

Sprout's Recommended Regulations for the Keeping of Urban Hens

Permitting

- Sprout recommends that permitting be required for any person wishing to acquire hens and that the back of such permit contain a summary of the regulations associated with the keeping of hens in the city of Battle Creek.
- The permit can serve the dual function of garnering a fee that can be put towards future enforcement issues as well as putting the citizen on notice of the regulations that must be complied with if he or she chooses to keep chickens in the city of Battle Creek.

Space

- Sprout recommends that the hens be kept in an enclosure that provides 8 sq. ft. of open air space and 2 sq. ft. of space in a predator proof coop.
- These recommendations are in line with Michigan's Generally Accepted Agriculture Management Procedures (GAAMPs).

Slaughtering

- Sprout recommends that slaughtering of hens be prohibited in Urban and Suburban areas.

Roosters

- Sprout recommends that roosters be prohibited in urban and suburban areas.

Manure Management

- Sprout recommends that manure management be regulated in accordance with the practices proscribed in GAAMPs.

Other Recommendations

- Sprout recommends that hens only be permitted in rear yards at least 10 ft. from all property lines and 40 ft. from all residential approval.
- Sprout further recommends that statutory setbacks be subject to waiver by written, neighbor approval of coops that would otherwise violate the setback requirement.