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From Your Board of Directors

The Alberta Egg Producers Board of Directors and all our fellow Alberta egg farmers, would like to express our sympathies and support to Meb Gilani, and his entire Sparks Egg Farm family, which suffered a devastating fire on their farm in early June. Thankfully, as a result of having an effective and well rehearsed fire response plan, all the Sparks employees were able to escape safely. We wish the Gilani family and Sparks Egg Farm a speedy recovery through these extremely challenging times.

It is said that in times of tragedy, true character comes shining through. There has never been a time to be more proud to be part of the Alberta egg industry, than during the aftermath of this devastating farm fire. The Board would like to thank the farmers and graders who stepped up immediately, to ensure there would be no disruption in the supply of high quality eggs to the Alberta market. Overcoming tragedy is not easy, but the burden is made that much easier, knowing you have such a strong support system behind you.

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PURPOSE OF THE AEP

AEP exists so that 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.

AEP OFFICE HOURS

Our office will be **closed on Friday, July 1st** for Canada Day, **Monday, August 1st** for the Civic Holiday and **Monday, September 1st** for Labour Day. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience.

EGG PRICE UPDATE

Effective: **June 12th, 2011**
(Week #25)

Grade A

X Large	\$1.930	↑
Large	\$1.930	↑
Medium	\$1.710	↑
Small	\$1.330	↑
Nest Run	\$1.817	↑
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

From Your Board of Directors, Continued from Page 1

The Board would like to extend their thanks for the swift response and heroic efforts of the fire departments that fought the fire and successfully prevented it from spreading to the Sparks grading station or the Gilani family homes. We would also like to thank the AEP staff, who went into action as soon as they received word of the fire. Not only did they keep stakeholders informed throughout the day, but they were on-site at Sparks as quickly as possible to provide any and all assistance to Sparks.

Regional Meetings

The Board would like to thank all the producers and industry representatives that participated in the AEP regional meetings, held recently in Edmonton, Balzac and Lethbridge. These sessions were an excellent opportunity for producers to get together to discuss various issues and for AEP staff to provide producers with updates on a wide range of projects.

From Your Board of Directors is a regular column in EggNotes. It highlights the major issues and initiatives of the Board.

Director Recruitment

Have you ever thought about becoming an Alberta Egg Producers Board Director? A new resource, the Director Recruitment Package, has been developed to help explain what being a Director involves, as well as the benefits and challenges that come with being a member of the Board. The package outlines the various Board positions, profiles current Directors and provides details about how you can get involved. If you would like a copy of the 2011 AEP Director Recruitment package, please contact the AEP office.



AEP SPONSORSHIP RECIPIENTS

The recipients for the 2011 Alberta Egg Producers sponsorship to the Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) National Egg Producer Conference have been chosen. AEP would like to thank all of the producers who inquired about and applied for the sponsorship. **Congratulations to Dan & Bernadette Vandeborn, Rick & Beatrice Visser and Matt Schmaltz!**

Two producers from each of these production units will be attending the conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, from July 3rd to 6th. Their hotel, registration and meal costs will be covered by AEP. Hopefully all the lucky sponsorship recipients learn something new and enjoy the conference.

BIO-SECURITY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Ensure everyone entering the restricted area wears protective clothing, footwear and hair covering, and sanitizes their hands. Producers should provide this equipment for all visitors to their farm.

***Bio-Security Tip of the Month** is a regular column in EggNotes. It highlights a practical production idea aimed at keeping hens healthy and eggs safe.*

From Your Producer Services Manager

AEP Producer Website Launched

AEP is pleased to announce the launch of our new website, developed just for producers!

www.albertaeggproducers.ca

On the website, you will find information and resources you need as an egg producer in Alberta. Here are just a few of the resources you will find on the new AEP producers website:

- Forms (ie: Flock Count, Marketing, Pullet Sale, Lease Agreement)
- Upcoming Events
- Contact Us (contact AEP staff via e-mail)
- AEP Policies and Regulations
- SC-SC Manuals and Forms
- Emergency Response Plan
- Past Editions of EggNotes
- Information on a wide variety of industry topics
- Egg Jokes
- Much, much more

Please call the AEP office to get your username & password for the site.

