Urban Agriculture

• Urban agriculture: the production of food in and around cities for local consumption
  – Increasing public interest, starting with community gardens
  – Supports sustainability and public health
  – Supports food system security
  – Supports microenterprise
Background

• $50,000 grant – Urban Agriculture
  – SANDAG on behalf of the SD County Health & Human Services Agency
  – Timeline: May 2011 - January 2012

• Goal:

  Increase Access to Healthy, Local, Sustainable Food
Grant Work Program

• Phase I - Community Garden
• Phase II – Create new opportunities and remove obstacles

• Opportunities
  – Farmers Markets
  – Retail Farms
  – Urban Animal Husbandry (chickens, goats, & bees)
  – New General Plan policies
Grant Non-Profit Partners

• International Rescue Committee
• San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative/Community Health Improvement Partners
• The 1 in 10 Coalition
Community Gardens

• New Roots Community Farm
  – Encountered difficult permitting process
  – Catalyst for regulatory changes

• Regulatory Reforms
  – No land use permit needed in commercial and residential zones
  – Removed costly regulations (i.e. water meter)
  – On site sales allowed in commercial zones
  – On site sales allowed in residential zones one day per week
Farmers’ Markets

- Regulatory Reform
  - Easier to locate on private property
    - Permitted as limited use rather than a CUP
  - Once per week, per location
  - Continue to allow on public property
Daily Farmers Market Stands

- New Limited Use most Commercial zones
  - Seven days a week
  - No value added foods
- Private property
  - No parking displaced
- Public right-of-way
  - Insurance required
Retail Farms – New Use

- Grow and sell produce on site
- Select commercial & industrial zones
- Max. 4 acres
- 75% of product grown onsite
Chickens

• Prior regs: 25 chickens 50 feet from residences

• Benefits
  – Fresh eggs (1 hen produces ≈300 eggs/yr)
  – Reduced packaging
  – Reduced transport
  – Humane conditions
  – Health benefits
Chickens – Reforms

• Roosters still prohibited
• No setback onsite dwelling
• 5 hens - Maintain setback
• 15 hens - 15’ setback
• 25 hens
  – 50’ from residences
  – Same as current regs
Goats

- Prior: Agriculture zones only
- Benefits
  - Fresh milk & cheese
  - Lactose intolerant (25% adults)
  - Most common milk
Goats - Reforms

- Miniature goats only
- Must have two
- Dehorned
- Males neutered
- Milk/cheese for personal consumption only
Bees

• Prior regulations had been in place since 1977

• Benefits
  – Fresh natural honey
  – Natural sweetener
  – Increase docile honey bee population
Bees - Reforms

• 2 hive/lot 15 feet from property line
• 20 feet from r-o-w
• Hive open away from nearest property line
• Secured area - not visible to public
• 6’ screen or 8’ above grade
General Plan Amendments

- Existing GP addressed community farms and gardens, conventional agriculture, and farmers’ markets
- Amendments supported urban agriculture (Conservation Element - Section L)
General Plan Amendments

• **Sustainability**
  – Foster urban agriculture due to environmental, economic and public health benefits

• **Increase Opportunities**

• **Food Systems Planning**
  – Increase food systems security and access to fresh food
  – Link producers to local markets
  – Create jobs and benefit local economy

• **Collaboration**
  – Continue to consult with public health community
Outreach & Approval Process

• Grant Partners Outreach
• E-blast notices and web postings
• Code Monitoring Team
• Community Planners Committee
• Council Committee
• Planning Commission
  – Unanimous approval December 15, 2011
• City Council
  – Unanimous approval January 31, 2012
Grant Partners Outreach

- Fact sheets
- Food Justice Momentum Team
- Train-the-trainer sessions
- Hoover High
- Additional community partners
Implementation

• Information pamphlets
• Policies
  – Continue public health collaboration
  – Continue food systems planning
KEEPING GOATS
in the CITY OF SAN DIEGO

In January 2012 the City of San Diego amended its Municipal Code to allow residents of single family homes to keep and maintain two miniature goats. The specific regulations are located in Section 44.0307 and can be found by downloading the following: Chap 04 Art 04 Div 03, Animals.

