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Board of Directors Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to thank their fellow egg farmers, government and industry representatives, for making our January regional meetings such a success! In total, 111 registered producers (70%) attended, to hear updates on a variety of important topics and provide valuable feedback for EFA staff.

EFA's regional meetings touched on many topics of great interest to our industry moving forward. An update from our EFC Director indicated that their Board is working on a number of initiatives to reduce reliance on levy and improve overall business efficiency. Provinces will be receiving updates on the path forward sometime later this year. Timing of flock placements is of great importance, and some shifting away from December to early January would be quite beneficial to help us better supply the market and reduce the costs of our industrial product. As well, producers had the opportunity to relay topics that they wanted to discuss with the Board. Some of the more common discussion points revolved around SE testing and the policies for enriched housing, aviary and free run. Thanks to the EFA staff for putting together a packed presentation, full of relevant and timely topics.

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 PRODUCER WEBSITE: www.albertaeggproducers.ca
 OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



PURPOSE OF THE EFA

EFA exists so there will be an environment in which Alberta egg producers can thrive within the Canadian industry, at a cost that demonstrates good stewardship of resources.

EFA OFFICE HOURS

Most staff members will be in Red Deer for the EFA AGM on February 25th & 26th, so please wait until Wednesday, February 27th to contact the office that week. Our office will be **closed on March 29th, for Good Friday**. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience.

EGG PRICE UPDATE

Effective: from **October 14th, 2012**

Grade A

X Large	\$2.130	↑
Large	\$2.130	↑
Medium	\$1.910	↑
Small	\$1.530	↑
Nest Run	\$2.007	↑
Pee Wee	\$0.270	---

Grade B \$0.750 ---

Grade C \$0.150 ---

EGGNOTES SUBSCRIPTION INFO

Do you know someone who wants to subscribe to EggNotes? Simply have them send their name, company or organization, fax number and email address to: **info@eggs.ab.ca**

Animal Rights Activism

EFC has asked all provinces to remind producers to be on their guard and remain mindful for activists and their devious methods, no matter how innocently these individuals present themselves when asking for employment or a farm tour. In addition to strict compliance with the Animal Care Program, by everyone working with your egg laying hens, EFC and EFA are also urging farmers to step up on-farm security by considering the use of additional outdoor lighting, by ensuring all access points to farm buildings are locked at all times and by completing thorough background checks on everyone applying for a job.

The reason for this reminder is a recent increase in activity by two of the animal rights groups operating in Canada: The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and Mercy for Animals. These organizations are lobbying politicians, launching "choose cage-free" campaigns targeting consumers, publishing investigative "white papers" on hen housing and animal agriculture, requesting egg farm tours and, in some cases, sneaking onto farms to take undercover videos. EFC has heard concerns that have been raised about these groups potentially targeting the egg industry, in much the same way they recently targeted the pork industry (undercover video from a hog farm in Manitoba was shown as part of a W5 feature). EFC and EFA will continue to monitor the activities of these groups.

Field Statistics Update

The final 2012 numbers are in from the Start Clean – Stay Clean (SC-SC) and Animal Care Program (ACP) evaluations. Alberta's egg farmers demonstrated that providing safe, high quality eggs from hens raised with the highest standards of animal care is our industry's top priority!

- Start Clean – Stay Clean
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 98.3%
 - ✓ 34 Alberta farmers scored a perfect 100% rating

- Animal Care Program
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 98.5%
 - ✓ 96 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating

- Start Clean – Stay Clean for Pullet producers
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 97.9%
 - ✓ 56 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating

EFA would like to thank all our farmers for their dedication and hard work every day, ensuring that safe, quality eggs are produced humanely!

EFA PRODUCER WEBSITE

EFA's producer website is a hub of information relating to quota, best production practices, SC-SC and more! The following resources are now available:

- "Anti-Microbial Resistance" is an EFA resource to help farmers better understand the how's and why's of responsible antibiotic use (*under 'Best Practices – Poultry Health'*)
- "Best Practices for Animal Care" is an EFA resource to improve animal welfare beyond the standards of the ACP (*on main 'Animal Care' page*)
- "Points to Consider When Planning Your Production Facility" is an updated EFA guide to help farmers build the ideal production facility (*under 'Best Practices – Production Facility'*)
- "CFIA Rights During an Inspection" is resource from CFIA, detailing the rights and responsibilities of farmers (*on main 'Emergency Preparedness' page*)
- EFA's 2012 Annual Report and Financial Statements (*on EFA's producer website homepage*)

Visit EFA's producer website at:
www.albertaeggproducers.ca

For a username and password, please call the EFA office.