We hope you enjoy exploring and using this new resource!

AEP would love to hear your suggestions for information you would like to see included on the new producers' website. Please call the AEP office with your ideas!



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ABOUT EGGNOTES



EggNotes is the official newsletter of the Alberta Egg Producers.

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

Submission deadline for the next issue of *EggNotes*:
August 19th, 2011

Next issue of *EggNotes*:
September 2nd, 2011

"YOKES" OF THE MONTH



Guaranteed to crack you up!

Q: Why do eggs hide in the dark?

A: Because they are a little chicken!

Two eggs are being boiled in a saucepan.

Egg #1: "Ouch, it's getting hot in here!"

Egg #2: "Argghh!!! A talking egg!"

From Your Producer Services Manager, Continued from Page 3

New Lease Procedures

In order to simplify and streamline quota leases, a new Lease Agreement Form and lease fee structure has been developed. The new lease agreement form will combine several documents into one, acting as the request for lease, lease agreement and lease approval.

Effective July 1st, 2011, a quota leasing fee of \$100.00 (+GST) will be charged for any late or incomplete lease agreement and for any lease change or early cancellation request. The complete lease agreement form must be received at least 14 days in advance of the lease commencement date. The lessor is responsible for paying any lease fees.

Here are the steps to follow, if you have a new lease or a new lease renewal, that you need processed:

1. The producer leasing out quota (lessor), obtains a copy of the Lease Agreement Form, either by downloading it from the producer website or requesting it from the AEP office.
2. The lessor fills in the top portion of the Lease Agreement Form with details about the lease and signs the form.
3. The lessor faxes the signed Lease Agreement Form to the producer leasing in the quota (lessee).
4. The lessee completes the bottom portion of the Lease Agreement Form with details about space density and signs the form.
5. The lessee faxes the signed Lease Agreement Form to the AEP office. In order to avoid lease fees, the completed form must be submitted at least 14 days before the lease start date. The lessor is responsible for ensuring the form is submitted on time.
6. AEP will review the Lease Agreement Form and ensure it meets the requirements of our leasing policies. A lease approval and any revised quota certificates and levy statements, will then be sent out to producers.

An important point to remember is that it is your responsibility to keep track of your lease dates. AEP will provide notification about expiring leases, at least 8 weeks before the lease ends. However, it will be your responsibility to submit the Lease Agreement Form to AEP at least 14 days before the lease start date. If you have any questions about this new process, please contact Delphi Palmer at ext.127.

From Your Producer Services Manager is a regular column in EggNotes. It features major industry-specific updates and information.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

July 3-6

EFC National Egg Producer Conference & Board Meeting (Newfoundland)

July 13

PIE Meeting

July 15

SETT Meeting

July 19

AEP SE Insurance Committee Meeting

July 20

SE Prevention & Response Team Meeting

July 27

AEP Strategic Planning Day

July 28

AEP Board Meeting

August 24

PMC Meeting

September 1

SETT Meeting



Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG) Update

Water Resource Management and Policy

A new report has just been made public that makes some dramatic and what could be far reaching recommendations on water policy and resource management. Here are some of the report's opening statements on water: "It is dangerous to take water for granted"; "Development has outstripped our systems of understanding and managing it"; "An essential component of our future prosperity will be the new investment in stewarding supplies."

The Premier's Council For Economic Strategy states that the right to draw water from rivers is governed by a system of water allocation that is a century old and based on 'first in time... first in right'. "The system is now out of sync with changing economic and demographic patterns and lacks the flexibility to respond to changing demand." The report is challenging the ability of 'fit-fir' to serve future public and economic needs, and concludes that the current system is not up to managing a valuable, essential and often scarce resource.

The Council's primary recommendation is to create an "Alberta Water Authority as an independent organization to ensure optimal water management across the province." It would create and maintain a fully integrated and accessible water information system, develop a 25-year infrastructure plan to support effective water management, and oversee an Alberta water allocation exchange to allow licensees to lease or sell surplus allocation not currently being used.

