

**Proposed Bylaw 23-2021 Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw****Report Purpose**

To provide information to Council to approve three readings of proposed Bylaw 23-2021 the Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw.

**Recommendation**

THAT Bylaw 23-2021, Responsible Livestock Ownership, be given first reading.

THAT Bylaw 23-2021, be given second reading.

THAT Bylaw 23-2021, be considered for third reading.

THAT Bylaw 23-2021, be given third reading.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 4 - Ensure effective stewardship of water, land, air and energy resources  
Governance Requirement

**Report**

It is outlined in the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) mandate for 2020 – 2021 that the ASB will “assist with the continued implementation of the Urban Agriculture Strategy”. The creation of the proposed new Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw, to consolidate and update the Animal Control Bylaw 18-2011, and Apiculture Bylaw 43-2011, was initiated due to Urban Agriculture Strategy implementation needs.

An update to the bylaw is necessary to ensure Strathcona County stays current with the expectations of our residents, business owners and industrial partners. Feedback received through public engagement has been weighed with legislative requirements, animal and public health, and land stewardship challenges to determine allowances for various property sizes and land use districts.

The proposed new bylaw focuses on responsible livestock ownership that minimizes disease risk, supports animal welfare, land stewardship, and opportunities for agriculture. It has been drafted to allow Strathcona County administration to provide expectations and standards for livestock ownership in our community.

**Bylaw details that remain unchanged:**

1. In land use districts where “agriculture, general” is a permitted use, the number or/and type of livestock is out of scope of this bylaw, and rather is governed by provincial legislation.
2. Permit for apiculture in rural subdivisions is required.
3. Encouraging residents to be involved with agriculture through livestock ownership.

**Primary changes from the Animal Control and Apiculture Bylaws include:****Bylaw modernization**

1. Updated land use districts to reflect current Land Use Bylaw and the associated livestock units-per-acre based on land use district purpose and property size.
2. The inclusion of an appeal process for permitting.

3. The keeping of wild boar and genetic derivatives will be restricted to only those who currently meet the provincial containment standards as approved by the province. No additional new wild boar farms will be allowed.
4. An expanded fees and charges schedule for infractions of the bylaw.

*New distinctions*

- Inclusions of honeybees and hive limit within rural subdivisions
- The addition of a temporary permit for areas where livestock are normally not allowed (such as for special events and educational opportunities)
- Expectations for all livestock owners regarding manure management and environmental responsibilities
- All permits will now require livestock management plans to demonstrate knowledge of animal health and land management practices
- The inclusion of a new livestock inspection officer designation that allows the inspector to access the property but will not issue tags or violation tickets

Transportation and Agriculture Services and Legislative and Legal Services have completed broad research of other municipal bylaws and legislative requirements, balanced with public engagement to ensure the proposed bylaw meets the needs of our residents.

*Next steps:*

- Development of a complimentary program to support bylaw and permitting process including:
  - Customer service programming, including role with Bylaw Services
  - Education and communications programming to connect residents with resources to support responsible livestock ownership
  - Transition plans for changes within the bylaw
- Bylaw will come into effect January 1, 2022.

**Council and Committee History**

June 15, 2021	Council postponed the report on Bylaw 23-2021 to the July 20, 2021 Council meeting.
January 26, 2021	Priorities Committee received a presentation on proposed amendments
December 10, 2019	Council received a presentation on proposed amendments to the Animal Control Bylaw 18-2011.
November 18, 2018	Priorities Committee provided input regarding revisions to Bylaw 18-2011 Animal Control Bylaw.
November 29, 2016	THAT the Urban Agriculture Strategy, as set out in Enclosure 1 to the November 29, 2016 Transportation and Agriculture Services report, be approved.
June 23, 2015	THAT Council approve the Agriculture Master Plan.
October 11, 2011	Bylaw 18-2011 Animal Control Bylaw received three readings.
October 11, 2011	Bylaw 43-2011 Apiculture Bylaw receives third and final reading.
September 13, 2011	Bylaw 43-2011 Apiculture Bylaw receives first and second readings.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** GOV-002-021 Mandatory Review of Bylaws and Policies

**Legislative/Legal:** Bylaw 18-2011 Animal Control, Bylaw 43-2011 Apiculture, Bylaw 6-2015 Land Use, *Agricultural Pests Act, Public Health Act, Animal Protection Act, Livestock Industry Diversification Act*

**Interdepartmental:** Legislative and Legal Services, Planning and Development Services, Enforcement Services, Communications

**Master Plan/Framework:** Agriculture Master Plan, Urban Agriculture Strategy

**Communication Plan**

Communication has supported the bylaw review since it first began as part of the Urban Agriculture Strategy development, creating awareness of how the County is investing in and managing agriculture strategies; understanding of the implementation process and timelines; and generating awareness and interest in public engagement opportunities.

Communication objectives supporting next steps:

1. Create an understanding on what has changed and transition to new bylaw.
2. Create awareness on how the bylaw regulations affect specific properties and situations.
3. Until the new bylaw is in effect, maintain understanding of current requirements for the bylaw.

**Enclosures**

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| 1 | Proposed Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw presentation |
| 2 | Bylaw 23-2021 Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw         |