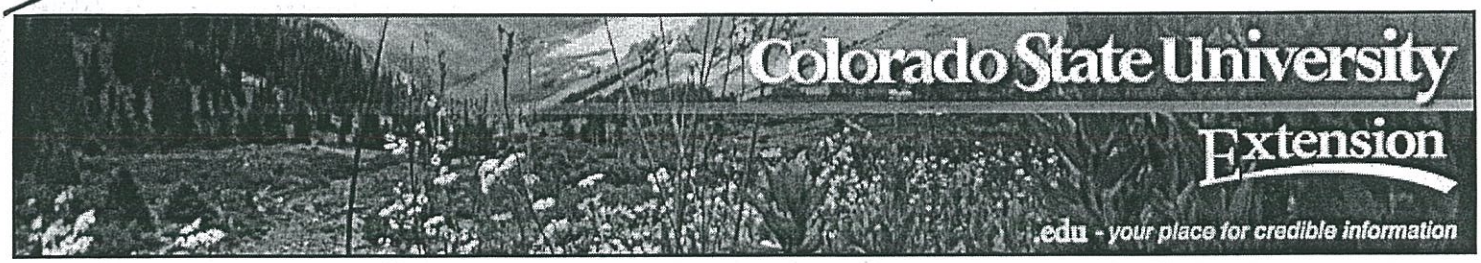
Babies consume large quantities of water in relation to their body weight. This is especially true when water is used to mix powdered or concentrated formulas or juices. Some feeding practices will minimize the intake of nitrate and nitrite. Breast feeding reduces risk, since little if any nitrate gets into breast milk. Formula that does not need to be diluted or formula mixed with low-nitrate water is also safe. Feed vegetables only as advised by your physician, since some of them are high in nitrates.

Health Effects in Livestock

Ruminant animals (such as cows and sheep) and infant monogastrics (such as baby pigs and chickens) also have nitrate-converting bacteria in their digestive systems. For this reason, nitrate poisoning affects them the same way it affects human babies. Because adult animals that are monogastric generally do not have nitrate-converting bacteria, they are not affected by methemoglobinemia. Horses, however, are an exception. They are monogastric, but they also have a cecum, which is similar to a rumen. The nitrate-converting bacteria living in the cecum increase the risk of nitrate poisoning.

Livestock are exposed to nitrate in feed as well as in water. Crops harvested after weather stress (such as drought) may have high nitrate contents. To protect livestock, feeds can be tested for nitrate before being used. High nitrate water is generally a health hazard to animals only when it adds to high nitrate concentrations already present in some feeds.

Symptoms of methemoglobinemia in animals include: lack of coordination, labored breathing,



ATTACHMENT 2

no. 6.703

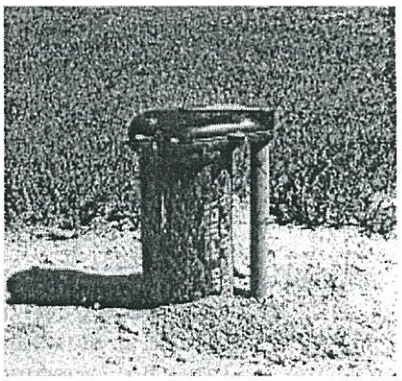
Bacteria in Water Wells

by R. Waskom and T. Bauder [1] (4/09)

Quick Facts...

- Bacterial contamination of drinking water can cause serious human illness.
- Bacterial slimes in irrigation wells may clog pumps and pipes.
- Bacterial contamination can be controlled by well chlorination, proper septic system and well maintenance, and good sanitation practices.
- Coliforms are a broad class of bacteria that live in the digestive tracts of humans and many animals.