Producer Services Update

Quota – Important Deadline!

Do you still have quota in reserve from the September 2012 over base allotment?

The deadline for submitting written notification for the September 2012 over base allotment to EFA is **April 1st, 2013**. Producers must notify EFA and submit signed paperwork by the deadline – either a lease agreement or reserve to issued form – or the over base allotment will revert to the EFA Board.

Note that the over base quota can remain in reserve until April 1st, 2014, but the paperwork for your quota activation must be submitted by the April 1st, 2013 deadline.

All producers who have not yet activated their over base quota allotments will be sent a reminder in early March, as a final notice.

If you have any questions regarding this policy or your over base quota, please contact Carla Znak (Ext. 127) at the EFA office.

Premises ID Updates

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's (ARD) Traceability Division will have a booth at the industry trade show, during the Industry Reception and EFA's 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Red Deer, on February 25th & 26th. If you have any changes to contact information or livestock numbers on your farm, please stop by their booth to update your Premises Identification (PID) account.



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EGG FARMING BEST PRACTICE

Disinfection without a proper cleaning job is a completely ineffective practice. Only items that are clean – meaning free of any visible debris or build-up and washed with detergent – can be disinfected properly.

BIO-SECURITY TIP

Maintain bio-security signs at the Control Access Zone (CAZ), on barns and any other restricted areas.

CLASSIFIED ADS



#1) For Sale:

Staalcat (2007) Egg Packer

Contact:

Andy Hofer

780-717-6917

Producer Services Update, Continued from Page 3

Top 10 SC-SC Corrective Actions from 2012

10. Rodent control – Monitor your traps and keep fresh bait available at all times. Record actions and results promptly in your SC-SC records.
9. Stagnant water – Stagnant water can harbor salmonella and other contaminants. Keep the area around your production unit dry.
8. Production unit free of weeds and debris – Keeping the area around the perimeter of your barn free of debris will prevent mice and wild birds from sheltering close to your production unit.
7. Annual water test – A water test will confirm that the water you are providing to your layers is free from coliforms and other harmful contaminants. Send a water sample from your barn away for analysis at least once every 12 months.
6. Air intakes properly screened – Ensure all air intakes and any roof openings are properly screened to prevent wild birds from accessing your production unit.
5. Gravel or asphalt barrier – A 1-foot wide gravel or asphalt barrier around the outside of your production unit will help prevent rodents from accessing your barn.
4. Floor cracks – Fill in all floor cracks wider than ¼” with durable material. This will prevent any bacteria build-up and pests such as darkling beetles from making a home in your production unit.
3. Feed supplier letter – Keep an up-to-date letter from your feed supplier, which indicates that your feed is free from salmonella. This letter is required once a year.
2. Record feed consumption daily – Recording feed consumption daily helps you to better manage your barn. Fluctuations in feed consumption are often one of the first indicators that there is a problem with your hens or your barn systems.
1. All in / all out production – This is the industry best practice for flock cycles, as it allows you to empty, clean and disinfect, and rest all of your facility at once. This can be an important step in controlling bacteria and pests in your facility.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

February 25

Alberta Poultry Industry Reception
Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

February 26

EFA & API AGMs
Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer
9:30 am – 3:15 pm
Banquet @ 6:00 pm