Miniature goats are herding animals and need companionship. For that reason the City requires you keep and maintain two goats and not just one. The regulations require that a goat shed be provided and located outside of all required setbacks, which are based on the zoning of your property. Generally, most single family homes in the City of San Diego would have to locate the goat shed 5 feet from side property lines, and 13 feet from the rear property line. The regulations also require that the goats have a secured outdoor area that is at least 400 square feet.

For specific information regarding the zone setback for your property go to the following link and type in your address: View your property by address. You will then receive the zone name for your property. A link to “More Info” takes you to another page that directs you to the regulations for your zone. When viewing the regulations go to the Development Regulations Table for your zone and look up “Setback Requirements.” You can also call the Development Services Department’s information line at (619) 446-5000, provide your address and request the name of your zone and the zoning setback information. You will receive a return call with the information.

BENEFITS

- Fresh milk and cheese. It is important to keep in mind that the regulations require that any goat’s milk or cheeses produced be for personal consumption only.
- Milk and cheese that may be consumed by individuals who are allergic to cow’s milk. The American Dairy Goat Association states that the fat globules in goats are smaller than those in cow’s milk and that the curd is softer and smaller which eases digestion.
- On average two goats can provide as much as a half gallon of milk per day.
- Goat manure, unlike that of dogs, can be added to compost piles or used directly as a fertilizer when tilled into the soil.
- Many goat owners boast of the companionship and enjoyment goats provide to their owners.

RISKS

There are certain health risks inherent in handling goats or anything in the areas they occupy. It is very important to understand that goat’s milk must be pasteurized before it is consumed or used for making cheese. Consuming raw, unpasteurized, milk can cause life threatening illnesses especially in young children and those with immune impairment are especially at risk. The following provides a way to reduce the risks:

- Pasteurize all goats’ milk. The National Dairy Council says to heat the strained milk to a minimum of 145°F for 30 minutes or to 161°F or more for 15 seconds, followed by rapid cooling.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after touching the goats or anything in the area where they occupy. Avoid touching your mouth before washing your hands. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
- Do not let children younger than 5 years of age handle or touch goats without supervision.
- Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- Do not eat or drink in the area the goats occupy.

SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS:

- Only miniature, pygmy goats are kept.
- All goats must be dehorned.
- Males must be neutered.
- Two goats must be kept: one must be an offspring of the original goats and the other must be kept for up to 12 weeks from birth.
- The goat shed shall be no less than 10 square feet and designed to be predator proof, vented, waterproof, and easily accessed for cleaning.
- The goat shed must be located outside of all required setbacks.
- The shed shall provide an outdoor enclosure of 400 square feet, secured from outside of the enclosure to allow the goat to roam. The enclosure must be over 6 feet high.
- Goat’s milk, cheeses, and by-products may be sold for personal consumption, but not for resale.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is a miniature goat?

Miniature goats are goats as well as miniature bred to a dwarf or pygmy.

Are goats noisy?

Goats bleat occasionally quieter than the average dog, which tend to bark if they sense an unusual situation.

Do goats have to give birth on the property?

Yes.
KEEPING CHICKENS in the CITY OF SAN DIEGO

In January 2012 the City of San Diego amended its Municipal Code to allow residents of single family homes, community gardens, and retail farms to keep and maintain chickens. The specific regulations are located in Section 42.0709 and can be found by downloading the following: Chap 04 Art 02 Div 07, Animals and Poultry.

The number of chickens that may be kept on your property is based on how far the chicken coop is from your property lines (zone setback). Generally, most single family homes in the City of San Diego would be allowed up to five chickens provided the chicken coop were located in the rear yard, 5 feet from side property lines, and 13 feet from the rear property line.

For specific information regarding the zone setback for your property go to the following link and type in your address: View your property by address. You will then receive the zone name for your property. A link to "More Info" takes you to another page that directs you to the regulations for your zone. When viewing the regulations go to the Development Regulations Table for your zone and look up "Setback Requirements." You can also call the Development Services Department's information line at (619) 446-5000 provide your address and request the name of your zone and the zoning setback information. You will receive a return call with the information.

