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From Your Board of Directors

During the past few months, both your Chairman (Michael Froese) and Vice-Chair (Joe Kleinsasser) have attended a number of industry meetings. Most recently, we met with the four other supply managed boards at the Alberta Milk office in Edmonton, where we had the opportunity to meet with Andre Tremblay and Peter Kuperis, both representatives from the Alberta Government. The group discussed various trade agreements and got a greater insight into the types of trade policies being considered by the provincial government.

The New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA), which came into effect on July 1st, 2010, is a contract between the governments of BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. This agreement establishes Canada’s largest interprovincial free trade zone and creates a framework for cooperation to bolster the economies of the west. The agreement aims to remove barriers to trade, investment and labor mobility across all economic sectors, but does not speak to supply managed sectors. As the government representatives noted, “It is up to the supply managed sectors to agree on what they want to do within the agreement. There are no impediments.” The exemptions provided to supply-management still remains an issue.

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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 Monday, May 23rd**, for Victoria Day and **Friday, July 1st**, for Canada Day. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience.

EGG PRICE UPDATE

Effective: **April 17th, 2011**
(Week #17)

Grade A

X Large	\$1.900 ---
Large	\$1.900 ---
Medium	\$1.680 ---
Small	\$1.300 ---
Nest Run	\$1.789 ---
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

Trans-Pacific Partnership: Supply management cannot affect the government's ability to manage imports at negotiated levels.

Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement: The government's desire to participate has just been announced, though the topics for discussion are not yet known.

WTO Agreement: The government is carefully monitoring the negotiations and believes the round is nearing an impasse. The potential impact to supply management is unclear at this time.

The government representatives were quite open to talking to the supply managed sectors (SM5) and were eager to receive honest feedback. Your AEP Board of Directors is working hard to position the Alberta egg industry as best we can and are getting as much information as possible to make well-considered long-term decisions for all Alberta egg producers.

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

Agriculture Leaders Debate

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) hosted an election debate about agricultural issues on April 11th in Ottawa. The event was broadcast on CPAC and has been archived on the CFA website.

Minister of Agriculture, Gerry Ritz, stated that the Conservatives would "put farmers first" through a national farm and food strategy to be developed in the coming years. Wayne Easter discussed in some detail the Liberals' national food strategy to promote healthy living, buying local, safe food, sustainable farm incomes and environmental sustainability. Pat Martin referenced the NDP's food strategy, which was conceived by his party following consultations with Canadians across the country. André Bellavance described the Bloc's "ambitious" plan which focuses on food sovereignty, supply management, income security and investment in processing capacity and research. Kate Storey outlined the Green vision of support for cooperative marketing, smaller farms, more farms, protections against substandard imports and "decentralized agriculture that would bring jobs back to farms and towns." All parties agreed that the current Agri-Stability program is insufficient when farmers need government assistance if disaster strikes. The winner of the debate was clearly the Canadian farmer!

EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP

Egg Farmers of Canada recognized and celebrated the legacy of Laurent Souigny, who retired at the end of March, after 11 years of service as the EFC Chairman.

Over the past decade, Laurent's tireless dedication to the entire Canadian egg industry family, his championing of supply management for future generations, and his respected leadership on many key agriculture issues have been nothing short of exemplary. He inspires us to continue working toward his vision of a dynamic Canadian egg industry that functions in the best interest of all stakeholders.

Egg farmers from across the country congratulate Laurent on his numerous achievements and wish him a very happy, healthy and well-earned retirement!



BIO-SECURITY TIP OF THE MONTH

Limit visitors to essential people. Essential visitors entering the CAZ should be by appointment.

***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

Medium Egg Survey

Alberta has historically produced a high number of medium sized eggs, which can have a significant impact on a producer's profitability and also adds to the cost of the industrial product program. In order to better understand the reasons behind Alberta's high proportion of medium eggs, AEP has asked the University of Alberta, in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture, to complete a project to discover management practices that result in the over-production of medium sized eggs.