It is unlikely we will see any action taken by the Provincial government in response to the report and its recommendations, until a new Premier has been elected; however, it appears all candidates are supporting the report.

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP)

The ILWG is working with a small team under the Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta, to conduct a thorough review of the SSRP's Regional Advisory Committee's "Advice to Cabinet". The team is developing a number of key messages on agricultural interests that are either outlined or missed in the "Advice". The document will be provided to ILWG member organizations in the next few weeks.

***Intensive Livestock Working Group Update** is a regular column in EggNotes. It features summary briefs from the ILWG's monthly meetings.*

CLASSIFIED ADS



#1) For Sale:

2,000-3,000 Bovan white pullets
19 weeks on July 19th, 2011

Contact:

Call Al Keshwani
1-877-534-4676

#2) For Sale:

250 Lohmann white pullets
19 weeks on July 20th, 2011

Contact:

Call Eli
780-837-0796

#3) For Sale:

1,300 white & 500 brown pullets
19 weeks on August 5th, 2011

Contact:

Call Susan or Tom at STS Farms
780-963-3249

#4) For Sale:

300 Lohmann white pullets
19 weeks on August 20th, 2011

Contact:

Call Ted at Neudorf Colony
403-946-4051
Barn ext. 321
House ext. 137

From Your Research Officer

Folate-Fortified Eggs

Folate is a B vitamin that enables cell growth and division. Folate deficiencies can result in an increased risk of cancer, dementia and mental debility in older populations, as well as an increased risk of neural tube defects in infants. Mandatory folic acid fortification of cereal products has been in place in Canada since 1998, to target the Recommended Daily Intake of 150-600 ug per person per day. There is a difference in bio-availability and safety between supplemented folic acid and folate from food sources.

Studies at the University of Manitoba recently demonstrated that folic acid added to laying hen diets is deposited in the egg as natural folate (95% of this is found in the yolk) and that laying hens fed 4 ug of folic acid per kg of feed, can produce eggs with about 40 ug of folate per egg. This is approximately a threefold increase that elevates eggs to an "excellent" source of folate. Furthermore, the Hy-Line hens in the study actually laid more eggs as folic acid supplementation increased to 64 ug/kg of feed, implying a higher folic acid requirement for early-maturing birds. Enriched eggs stored for four weeks at 4°C experienced no change in folate levels.

Eggs Contain Significant Quantities of Antioxidants

Antioxidants are substances that protect against the effects of free radicals, which are molecules produced when the body breaks down food, or is exposed to environmental stressors such as tobacco or radiation. Free radicals can damage cells and have been linked to diseases such as cancer and heart disease. Recent research from the University of Alberta, to be published in Food Chemistry, suggests that eggs contain significant quantities of antioxidants. The study investigated the total antioxidant capacity of yolk extracts and the effect of cooking methods on the composition and activity. The study concluded that the antioxidant activity of an uncooked egg yolk is almost twice that of an apple. Cooking decreased the antioxidant activity by half, making a cooked egg's activity similar to that of an apple. The researchers compared wheat and corn based hen diets and it was discovered that corn provided slightly more antioxidants to the egg.

***From Your Research Officer** is a new column in EggNotes.*

It provides information on the latest research findings, technologies, production methods and market trends.

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY!

On June 2nd and 3rd, the University of Alberta's Poultry Research Centre (PRC) celebrated its 25th anniversary. Faculty, university staff, industry and government representatives gathered together to celebrate, reflect on past successes and usher in the next 25 years of research.

AEP has been a proud supporter of PRC, which is now a globally recognized leader in poultry research. AEP has pursued research through partnership agreements with collaborating organizations, which has allowed AEP to target priority areas, by leveraging research dollars through combined funding resources. The efficiency of this approach is reflected in the PRC's 2010 annual report; in 2010, AEP contributed \$7,500 in project-specific funding, in addition to over \$30,000 in ongoing funding, which resulted in over \$2 million in total research investment for projects directly benefiting egg producers and processors. For every \$1 dollar that AEP has invested in PRC, another \$277 has been invested by other parties.