REDUCING THE RISKS
- Do not let children younger than 5 years of age handle or touch chickens without supervision.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after touching chickens or anything in the area where they occupy. Avoid touching your mouth before washing your hands. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
- Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- Wash hands after removing soiled clothes and shoes.
- Do not eat or drink in the area where the chickens occupy.
- Do not let chickens inside the house or in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored, such as kitchens, pantries, or outdoor patios.
- If you have free-roaming live poultry, assume that they live and roam is contaminated.
- Clean equipment and materials associated with raising or caring for chickens such as coops, feed containers, and water containers, outside the house, not inside.

SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS
Chickens may be kept and within on property developed with a single family residence, a community garden, or a retail farm in accordance with the following:
- No roosters are permitted.
- Up to five chickens may be kept when the coop is located outside of all required setbacks.
- Up to fifteen chickens may be kept when the coop is located 15 feet property lines and outer whichever is greater.
- Up to 25 chickens may be located at least 50 feet away from a residence.
- A chicken coop shall be predator proof, easily closed, large enough to provide the chickens.
- The outdoor enclosure is easily cleaned, fenced of the property and a minimum of the chicken.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Are chickens dirty?
As with any animal, chickens are not properly cared for is just for dog or cat.

Are chickens noisy?
Roosters are noisy and will cackle at times during and occasionally squawk. Sounds, are not very loud than most everything else a surrounding neighbors dark.

BENEFITS
There are many benefits that come with backyard chickens.
- A healthy adult hen generally lays up to 300 eggs a year. Five hens would supply approximately 30 eggs a week which would meet the needs of a typical family of four.
- Backyard eggs contain 25 percent more vitamin E, 33 percent more vitamin A, and 75 percent more beta carotene.
- Home raising reduces the need for transporting eggs from farm/inter to store to home resulted in a reduction in carbon emissions and packaging materials.
- Many see a benefit in knowing that the chickens are raised and fed in humane conditions.
- Chicken manure can be added to compost piles or used directly as a fertilizer when tilled into the soil.

RISKS
Health risks that can result from handling chickens or anything in the areas they occupy. Young children and those with immune impairment are especially at risk. Chickens may have Salmonella germs in their droppings and on their bodies even though they appear healthy. Salmonella can make people sick with diarrhea and fever, often with vomiting and abdominal cramps.
BEEKEEPING
in the CITY OF SAN DIEGO

In January 2012 the City of San Diego amended its Municipal Code to allow residents of single family homes, community gardens, and retail farms to keep and maintain two beehives. The specific regulations are located in Chapter 4, Article 4, Division 4 of the Municipal Code and can be found by downloading the following: Chap 04 Art 04 Div 04, Beekeeping.

Where you locate your apiary is determined by the number of hives and several factors related to distance including zone setbacks. For specific information regarding the zone setback for your property go to the following link and type in your address: View your property by address. You will then receive the zone name for your property. A link to “More Info” takes you to another page that directs you to the regulations for your zone. When viewing the regulations go to the Development Regulations Table for your zone and look up “Setback Requirements.” You can also call the Development Services Department’s information line at (619) 446-5000, provide your address, and request the name of your zone and the zoning setback information. You will receive a return call with the information.

BENEFITS
- Fresh natural honey.
- Reduction in the number of aggressive (Africanized) bees in the vicinity of the docile honeybee hive.
- Reduced carbon footprint due to local production.
- Increase in the population of docile honeybees.
- Increased number of pollinators.
- Fresh honey can be used to alleviate some seasonal allergies.

RISKS
The primary risk of beekeeping is bee sting. If you are going to keep bees you will get stung. A small percentage of the population is allergic to bee stings (estimates range form 2 to 5 percent of the population). If you do not know if you are allergic you should have a physician test you. If you are allergic you should not keep bees. The docile honeybees that are permitted by this ordinance are not aggressive. Beekeeping when done properly poses very limited risks to surrounding properties or property owners. The following provide a way to reduce the risks:

- Discuss beekeeping with your neighbors.
- Open/manipulate hives only during favorable weather.
- Survey your surroundings for neighbors and pets before opening/manipulating the hive.
- Face the hive opening away from entrances and walkways, and toward the most distant property line.
- Even if you are not allergic consider getting an epi-pen from your physician, so that one is always on hand.