



Crowing Fowl Ordinance Update

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Planning and Environmental Review

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Young Choi, Associate Planner (choiy@saccounty.gov)
Wendy Hartman, Principal Planner (hartmanw@saccounty.gov)
Chrisandra Flores, Agricultural Commissioner
(agcomm@saccounty.gov)

Workshop Overview

- To gather initial input on an Ordinance amendment related to crowing fowl from the Agriculture Educational Stakeholders.
- Intent of Amendment aims to protect educational programs, poultry operations, and hobby farmers by addressing:
 - Poor animal management practices,
 - Spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI),
 - Illegal activities, and
 - Public health/safety and nuisances.

Why Update Crowing Fowl Ordinance?



- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is deadly to domestic poultry and can wipe out entire flocks within a matter of days.
 - HPAI is a major threat to our local poultry industry, backyard flocks, animal health, the economy and trade.
 - Last Nov/Dec, Sacramento County has lost over 349,500 commercial birds to HPAI.

Why Update Crowing Fowl Ordinance?

- Reports of unsanitary, inhumane treatment of animals; potential illegal activities.
 - County has received complaints regarding the noise, and unsanitary conditions of roosters.
 - Unsanitary conditions attract pests and rodents and is major concern for HPAI.
 - Cockfighting is often associated with illegal activities. Cockfighting is animal suffering and cruelty, and is a crime.



Crowing Fowl Ordinance

- Sacramento County currently allows crowing fowl on lots over 10,000 square feet. (SZC 3.9.3.G.2.c)
 - Not allowed in RD-10 through RD-40, RM-2, O, Mixed Use, and M-2 zone districts
 - FFA, 4-H, or other educational program, or by independent exhibitor, as defined by the CDFA may be temporarily allowed on parcels under 10,000 sf with Minor Use Permit (SZC 3.9.3.G.2.e) (fees are waived)

RD10 - 40 = Residential at higher densities
RM – mobile home park
O = open space
M-2 = Industrial



Crowing Fowl Ordinance in Other Jurisdiction

- Yolo County

- Roosters are not allowed in RL and RR-2 zones unless the lot is greater than five (5) acres in size. Roosters shall count for four (4) points (on their Animal Density Point system) on lots greater than five (5) acres in size.

- El Dorado County

- The keeping of roosters, guinea hens, or pea hens (peacock family) is prohibited on any lot less than 3 acres. On larger lots, crowing fowl are allowed subject to zoning regulations.

- San Joaquin County

- No more than 1 rooster if 1/3 acres to less than 1 ½ acres;
- No more than 2 roosters if 1 ½ acres to 3 acres;
- No more than 3 roosters on 3 acres or over.
- Anything greater requires land use permit

- Sutter County

- Up to ten hens (no roosters), rabbits, guinea pigs or similar small animals for home enjoyment or consumption are allowed in the R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-4 districts, subject to item three below.

- Placer County

- On parcels greater than 0.5 acre in the combining (-AG) zone district and on parcels greater than 1 acre within the RF zone district, no more than 24 such animals per acre shall be maintained and there shall be no restrictions on the type of fowl or poultry. Otherwise, the keeping of roosters, guinea hens, or pea hens (peacock family), is prohibited.

- Santa Barbara County (updated 1/23/24)

- Less than 1 acre & non ag zone: not allowed
- Less than 1 acre & ag zone: 1 allowed
- 1 - 5 acres: 2 allowed, up to 25 allowed with permit.
- 5 acres +: 5 allowed, up to 25 allowed with permit.

Crowing Fowl Ordinance in Other Jurisdiction

- **City of Sacramento**
 - Roosters are not permitted on any developed lot used exclusively for residential purposes.
- **City of Folsom**
 - Turkeys and geese shall not be kept within any zoning district of the city other than agricultural and agricultural combining districts. Additionally, not more than any combination of two chickens, ducks, pigeons and/or rabbits shall be kept as pets within any zoning district of the city other than agricultural or agricultural combining districts, and said animals shall be kept or maintained at least twenty feet from any property line.
- **City of Citrus Heights**
 - Roosters may only be kept on lots zoned RD-1 or RD-2 or lot properties 20,000 sf or larger.
- **City of West Sacramento**
 - The keeping of roosters, peacocks, geese, and any animal which requires a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to Section 2118 of the Fish and Game Code is prohibited.
- **City of Roseville**
 - Except upon premises zoned for agricultural purposes pursuant to the zoning code, no person shall keep any goose or turkey, or more than 10, whether singly or in combination, of the following: ducks, chickens, or pigeons.
- **City of Elk Grove**
 - Roosters are not permitted in RD zone districts.