Bacteria are microscopic organisms that are found just about everywhere. Most bacteria are harmless, but certain types can cause disease, sickness or other problems. Wells used for drinking water should be tested for the presence of coliform every one to two years, in addition to other water quality parameters. Non-disease causing iron bacteria can affect household and irrigation wells. Iron bacteria causes plumbing fittings and laundry to stain and, in severe cases, clogs well screens. Chlorination is the most common method for disinfecting contaminated wells. In some cases, replacing the well cap, casing and seal may be necessary to keep the well clean after it is disinfected. Repairing the household septic system may also be necessary.



A properly cased and sealed well protects water quality.

Bacteria in Household Wells

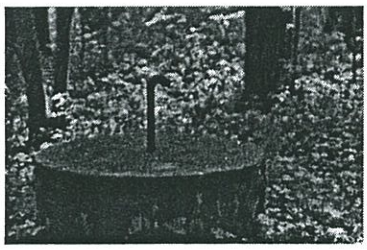
Public drinking water supplies are required, by law, to be free from microbial pathogens. However, private water systems, while also vulnerable to contamination from bacteria, usually have no governmental oversight. If you rely on a private well, it is your responsibility to ensure the water is safe to drink. You should inspect the condition of your well regularly and test a water sample every one to two years. More frequent testing is recommended when: the well condition is poor, the well has been inundated with floodwater, the septic system has malfunctioned or has a history of bacterial contaminate, abandoned wells or feed yards are located nearby, or visitors have complained of stomach or intestinal distress. Bacteria in your water may indicate that your well has become contaminated with fecal matter, possibly introducing harmful viruses and protozoa such as Cryptosporidium or Giardia.

ATTACHMENT 3

Salmonella in Food, Water, Animals... How to Stay Safe

by admin on January 19, 2010

Some think you'd have to be "nuts" not to worry about Salmonella, which has been found in a wide variety of food products — most recently peanut butter and pistachio nuts, but also vegetables, cantaloupe and assorted other good-for-you foods. It's not limited to foodstuff however.



Protect yourself from Salmonella more easily

There are plenty of other ways you can pick up this nasty bacteria — including swimming in unchlorinated pools, drinking well water and even playing with animals. While it can be helpful to understand the many sources of possible exposure, what's even more important to know is that fortifying your immune system — specifically in the digestive tract — goes far toward protecting yourself from the ill effects of Salmonella and other such illnesses. I spoke recently with several experts to learn what they advise regarding Salmonella exposure and protection.

SALMONELLA IS VERY COMMON

Though there are about 40,000 cases of salmonellosis illness reported yearly, the actual number of people who get sick from the bacteria may be as much as 30 times greater, I learned from Mark Sotir, PhD, a staff epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Foodborne, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases. Some of the 2,300-plus serotypes of Salmonella bacteria are less virulent than others, which is one reason why many cases may go unreported.

Many people who are strong and healthy are able to fight off Salmonellanaturally, unaware that they even ingested it. In others, particularly those who are more vulnerable, an infection develops that usually causes diarrhea, abdominal cramps, vomiting and fever within eight to 72 hours after contact.

STRENGTHEN YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM TO FIGHT IT OFF

Andrew L. Rubman, ND, Daily Health News contributing editor, emphasized that as frightening and arbitrary as news reports may make it sound,Salmonella provides yet another example of how the most powerful way to protect yourself is by following all the health advice you are supposed to follow anyway. "Healthy people are more likely to have a stronger host resistance, which means they may never even know they were exposed, particularly if it is a less virulent strain of the bacteria," he said. Eating healthy foods, including plenty of fresh ripe fruits and vegetables (well-washed, of course) and high-quality protein sources… chewing foods thoroughly to activate digestive enzymes… and avoiding acid suppression medication (which reduces the body's ability to use its own natural defenses against such bacteria) are all strategies that help avoid illness, even with exposure to Salmonella, Dr. Rubman said. He also suggested that some specific nutrients may be helpful, including carotenoids (orange fruits and vegetables, such as apricots, carrots and sweet potatoes)… omega-3 fatty acids (fish, walnuts)… and zinc (crab, oysters and red meat and poultry — all properly cooked, it goes without saying). And don't take antibiotics unless you absolutely must, as these weaken your reserves of good bacteria that naturally help fight off bad ones, like Salmonella.