As AEP works to balance short and long term research needs, promote multi-disciplinary research and overcome the challenges of applying and commercializing research, it will be increasingly important for AEP to continue to engage directly with the PRC, to discuss various industry issues, opportunities and priorities. All the best on the next 25 years!

Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada – Seminar Recap

On May 11th, the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada (AWFC) hosted a seminar to discuss the future of hen housing systems in Canada. The event was well attended by AEP staff and producers. The researchers – Dr. Ian Duncan and Dr. Michelle Jendral – did an excellent job providing a summary of the history of the egg industry and reviewing all the various housing system options available to producers. Using Europe and the United States as examples, the underlying message was that the conventional cage housing system, which has been the industry standard for more than 60 years, appears to be losing traction to the other alternatives.

Both researchers agreed that, moving forward, all prevalent housing systems should promote 'the five freedoms' for egg laying hens. From this perspective, Dr. Duncan reviewed the pros & cons of conventional cages, followed by a similar review of various enriched cage, free-range and free-run housing systems, by Dr. Jendral. The third presenter was Ron Hamilton, an organic Alberta egg producer. He provided a first-hand account of both the advantages and the unique challenges he faces, as a result of his choice of housing system. This peer-to-peer approach was a very effective means of sharing information and experiences with fellow producers.

AEP will continue to work closely with researchers, industry experts and producers, to further investigate the effectiveness and impact of all housing system alternatives, to ensure the Alberta egg industry enjoys a socially responsible, profitable and sustainable future.

Medium Egg Survey – Reminder

In early June, the Medium Egg Survey was mailed to all producers. There has been a good response to date, but there are still many producers who have not yet submitted their survey.

It's not too late! If you have not yet completed your survey, you can still participate by submitting the survey you received in the mail or by doing so online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/eggbackground>. If you did not receive a copy of the survey in the mail, or have questions about it, please contact Val Carney (780-415-2269) or Doug Korver (780-492-3990).

In the coming months, the Medium Egg Project researchers may be contacting producers for additional information. Remember that by submitting your information, you are helping to develop strategies that will help Alberta egg farmers produce more large eggs and become more profitable in the future.

ALBERTA EGG MARKET UPDATE

The Nielson preliminary retail sales data is available up to June 4th, 2011 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.4 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; an 8.5% decrease from the previous 4-week period (ending May 7th) and a 1.9% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2010.

Nielson retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 3.3% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta. Omega-3 eggs have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 6.2% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 3.3 million dozen eggs (10.3% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

AEP ONLINE!

Remember to tell everyone you meet about the AEP 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



From Your Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Alberta Egg Producers wrapped up spring with eggcellent Aggie Days shows in Calgary and Lethbridge. Not only were these events very successful, but they marked the retirement of the old AEP booth. AEP hopes you can saddle up and head on over to the Calgary Stampede, to see the debut of our brand new, highly interactive “You Be the Farmer” booth!

AEP 2011 Highlights

- Total # of events/sponsorships, from Jan-Jun..... 93
- Total # of presentations (health/education), from Jan-Jun..... 90

AEP Website Updates

The following updates have been made on the AEP website, so we encourage all of you to *Get Cracking* to eggs.ab.ca

- Link to EFC’s “Get Cracking” Facebook page added to home page
- Link to EFC’s “Get Cracking” YouTube channel added to home page

Upcoming Events:

AEP is proud to be participating in these EGGcellent events

- Calgary Stampede July 8 – 17
- Premier’s Stampede BBQ (Calgary) July 11
- Premier’s Breakfast (Edmonton) July 21

If you have any questions about these events, please feel welcome to contact David Webb at ext.126. Don’t forget to stay in touch to keep us updated about what’s happening in your area.

From Your Marketing & Communications Coordinator is a regular column in EggNotes.

It highlights important AEP news & events and features useful industry facts.

