

Lisa Clausen

From: Public Council Inbox
Subject: FW: Seattle City approves expanded urban farms

From: anniebpierce@aol.com [mailto:anniebpierce@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 4:51 PM
To: Burien
Subject: Seattle City approves expanded urban farms

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City council approves urban farm legislation



By [Rose Egge \(/profile/125902/rose-egge\)](#)

Monday, August 16th, 03:08pm

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Seattle residents now have more freedom when it comes to growing their own food or raising their own chickens.

This afternoon, city council approved [Council Bill 116907](http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=&s3=116907&s4=&s2=&s5=&Sect4=AND&I=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=CBORY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=ORDF&p=1&u=%2F~public%2Fcbory.htm&r=1&f=G) (<http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=&s3=116907&s4=&s2=&s5=&Sect4=AND&I=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=CBORY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=ORDF&p=1&u=%2F~public%2Fcbory.htm&r=1&f=G>), which updates the City's Land Use code allowing "urban farms" and "community gardens" in all zones, with some limitations in industrial zones. Residents will now be able to sell food grown on their property and construct rooftop green houses adding no more than 15 feet to building height limits.

This was great news for [Alleycat Acres](http://www.alleycat acres.com/2010/04/1-beacon-hill.html) (<http://www.alleycat acres.com/2010/04/1-beacon-hill.html>) founder Sean Conroe, who lead a group of volunteers to [build urban farms on Beacon Hill and in the Central District](http://beaconhill.komonews.com/content/what-does-it-cost-feed-community) (<http://beaconhill.komonews.com/content/what-does-it-cost-feed-community>). The group grows produce to distribute within the local community, and Conroe now hopes to fund the project by selling items at farm stands at each garden.

"It's amazing," Conroe said. "It really shows that the city does mean this is the 'Year of Urban Agriculture.'"

The legislation also increases the number of chickens allowed per lot from three to eight, with additional chickens allowed for large lots associated with community gardens and urban farms. It prohibits new roosters and sets boundaries for chicken coops, ten feet away from primary residential structures. Existing chicken coops built prior to the code changes will remain legal.

"These code changes will strengthen our community food security," said Council President Richard Conlin, sponsor of the ordinance. "This is one more action that supports the goals of the Local Food Action Initiative: increases opportunities for Seattle residents to purchase and grow healthy food in the city."

"This is an exciting time to be an urban farmer," said Nicole Jain Capizzi, owner of Amaranth Urban Farm in Rainier Beach. "I recently moved to Seattle to start an urban farm and am encouraged by the City's on-going actions that strengthen Seattle's food system."

Learn more about raising chickens in the city [online](http://www.seattle.gov/council/urbanagriculture/chickens_in_city.htm) (http://www.seattle.gov/council/urbanagriculture/chickens_in_city.htm).

Photo of Alleycat Acres Urban Farm (<http://beaconhill.komonews.com/content/what-does-it-cost-feed-community>) courtesy Flickr user [e pants](http://www.flickr.com/photos/seanpants/4634110805/in/pool-alleycat acres) (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/seanpants/4634110805/in/pool-alleycat acres>).

This article originally appeared on West Seattle News (<http://westseattle.komonews.com/content/city-council-approves-urban-farm-legislation>)

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