OTHER PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES

Most of us are numbingly familiar with the advice on thorough cooking of meats and the importance of washing foods, hands, preparation utensils and so forth so I won't bore you with all that. You may be less aware thatSalmonella risks are even greater in restaurants than in food you eat at home, though it's unclear why that's so. Tim Jones, MD, state epidemiologist with the Tennessee Department of Health, therefore advises being "picky" about where you eat, ordering food that is well-cooked and, in the event it isn't and you need to send it back (a not uncommon experience, in my book), asking that it be served on a clean plate.

NOT JUST FOOD…

Be careful about other sources of exposure as well, as a new USDA-sponsored study reports that non-food risks are comparable in magnitude. The researchers found a strong association between recreational water exposure and intestinal infections, including Salmonella. They also found contamination of private well water and septic systems on residential properties.

Exposure to animals has also caused recent outbreaks. Dr. Sotir told me that reptiles naturally carry Salmonella bacteria in their intestinal tracts so touching them or their habitat can be a source of infection. Birds (chicks and ducks) and rodents (hamsters, mice and rats) also may carrySalmonella.

We worry about many things in our "age of anxiety" and, as often turns out to be the case, this is not one we need to be paranoid about. Taking care to live a healthy lifestyle and supporting your immune system with proper foods will go far for most people in providing protection against Salmonella, no matter where it may lurk.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People. Saving Money through Prevention.

ATTACHMENT 4

Salmonella and Drinking Water from Private Wells

What is salmonellosis?

Salmonellosis is an infection caused by the bacteria called *Salmonella*, which has been known to cause illness for more than 100 years. There are many different kinds of *Salmonella* bacteria, and they are spread through human or animal feces.

For more information about salmonellosis and its treatment, please visit CDC's salmonellosis (/nczved/dfbmd/disease_listing/salmonellosis_gi.html) page.

(#) TOP

Where and how does *Salmonella* get into drinking water?

Salmonella is found in every region of the United States and throughout the world. Millions of germs can be released in a bowel movement of an infected human or animal. *Salmonella* may be found in water sources such as private wells that have been contaminated with the feces of infected humans or animals. Waste can enter the water through different ways, including sewage overflows, sewage systems that are not working properly, polluted storm water runoff, and agricultural runoff. Wells may be more vulnerable to such contamination after flooding, particularly if the wells are shallow, have been dug or bored, or have been submerged by floodwater for long periods of time.

(#) TOP

How can I find out whether there is *Salmonella* in my drinking water?

If you suspect a problem and your drinking water comes from a private well, you may contact your state certification officer (http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/labs/index.html) for a list of laboratories in your area that will perform tests on drinking water for a fee.

(#) TOP

How do I remove *Salmonella* from my drinking water?

To kill or inactivate *Salmonella*, bring your water to a rolling boil for one minute (at elevations above 6,500 feet, boil for three minutes) Water should then be allowed to cool, stored in a clean sanitized container with a tight cover, and refrigerated. Currently, there is no filter certified to remove bacteria from water. This issue is being studied.

You may also disinfect your well; contact your local health department for recommended procedures. Remember to have your well water tested regularly (/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/testing.html), at least once a year, after disinfection to make sure the problem does not recur.

(#) TOP

ATTACHMENT 5

Soil Under/After Chickens

Posted by tigerdawn 7 (My Page) on Thu, Jul 7, 11 at 7:33

So I've been reading about people having trouble with the soil where chickens live(d). I'd like to know more about that. My Mom keeps saying she wants a garden with a chicken coop in the middle so she can let the chickens into an area for a while and they can fertilize the soil and then garden in that spot while the chickens are in another area. But it sounds like that might not work like she hopes. Thoughts?