February 27

Grader Advisory Committee Mtg
Calgary

March 5-7

Board Governance Fundamentals
Workshop
Cochrane

March 8

BC Egg Marketing Board AGM
Vancouver, BC

March 13

Manitoba Egg Farmers AGM
Winnipeg, MB

March 14

Saskatchewan Egg Producers AGM
Saskatoon, SK

March 20-21

EFC AGM & Open Meetings
Ottawa, ON

March 26-27

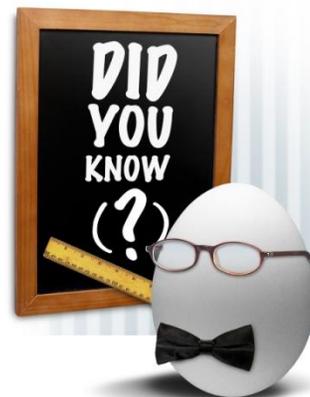
Egg Farmers of Ontario AGM
Toronto, ON

Research Update

In the spring of 2012, EFA initiated a project with funding from ALMA to look at the use of layer manure in Alberta. This study, "Evaluation of Options for Alberta Layer Waste Utilization" found that layer manure was underutilized as a source of nutrients in agriculture and recommended that manure be upgraded to conserve nitrogen and to facilitate easy field application through implementation of pelletizing equipment.

As a result of this funding, a follow-up feasibility study was initiated to review the existing and potential market for pelleted manure products in Alberta, and estimate a volume and price point based on nutrient content and user benefits. A regional survey of products was undertaken that are currently in the market to establish their price parameters. As well, a survey was conducted to identify similar processed manure products in the market, both for bulk application and bag sales. Experts in the field of organic farming, fertilizer distribution or representing market opportunities such as golf courses and turf farms were interviewed.

Research has revealed that there may be a market with organic vegetable and grain growers who cannot use conventional sources of nutrients. Several interviewed growers were interested in the availability of a local product based on layer manure. EFA will now be looking at next steps which may include preparing a test product and conducting further economic analysis. Stayed tuned for further information on this exciting opportunity for the Alberta egg industry!



ABOUT EGGNOTES



EggNotes is the official newsletter of the Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Submissions should be sent to:
info@eggs.ab.ca

Submission deadline for the next issue of *EggNotes*:
March 28th, 2013

Next issue of *EggNotes*:
April 12th, 2013

"YOKES" OF THE MONTH



Guaranteed to crack you up!

Q: How do comedians like their eggs?

A: Funny side up!

Q: How do baby chicks dance?

A: Chick to chick!

Growing Forward Energy Efficiency Submeter Program

The Energy Efficiency Submeter program offers applicants financial support to install natural gas or electrical submeters. A submeter is an electricity meter (or gas meter) that is installed downstream of the main utility meter. They can be used to zero-in on energy usage that is of particular interest. For example, a submeter could be installed on an egg farm to measure electricity that is directly related to egg production. Electricity loads for residences and anything unrelated to eggs could be excluded. Since submeters measure only energy loads of particular interest, the information that they collect is more detailed and more accurate. This allows a manager to see how equipment is performing and analyze trends in efficiency over time.

The Energy Efficiency Submeter Program is currently available to all producers in Alberta who have at least \$10,000 in gross annual farm sales and/or an Alberta Farm Fuel Number, and who have not previously received payment from the program. The Energy Efficiency Submeter Program provides funds on a reimbursement basis on approved projects up to a maximum of \$2,000 per applicant. The Energy Efficiency Submeter Program is retroactive to the beginning of the Growing Forward program (commencing April 1st, 2009) for successful applicants. Applications to the program need to be submitted by March 15th, 2013. Applications should be submitted quickly as there is limited funding.

For further information please call 310-FARM.

Confined Feeding Operations (CFO) Extension Services

CFO Extension Specialists with ARD provide technical expertise to livestock producers, consultants, municipalities and other interested parties. CFO extension services ensure Alberta's livestock industry grows in a competitively and environmentally friendly manner.

Extension services are available to anyone requiring information about the technical requirements and application process for existing, new and expanding CFOs in Alberta. For producers and their consultants, additional services will be provided specific to the application process.

For further information please call 310-FARM, or check out these websites:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv383/\\$file/cfo-specialists.pdf?OpenElement](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv383/$file/cfo-specialists.pdf?OpenElement)

<http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/All/pgmsrv383>

EFA AGM

EFA is gearing up for its Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is being held on **February 26th** in Red Deer, Alberta. EFA looks forward to a large turnout of egg farmers and industry representatives. Following a review of EFA's Annual Report, elections will be held for 2 positions on the EFA Board of Directors.

EFA is excited and honored to announce that Charlie Arnot, CEO of the Center for Food Integrity and President of CMA Consulting, will be the keynote speaker at the AGM. EFA strongly encourages all producers to attend, to hear his insightful, timely messages for the egg industry.

