

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jun21\_2022**

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### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**

#### **Proposed Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw Overview**

##### **Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with background and recommendations regarding the proposed Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw.

##### **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**

Strathcona County is a specialized municipality that includes both rural and urban elements; and, as such, different standards are required with respect to livestock in the rural areas, urban areas, and mixed rural-urban areas.

Modernization of the Animal Control and Apiculture Bylaws 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 safety, and land stewardship challenges to determine livestock suitability on various property sizes and land uses.

Challenges experienced with the current Animal Control Bylaw 18-2011 and Apiculture Bylaw 43-2011 are addressed in the following modernization inclusions in the proposed bylaw:

- Event permits
- Inclusion of an appeal process for permits
- Banning of new wild boar farms
- Livestock Officer designation
- Incorporating provincial recommendation into apiculture permitting
- Addition of a "responsible ownership" section that is applicable to all owners and care takers of livestock

The proposed bylaw focuses on enhancements specific to encouraging responsible livestock ownership that:

- Minimizes disease risk
- Supports animal welfare
- Supports environmental and land stewardship

As requested by Council at the July 20, 2021, Council meeting, language and allowance charts were simplified and tested for clarity using additional public engagement. In addition, an adjustment was made to the minimum parcel size for roosters from three acres to five acres, with additional roosters allowed in five-acre increments. All changes to allowances for specific land use zones were included in the most recent public engagement.

Bylaws concerning livestock can affect residents significantly and there are many differing and divergent opinions on the topic.

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For a summary of the most recent public engagement, please see Enclosure 2.

The number of livestock allowed on properties throughout our community is both a personal and emotional topic as was discovered through feedback. Residents made themselves heard on both sides of the conversation. No solution will be perfect for all residents.

Based on research around legislative requirements, animal and public health and safety, environmental and land stewardship challenges, and evaluation of public engagement, an evidence-based change to the allowances was proposed. Current events and recent community concerns regarding food security have left pause to consider the appropriateness of recommending any change to livestock allowances at this time.

Therefore, livestock allowances (excluding honeybees) should remain as outlined in the current Animal Control Bylaw. The acceptable livestock allowances have been informed by extensive research and is evidence based. While the current recommendation is to not adjust livestock allowances, these recommended limits and the rationale is invaluable in supporting other modernizations of the bylaw.

Honeybee allowances should be added to the proposed bylaw, as there are none currently, to ensure community safety and to meet recommendations to minimize disease risk as provided by the Provincial Apiculturist.

It is recommended that the proposed Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw continue with the development of enhancements and modernizations, but not alter the existing livestock allowances (excluding honeybees) outlined in the current Animal Control Bylaw.

### **Council and Committee History**

July 20, 2021	Council approved: THAT the July 20, 2021 Transportation and Agriculture Services report along with Bylaw 23-2021 be referred back to administration for further work on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• simplifying the language for provisions related to livestock limits;</li><li>• clarifying when an application is required for over-limit livestock;</li><li>• adding a requirement of a minimum parcel size for roosters;</li><li>• simplifying livestock allowance charts and ensuring consistent terms;</li><li>• additional public engagement on the proposed bylaw;</li></ul> and that administration report back to Council by end of Q1 2022.
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.

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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

**Financial/Budget:**

**Legislative/Legal:** Bylaw 18-2011 Animal Control, Bylaw 43-2011 Apiculture, Bylaw 6-2015 Land Use Bylaw, *Agricultural Pests Act*, *Public Health Act*, *Animal Protection Act*, *Livestock Diversification Act*, *Agricultural Operation Practices 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 and engagement have been integral to the Animal Control Bylaw review and will continue to support review objectives. An update to the webpage with a report on what we heard from the most recent public engagement will be posted soon.

### **Enclosures**

- 1 Proposed Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw Overview presentation
- 2 Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw Survey what we heard report May 20, 2022