



HEN CHICKENS FOR EGG
PRODUCTION

MARCH 3, 2026



WHY THIS IS BEFORE COUNCIL

- Questions raised regarding the interpretation of the current ordinance
- Confusion regarding lots larger than 20,000 sq. ft.
- Council directed staff to review legislative intent
- Need to clarify the number of hens allowed





WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER?

Across Utah County, most cities allow 4-6 hens on standard residential lots.

Reasons:

- Adequate egg production for a family
- Minimal odor if properly maintained
- Quiet (no roosters)
- Manageable manure output
- Rarely generates complaints

Chicken Math Explained





UTAH COUNTY COMPARISON

City	Max Hens	Roosters	Lot Minimum
Spanish Fork	6	No	6,000 sq ft
Provo	6	No	10,000 sq ft
Orem	2-12 (tiered)	No	5,000-30,000
Lehi	Up to 8	No	½ acre
Mapleton	4-12 (tiered)	No	6,000-20,000
Pleasant Grove	4-12 (tiered)	No	7,000-21,000+



PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Property Size	Max Hens
< 8,000 sq ft	4
8,000-11,999	6
12,000-15,999	8
16,000+	12

The amendment also removes the allowance for duplex or twin-home lots.





WHAT THIS AMENDMENT DOES

- Clarifies original intent
- Removes ambiguity between code sections
- Slightly increases allowances for larger lots
- Improves enforceability
- Maintains residential character

What This Amendment Does NOT Do

- Does NOT allow roosters
- Does NOT convert residential areas into agricultural zones
- Does NOT reintroduce a permit requirement
- Does NOT significantly change existing policy





STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the adoption of Ordinance No. ____-2026, amending Section 3-7-801 clarifying the number of hens that may be kept on any residential lot.

FINDINGS

- Clarifies intent
- Improves public understanding
- Aligns with regional standards
- Maintains residential character