Follow-Up Postings:

RE: Soil Under/After Chickens

- Posted by okiedawn Z7 OK (My Page) on Thu, Jul 7, 11 at 9:46

There's a big difference in the way chickens would affect soil if they are occasionally allowed into a garden area versus if they are kept in a confined area, like a chicken run, for a long period of time.

THE FENCED CHICKEN RUN: It's pretty simple really. Chicken manure, when deposited in the same soil over a long period of time, can ruin the soil. In general, they mess up the soil's pH and tend to leave it high is phosphorus/phosphate. If you dug up soil from a longtime fenced chicken run where chickens were confined and sent it off for a soil test, your soil test results would likely indicate unhealthy levels of phosphates and salts. Your "recommended actions" most likely would include a note to you to stop applying superphosphates because that's what it would look like on a soil test---like you had been overapplying superphosphate fertilizers for years. To fix the soil, they likely would tell you to add humus, compost, carbon, nitrogen, etc. to try to bring the soil back into balance. They'd likely tell you not to apply any phosphate at all in any form.

Chickens have other habits that change the soil in their run over time. First of all, they promptly eat anything green that sprouts. With nothing green growing there, no humus is going back into the soil so you end up with soil lacking in humus and, therefore, lacking in the microbial life that exists in soil. So, the soil would be sterile and unhealthy. There likely would be no earthworms in the soil, and probably not any other insects living in the soil.(If there were any there, the chickens would dig them up and eat them.) A lack of earthworms is a sign of poor soil health.

Also, chickens like to dust bathe. They kick up, dig up, scratch up and disturb the soil and bathe in the dust, which helps control mites. It is bad for the soil, though, as all that constant disturbance keeps it dry and dusty. There's usually heavily compacted soil, like a layer of hardpan, a few inches down...just below the area where they stop digging.

Our chicken run is in the narrow band of soil that cuts across our property and it was put there on purpose as they would find it easier to take dust baths in sandy soil than in clay soil. It also was sited there so they are in shade most of the day. The soil in the run, and even around its outer perimeter where they like to dig, scratch and dust bathe on hot days when they're out free-ranging, is poor quality---compacted down underneath, dusty on top, nothing growing in it, no humus or compost in it, etc. Were we to move the chicken coop and run someplace else, I wouldn't even try to plant anything in that soil until I'd had a soil test, worked hard to amend the soil by adding tons of organic matter, and then had it tested again months later or a year later to see if the soil was sufficiently improved for planting purposes.

Often, soil in a fenced chicken run can smell really bad after a large numbers of chickens have been kept on the soil for years. If you have enough rainfall in your area and the soil gets 'flushed' by rainwater often enough, this will not be as large of a problem as it would be on heavy clay soil in an area of low rainfall and infrequent rain heavy enough to flush the soil well.

CHICKENS TURNED LOOSE TO ROAM IN YARDS AND GARDENS: If you let your chickens roam around, they will drop manure wherever they wish. This can be even less pleasant than it sounds because you really don't want to walk in it, or touch it with your hands when you're working in flower beds or veggie garden beds or wherever. Also, since they drop it just wherever they happen to be, it is not evenly distributed, making it a spotty and inconsistent method of soil improvement.

with that. I also read an article about "going broody", an article about having to put a baby chick in isolation until it can be checked and cleared of having the salmonella bacteria. In short there is a lot to know about chickens and keeping them healthy. There are also many weather issues. The average person is probably not knowledgeable enough to have chickens in their backyard. Maybe you should license those who wish to do so.

I recently heard that the covenants of Royal Melborne and Briarcrest do not allow poultry in their subdivisions. Well what is LaSavanne? "chopped liver". That is just not fair. Why can't LaSavanne have the same covenant?

I do not wish to offend anyone, but I do believe Long Grove is an "upscale" suburban community and should remain so.

Thank you for your kind attention to this important matter.

Tricia Voller
1692 RFD
Long Grove