

# Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION  
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

For the week of  
Jan. 25, 2009

## Q. Dear Twig: Can I raise chickens in my backyard?

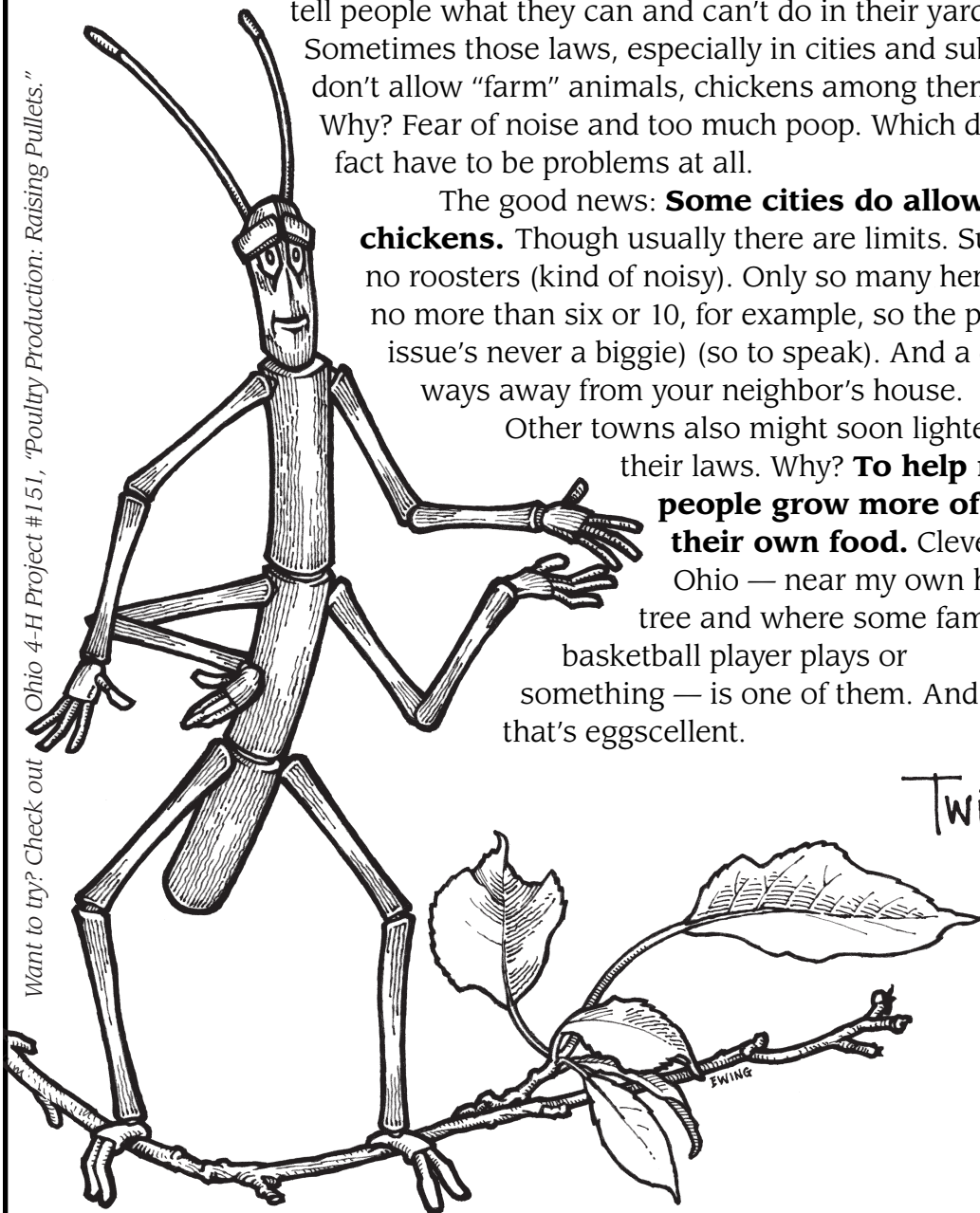
A: First ask your parents if you haven't already. Then check (maybe with your parents' help) the **zoning laws** where you live. Zoning laws tell people what they can and can't do in their yards.

Sometimes those laws, especially in cities and suburbs, don't allow "farm" animals, chickens among them.

Why? Fear of noise and too much poop. Which don't in fact have to be problems at all.

The good news: **Some cities do allow chickens.** Though usually there are limits. Such as no roosters (kind of noisy). Only so many hens (like no more than six or 10, for example, so the poop issue's never a biggie) (so to speak). And a certain ways away from your neighbor's house.

Other towns also might soon lighten up their laws. Why? **To help more people grow more of their own food.** Cleveland, Ohio — near my own home tree and where some famous basketball player plays or something — is one of them. And that's eggscellent.



Want to try? Check out Ohio 4-H Project #151, "Poultry Production: Raising Pullets."

From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center ([www.oardc.ohio-state.edu](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu)) and OSU Extension ([extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)).

By Kurt Knebusch  
(330) 263-3776  
knebusch.1@osu.edu

**Notes:** "Pullets" are female chickens, usually less than a year old. Also consider Ohio 4-H Project #153, "Raising Fancy Poultry." Various chicken breeds can be raised for it. Ohio 4-H is part of Ohio State University Extension, which is part, yep, of Ohio State University. Go bucks! (Get it? Get it? An Ohio State/ chicken joke? Erm, yeah, OK, sorry.) Read more about Cleveland's changing chicken scene, including the role of OSU Extension's Cuyahoga County office in it, in *Cleveland Scene*, <http://www.clevescene.com/stories/15/84/city-chicken>.

### Section of Communications and Technology

2021 Coffey Road  
Columbus, OH 43210-1044  
(614) 292-2011

208 Research Services Bldg.  
1680 Madison Ave.  
Wooster, OH 44691-4096  
(330) 263-3780

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