AB 928, the Cockfighting Cruelty Act. – introduced 2/19/25

(a) On and after January 1, 2027, a person shall **not keep or raise more than 3 roosters per acre, or more than 25 roosters total**, regardless of acreage, on any property. This section does not apply to any of the following:

- A person who keeps or raises roosters for purposes of food production if the person is subject to local, state, or federal inspection laws or regulations.
- A public or private school registered with the State Department of Education.
- A government-operated animal shelter.
- A nonprofit animal welfare organization, as defined in Section 6010.40 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- A 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), or State Grange project, if the 4-H, FFA, or State Grange has provided written approval for the project to the person keeping or raising the roosters.
- A person who meets all of the following criteria:
 - (A) Owns and breeds poultry for lawful exhibition in accordance with accepted poultry raising practices and all laws and regulations governing exhibition.
 - (B) Does not breed or raise poultry for purposes of making them available for cockfighting.
 - (C) Within the preceding 10 years, has not been convicted for any cockfighting offense pursuant to Section 597b of the Penal Code or Section 2156 of Title 7 of the United States Code, or any other cockfighting offense of any state.
 - (D) Is a certified participant in the National Poultry Improvement Plan, administered by the California Poultry Health Board pursuant to all federal and state program standards.

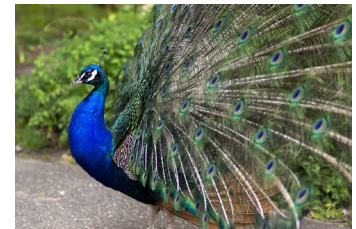
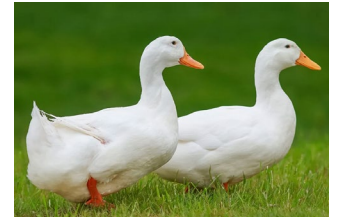
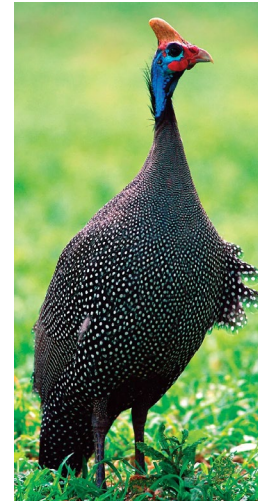
Initial Feedback



- The update aims to strike a balance between preserving agricultural rights in the County, while addressing negative impacts of illegal activities and inhumane animal management practices and biosecurity concerns (HPAI) in both agricultural, rural residential and urban areas of the County.
- County Staff seeks **initial feedback from the stakeholders.**

Discussion Topics

- Should Ordinance apply to all types of crowing fowl or just roosters?
 - roosters, ducks, geese, guinea fowl and peafowl
- Should changes be made to minimum lot size/restriction on the number on the crowing fowl?
 - Currently 10,000 s.f. or greater and no limitation on number.
 - If yes, based on parcel size or type of operation?
- How might such change affect programs like FFA and 4-H that utilizes poultry programs, and show purposes?
 - How can the County ensure to program educational programs?
 - County offers waived fee for FFA, 4-H, other educational program, or independent exhibitor, as defined by the CDFA.
- Other concerns or comments?



Next Steps

- Additional Stakeholder Meetings and Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC) Meetings have not been scheduled yet.
 - We expect additional outreach to occur in March/April of 2025.
- **Staff welcomes your Department's valuable input** to ensure a balance between preserving agricultural rights while addressing negative impacts of illegal and poor animal management practices in the County.
 - Young Choi, Associate Planner (choiy@sacounty.gov)
 - Wendy Hartman, Principal Planner (hartmanw@sacounty.gov)
 - Chris Flores, Agricultural Commissioner (agcomm@sacounty.gov)
- Board of Supervisors is the final Decision Body for this item. AAC, CPAC's and Planning Commissions' recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.