

From: Jim and Bonnie [mailto:jbsallee@volcano.net]

Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 8:59 AM

To: Rose, Gene

Subject: Re: Mature Roosters

Hello all,

The primary factor for determining age on a male chicken is the development of the spurs on the legs. A juvenile male has a button or a rounded spur usually less than one half inch in length. A male in his second year moult will develop spurs that are sharp and in the case of a large fowl game cock, the spurs quickly grow to two plus inches in length.

To a trained eye, the plumage will also show more development in the hackle and saddle areas and the color intensifies. Hope this is of some help. Hello to all,

Jim

----- Original Message -----

From: [Rose, Gene](#)

To: [Jim and Bonnie](#)

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2010 3:57 PM

Subject: FW: Mature Roosters

Help!

Gene

From: Whitmer, Dave

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2010 10:13 AM

To: Rose, Gene

Cc: Clark, Greg; Paul, Rob

Subject: Mature Roosters

Gene:

As you know, the County Conservation, Development and Planning Department is attempting to limit the raising of roosters to legitimate poultry operations within the County. The most recent draft language reads as follows:

F. Agriculture shall not include the raising and keeping of more than twenty-five mature roosters per acre, up to a maximum of one hundred mature roosters per legal parcel, unless an administrative permit has been obtained pursuant to Chapter 18.126, For purposes of this subsection, "mature rooster" means a rooster one year old or older.

The question that has surfaced is whether it is possible to determine by visual inspection if a rooster is "mature" (one year old or older). Can you please "reply to all" with an explanation of how a person would make the determination that a rooster is mature? What would you look for in the physical appearance or development of a bird. Please be as specific as you can in your description as Rob Paul, Deputy County Counsel may need to use the information in legal proceedings.

Thanks for your help!

Dave Whitmer

Napa County Agricultural Commissioner/

Sealer of Weights and Measures

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