The project team has developed a survey to collect information on management practices for producers to complete. You will be receiving your survey by mail or e-mail within the next few weeks. AEP asks that you complete this survey and return it to the project team at the UofA. If you need any help filling-in the survey, members of the project team will be available to assist you at each of the three Regional Meetings in June.

The purpose of the survey is to gather data on farm demographics and management practices, from egg producers across Alberta. Participation is greatly appreciated, but completely voluntary. A summary of the information gathered will be shared with AEP and all egg producers when the project is finished. By sharing your farm practices, you will be contributing to the development of strategies to improve egg farm profitability, by replacing the production of medium sized eggs with large eggs. Together, we can work to improve the Alberta egg industry!

2011 Census of Agriculture

The Census of Agriculture, which is conducted every five years, is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 10th. Any person responsible for operating a farm or agricultural operation should complete a questionnaire. Canada Post will deliver the questionnaire and respondents will be able to submit their responses on paper, by telephone or on the Internet.

The Census of Agriculture provides valuable statistical data about Canada's farm sector. Ensure your farm is included in Canada's definitive national agricultural profile, by submitting your census questionnaire!

For more information on the 2011 Census of Agriculture, visit:
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/ca-ra2011/index-eng.htm>

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

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*:
June 17th, 2011

Next issue of *EggNotes*:
June 30th, 2011

“YOKES” OF THE MONTH



Guaranteed to crack you up!

Q: What did the chick say when his mom laid an orange?

A: Look what Momalade!

Man: We had no eggs for breakfast this morning, so I jumped on a box of corn flakes. Does that make me a serial killer?

Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG) Update

Phosphorous Strategy

The goal of the ILWG's project is to provide the livestock industry with a long-term manure management strategy to help minimize its impact on surface water quality, without compromising competitiveness. Over the next few weeks the ILWG will be developing a manure transport cost matrix to bring some metrics to moving manure the greater distances required to spread at agronomic limits. This should bring the cost challenge into sharp focus.

Land Use Framework

In light of the political landscape in Alberta, the ILWG was very much surprised when the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) Regional Advisory Committee's (RAC) "Advice to Cabinet" was released March 25th. The early prognosis is that agriculture and irrigation received strong support from the RAC, however, the jury may still be out on the advice they gave regarding conservation management areas. There are also repeated references to agricultural ecological goods and services made in generic terms, with no clear description of what those services may look like.

There is now a mechanism where commodity groups and individual producers can respond to government by completing a workbook now available at www.landuse.alberta.ca. The ILWG is conducting a review of the document and will develop key messages that will be passed onto commodity groups for consideration when completing the workbook

Clean Air Strategy (CAS)

The ILWG participated in an Alberta Environment (AENV) focus group, reviewing a new version of the Clean Air Strategy (CAS). We expressed concerns about the lack of livestock industry engagement and subsequently had Bev Yee, an Assistant Deputy Minister at AENV, attend a recent ILWG meeting where she overviewed the process. She stated the strategy was at a very high level and industry will be re-engaged when they begin to develop details. In its early stages, the strategy will likely be limited to setting ambient Particulate Matter (PM) and Ozone (O²) standards. This will require the establishment of air quality management frameworks that have a strong monitoring component to identify changing trends, long before they become critical issues.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

May 4-5

EFC Board Meeting

May 4

AEP Insurance Committee Meeting

May 5

SE Prevention & Response Meeting

May 10

PMC Meeting

May 11

Animal Welfare Foundation: Is There A Future For Batter Cages?

