April 12, 2023

To: The Village of Rycroft

Fr: Laure Davies and Villagers of the Village of Rycroft.

Please note that I am requesting an audience with the Village Council to request a change to the following Bylaw, specifically Bylaw 170 -15 “Animal Control Bylaw” Part 1 – Subsection 2.9 “Livestock”. means those animals which have been domesticated for and are normally associated with agriculture or ranching including but not limited to horses, cattle, chickens, sheep, swine, goats and mules but excludes cats and dogs.

Please note the Presentation request form was submitted on the Village of Rycroft’s website on April 10, 2023.

Part VI Subsection 31 does not allow for Livestock unless prior approval of the Village.

I would like to recommend a change in Subsection 2.9 to reflect the following;

Bylaw 170 -15 “Animal Control Bylaw” Part 1 – Subsection 2.9 “Livestock”. means those animals which have been domesticated for and are normally associated with agriculture or ranching including but not limited to horses, cattle, chickens, sheep, swine, goats and mules but excludes cats, dogs and backyard hens/chickens.

I believe that a limit of 6 chickens per household up to a maximum of 10 households in the Village of Rycroft would be considered reasonable. I also propose that registration fees and fines in relation to offences correlate with that of cats in the existing bylaw.

I have reviewed Edmonton, and Spirit River’s Bylaws relating to Urban backyard Hens/Chickens and maintaining them within their communities. I have attached to this email Spirit Rivers’ bylaws for your perusal and understanding. These bylaws can easily be adopted into the Village of Rycroft’s bylaws, so there is no need to re-invent the wheel. The detail of raising and maintaining Urban backyard hens/chickens is contained throughout their bylaw.

There are many benefits to those household raising backyard hens including improved mental health and here are just a few benefits of raising Urban Backyard Hens/Chickens.

Benefits:

You get home grown eggs (especially with the current rising prices on food)
They can be a natural, healthy, and humane source of meat;
They make free fertilizer right from your own chicken coop;
A backyard flock = free weed control;
They are a natural source of pest control;
They are family friendly pets for children of all ages;
Chickens can be quite entertaining;
A natural kitchen and garden waste disposal system that turns scraps into eggs.

I look forward to your response at the meeting on April 18, 2023.