

From: Sean MacUisdin
Date: July 23, 2017 at 1:00:28 PM PDT
To: <mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca>
Subject: Urban Hen Eggs

Good day, Mayor and Council,

I'm emailing to broach the topic of the selling of Esquimalt urban eggs at our market. When the bylaw change came into effect, a line was added to the bylaw prohibiting the sale of eggs within Esquimalt.

Bylaw 2841 Animal Control para 32 sub para 13

"Urban Hens may be kept for personal use only and no sale of eggs, manure, meat or other products delivered from hens is permitted."

The unfortunate consequence of this line is that Esquimalt urban farmers cannot sell from fresh eggs at Esquimalt's Public Market to Esquimalt residents. Residents wishing to purchase best practises eggs must do so from Saanich or Victoria egg sellers, which defeats the purpose of the spirit and intent of both buying local and our local food security initiatives.

I have contacted VIHA to query the policies for the selling of urban farm/farm eggs and have been given the following guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control (link included)

Appendix III - Sale of Shell Eggs and Raw Foods of Animal Origin at Temporary Food Markets

A. Shell Eggs

Shell eggs may be sold at temporary food markets subject to the following:

Shells are sound and not cracked/leaking

Shells are clean and free of any fecal material or feathers

Eggs are maintained at an internal temperature of 4°C during transportation and storage/display at the market.

Crates used to contain the eggs are clean and maintained in a sanitary manner.

The minimum information on crates should indicate the name of farm/producer and the packaging or sale date.

http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/EH/FPS/Food/Guidelines%20-%20Sale%20of%20Foods%20at%20Temporary%20Food%20Markets_current.pdf

I am requesting that this line of the bylaw be reviewed and removed in order to allow for the sale of local eggs IAW Appendix III of the BC Centre for Disease Control Guidance for Temporary Markets. This prohibition far exceeds the safe practises established by the BC Centre of Disease Control which manages the risk of selling urban eggs. Furthermore, local farmers and urban farmers outside of Esquimalt selling eggs have an unfair advantage in selling a product under existing provincial guidelines while local owners in the same situation are needlessly prohibited.

This change will further enhance our food security as well as our buy local initiatives in Esquimalt.

Thank you for the consideration.

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