May 12

APIEMT Meeting

May 17

AEP Board Meeting

June 2

Alberta Farm Animal Welfare Steering Committee Meeting

June 2-3

PRC 25th Anniversary

June 12-14

Poultry & Egg Processors Council

June 21

AEP Edmonton Regional Meeting

June 22

AEP Calgary Regional Meeting

June 23

AEP Lethbridge Regional Meeting

June 29

ILWG Meeting

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Update

2011 Livestock Care Conference Highlights

AFAC hosted a very successful conference on “Embracing Changes in Animal Welfare” in early April, which drew over 150 people to hear from leading speakers on the topic of farm animal care and participate in interactive sessions. The sessions included topics such as “Who’s in the driver’s seat of livestock welfare”, “Standing up and speaking out” and “Canada sets the bar with new Codes of Practice for farm animal care.”

Below is an excerpt from the “Canada sets the bar with new Codes of Practice for farm animal care” session:

The state of farm animal care is a bit like the state of Missouri; “Show Me” is what the public is asking more often, and agriculture is expected to provide answers. Now, rather than just saying they are doing good things, livestock producers and their industries in Canada can point to specific, newly updated Codes of Practice that detail how responsible farm animal care and handling is carried out.

The new codes couldn’t come at a better time, says Jackie Wepruk, General Manager of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFAACC). Both the rate of progress and the level of expectations in farm animal care have ratcheted up significantly in recent years.

“The new codes provide a huge piece of the puzzle to keep us on the same page with best practices and to address domestic and international market expectations,” says Wepruk. “The codes serve as educational tools, the foundation of assessment programs and reference materials for regulations. It has been a tremendous benefit for all of us involved in farm animal welfare to be working together on this.”

AEP Regional Meetings - REMINDER

Edmonton Regional Meeting Tuesday, June 21st
(Woodvale Golf Course)

Calgary Regional Meeting Wednesday, June 22nd
(Balzac Community Hall)

Lethbridge Regional Meeting Thursday, June 23rd
(German Canadian Club)

Please complete the attached registration form and submit to AEP ASAP.
We hope to see you there!

CLASSIFIED ADS



#1) For Sale:

3,700 Bovan white pullets
19 weeks on July 2nd, 2011

Contact:

Call Kerry at Spring Coulee Pullets
403-969-2368

#2) For Sale:

250-300 Lohmann white pullets
19 weeks on July 26th, 2011

Contact:

Call Joe at Roseglen Colony
403-838-2272
Barn ext. 712
House ext. 623

#3) 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

#4) For Sale:

Solo 5-gallon battery operated
backpack sprayer with high and low
pressure spray for vaccinating
pullets. New – still in box.

Contact:

Call Willy at 403-752-4176 or call
Ted at 403-536-0056

U.S. Egg Industry Update

Below are updates on recent events in the US, on the topic of hen housing. It is important for Alberta egg producers to be aware of what is happening around the world, as it may impact decisions you make on your farm.

Washington

American Humane Association officials are hailing the groundbreaking vote made on April 11th in the Washington state House of Representatives approving Senate Bill 5487, as an historic piece of legislation that will significantly improve animal welfare in commercial egg-laying chicken operations.

The legislation will phase out the use of 'battery cage' housing for egg-laying hens and instead mandate use of an approved American Humane Association housing system, requiring more space and the use of what is known as the enriched colony model. Enriched colony housing allows hens to exhibit natural behaviors such as spreading their wings and turning around, as well as offering elements such as nests, perches and scratching areas. The April 11th vote in the House follows previous approval in the State Senate, where the legislation will now return for concurrence, before moving to the desk of the Governor for final approval.

Oregon

Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has proposed legislation that would ban all forms of cages and require 216 square inches of space for each laying hen in a cage-free house. Their legislation would apply to only the production of shell eggs and give a pass to eggs produced for breaking. HSUS is now suggesting that maybe they would be willing to compromise with producers at 144 square inches per bird but keep the ban on all forms of cages.