Charlie Arnot

Charlie is CEO of the Center for Food Integrity and President of CMA, a consulting company with offices in Missouri, Iowa, Indiana and Ohio. The Center for Food Integrity is a non-profit organization dedicated to building consumer trust and confidence in today's food system with members from the U.S. and Canada. In his role as President of CMA, Charlie and the CMA team work with companies and associations across the food system in issues management, public relations, strategic facilitation and marketing communications.

Charlie is recognized as a thought leader on food and agriculture issues and is a thought provoking writer and speaker.

Poultry Mortality Composting

Many Alberta egg farmers choose to compost their end-of-lay hens on farm. When done properly, composting is a low cost, environmentally friendly option that results in a valuable source of nutrients for your land. When done improperly, composting can lead to unpleasant odours, scavengers, disease spread and environmental risk.

In the September 2012 issue of *EggNotes*, proper composting techniques were reviewed. It is equally important to be aware of the regulations related to composting, under Alberta's *Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation* of the *Animal Health Act, Appendix A*. Some of the key requirements under this regulation include:

- Dispose of animals within 48 hours of their death
- Open compost piles must be:
 - At least 100 meters from wells or other domestic water intakes, streams, creeks, ponds, springs and highway marks of lakes
 - At least 25 meters away from the edge of a coulee, major cut or embankment
 - At least 100 meters from any residences
 - Designed in a manner that will exclude scavengers
 - At least 100 meters from any livestock facilities, including pastures, situated on land owned or leased by another person
- The maximum volume of the animals in an open compost pile must not exceed 25% of the total compost pile
- Animals in the compost pile must be covered by at least 15 cm of composting material

Failure to meet these requirements under regulation can result in the engagement of ARD's Regulatory Services to follow-up on the issues.

ARD has developed a resource on Poultry Mortality Composting, which provides detailed information on planning, building and managing your compost piles effectively, as well as a detailed review of the regulations you must adhere to. EFA strongly recommends that producers who compost your end-of-lay hens should review this ARD manual.

You can access a copy of the manual via ARD's website, at:

[http://www1agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex6117](http://www1agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex6117)

If you cannot access ARD's website, you can contact the EFA office.

ALBERTA EGG MARKET UPDATE

The Nielson preliminary retail sales data is available up to January 12th, 2013 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.9 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 10.9% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending December 12th) and a 7.7% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2012.

Nielson retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 2.9% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 27.7% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 1.8 million dozen eggs (5.2% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

EFA ONLINE!

Remember to tell everyone you meet about the EFA website, where you can find lots of eggcellent information about being an egg farmer, how an egg a day can be part of an active, nutritious lifestyle and a wide variety of delicious recipes! *Get Cracking* to eggs.ab.ca



Marketing Update

EFA is looking forward to a very *eggceptional* 2013! EFA will once again be all over the province promoting Alberta's egg farmers and nutritious, delicious eggs, at a variety of agricultural and health & wellness events. EFA will also continue to educate school children about eggs and agriculture, through classroom presentations and a partnership with Classroom Agriculture Program. The journey 'from farm to plate' is completed with EFA's collaboration with the Taste Alberta program; be on the lookout for an egg-themed Taste Alberta TV commercial, starting towards the end of February!

Upcoming Events

Come visit the EFA booth at these *EGGcellent* events:

- **Ag Expo**
Lethbridge, February 27th – March 1st
- **Alberta College of Family Physicians**
Banff, February 28th – March 2nd
- **Calgary Health Show**
Calgary (Stampede Park), March 23rd & 24th
- **Calgary Zoo Easter Eggstravaganza**
Calgary (Calgary Zoo), March 29th & 30th
- **Aggie Days Calgary**
Calgary (Stampede Park), April 10th – 14th
- **Mom, Pop & Tot Fair**
Edmonton (Expo Centre), April 12th & 13th

EFA 2013 Highlights

- Total # of events attended: 3
- Total # of events sponsored: 24
- Total # of school presentations: 8
- Total # of resources distributed: 10,011
- Total # of promotional items distributed: 3,753

If you have any questions about EFA's marketing initiatives or want to let us know about something *EGGciting* happening in your area, please contact David Webb (Ext. 126) or Catherine Kelly (Ext. 128).