The Oregon state egg producers are, however, supporting legislation (Senate Bill 805) that would allow them a 15-year phase in of enriched colony houses with 116 square inches of space per hen. Their bill would apply to the production of all caged eggs and would therefore not exempt those produced for the egg products market. It is interesting to note that the Oregon Humane Society is supporting the egg farmers and SB805. To confirm the Oregon Humane Society's support, their executive director, Sharon Harmon, joined Senator Peter Courtney in writing a guest column for the Oregonian newspaper. While Oregon is a ballot initiative state, HSUS has yet to indicate whether they will gather signatures and put their measures before the voters.

YOU ARE INVITED!

AEP is pleased to have the opportunity to invite producers to a special event presented by the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada: "Is there a future for cages in Canada?"

The time is ripe for a serious consideration of cages and egg production. Do they have a future in Canada, or should we be looking for alternative husbandry systems? From January 2012, cages will be banned in the European Union. Also, in 2010, several states in the U.S. and our own Manitoba made the decision to phase out cages. It seems that change is in the wind.

This meeting will examine the pros and cons of cages for egg production particularly from an animal welfare point of view. The various alternative husbandry systems available for egg production will be described together with their strengths and weaknesses. Finally, a local producer will discuss the practical challenges of producing eggs in a non-cage system.

Date: Wednesday, May 11th

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Place: 86 Freeport Blvd NE
Calgary

Best Western Premier Freeport Inn
(beside the AEP office)

To confirm your attendance, please contact the AEP office at 1-877-302-2344 x0. Attendance will be limited to the first 40 respondents.

Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) Summer Meeting

Egg Farmers of Canada's (EFC) Summer Meeting is a fantastic opportunity for Alberta producers to interact with other egg farmers from across the country. This is your chance to learn more about EFC and the issues currently facing the Canadian egg industry. AEP encourages all egg producers to attend this meeting. In an effort to demonstrate our commitment to producer development, AEP will sponsor up to three egg production units to attend this year's event.

This sponsorship includes hotel, airfare and conference registration costs, up to a maximum of \$2,600 per individual / \$4,700 per couple. Preference will be given to registered producers who have not attended the national conference in the last three years. Interested producers must indicate their intentions in writing, by submitting their request to the Producer Services Manager at the AEP office no later than Friday, May 20th. If more than three producers apply, a random draw from all eligible applicants will be made on Tuesday, May 24th. Everyone who applies will be notified of the status of their application on Tuesday, May 24th.

At the request of the Colony elders, sponsorship requests for Colony producers will be made by the Colony directors and must be authorized by Colony elders in advance.

AEP sponsored producers will be expected to attend all business and networking portions of the event, in order to receive full reimbursement allowances. The Egg Producers of Newfoundland and Labrador have created a website with information about the conference; go to www.nleggs.ca and click the 'Conference 2011' link in the navigation bar.

Registration for the 2011 National Egg Producer Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland is now open! The event runs from July 4-6. Please contact Peggy Galbraith at ext.0 if you need more information or have any questions.



ALBERTA EGG MARKET UPDATE

The Nielson preliminary retail sales data is available up to April 9th, 2011 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.4 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 2.0% decrease from the previous 4-week period and a 5.3% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2010. NOTE: Sales data is compared to the previous year; for 2010 this period included Easter (April 2nd, 2010), whereas the 2011 data will track Easter sales within the May 7th report.

Nielson retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 2.3% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta. Omega-3 eggs have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 3.1% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 3.2 million dozen eggs (10.1% 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

April was a very busy month for AEP, highlighted by a successful Easter Eggstravaganza, hosted by the Calgary Zoo. Not only were both the AEP booth and the AEP-sponsored egg decorating activity kept incredibly busy by the more than 20,000 visitors over the weekend, but AEP was also featured during a live segment on Global TV's Saturday morning broadcast!

AEP 2011 Highlights

- Total # of events participated in, from Jan-Apr..... 18
- Total # of events sponsored, from Jan-Apr..... 57

Alberta Egg Producers Website Update

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

- Spring theme has replaced the Winter theme

Upcoming Events:

AEP is proud to be participating in these EGGcellent events

- Aggie Days Lethbridge May 10 & 11

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.

