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## From Your Board of Directors

Your Board of Directors would like to provide an update about the groundbreaking agreement jointly announced by United Egg Producers (UEP) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) on July 7<sup>th</sup>, regarding egg laying hen housing in the United States. UEP/HSUS are seeking a new federal law that would transition the American egg industry from primarily conventional cage production to enriched colony cage production. Their goal is to have the law in place by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and the transition being fully implemented by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2029. In addition to housing systems, the UEP/HSUS agreement covered a wide range of issues including: egg product labeling, euthanasia, molting, air quality and ammonia levels.

Although Canadian egg farmers are free to choose from a variety of housing systems, your Board of Directors would strongly recommend that any Alberta egg producer that is planning to re-cage their layer barn in the near future, should reflect on these developments and consider implementing alternate housing systems, other than conventional cages. If any producers would like more information about either the UEP/HSUS agreement or alternative housing options, please do not hesitate to contact your Board of Directors or the AEP office.

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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, September 5<sup>th</sup>** for Labour Day and **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** for Thanksgiving. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience.

## EGG PRICE UPDATE

Effective: **June 12<sup>th</sup>, 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**

## Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) Update

### **Industrial Products (IP) Program**

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, the EFC Board adopted a new policy and protocol, for the operation of EFC's Industrial Products (IP) Program. Many of the industry practices reflected in the expired 2006 IP contract will continue, along with incremental changes to maintain the financial sustainability of the IP system, in a reasonable and balanced fashion.

Under the new IP Program Policy and Protocol, EFC will continue to supply processors with a weekly volume of eggs. The guaranteed supply volume will continue to be set quarterly, based on industrial egg utilization by the processor. The most significant modification that the new Protocol brings to the current IP Program is with respect to end-use pricing for industrial eggs supplied by, or on behalf of, EFC, to the processing sector.

### **Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC) Complaint**

The Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC) has received a complaint from the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council (CPEPC) against EFC, regarding their recent decision to implement policy on industrial egg pricing. AEP has applied for "intervenor" status in this matter. AEP will provide further updates as this situation evolves and our potential role in its resolution becomes more clear.

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

**HAPPY  
HARVEST!!!**



## AEP PRODUCER WEBSITE

Calling all Alberta egg farmers!

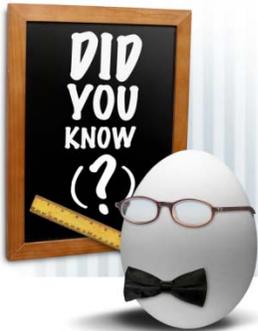
If you are looking for information about the egg industry, including:

- ✓ Forms (Lease Agreement, Flock Count, Pullet Sale, etc...)
- ✓ SC-SC Manuals
- ✓ Past editions of EggNotes
- ✓ Quota Price Statistics
- ✓ Much, much more...

Please be sure to check out AEP's producer website at:

[www.albertaeggproducers.ca](http://www.albertaeggproducers.ca)

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



## BIO-SECURITY

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Use separate footwear (changed daily or without visible soiling) within each production facility.

***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

### Field Statistics Update

The EFC field inspectors have been busy travelling around the province, completing the Start Clean – Stay Clean (SC-SC) and Animal Care Program (ACP) evaluations. The average score for these programs have been tallied and here are the results:

- 91 SC-SC layer evaluations have been completed in 2011
  - ✓ Alberta's average score is 98.46%
  - ✓ 20 Alberta producers have scored a perfect 100% rating
- 98 ACP evaluations have been completed in 2011
  - ✓ Alberta's average score is 97.95%
  - ✓ 50 Alberta producers have scored a perfect 100% rating
- 48 SC-SC pullet evaluations have been completed in 2011
  - ✓ Alberta's average score is 96.88%
  - ✓ 20 Alberta producers have scored a perfect 100% rating

AEP would like to thank all our producers for their commitment to these programs and their hard work every day, ensuring that Albertans continue to have a safe supply of high quality eggs that are produced with a high standard of animal care.

While scores in the on farm programs are excellent thus far in 2011, there is always room for continuous improvement. When producers receive their program evaluations, AEP asks that you take the time to review corrective actions and identify areas where improvements can be made on your farm.

### **Planning Barn Renovations? Call AEP!!!**

There are many different hen housing systems to consider when updating your barn, and changes in the industry are happening quickly. Housing systems are a big investment that most producers expect to be in production for the next 30 to 40 years. To ensure you have the resources you need to make an informed decision, please call AEP to setup a meeting. AEP will provide you with an update on what's happening in the industry, as well as both the unique benefits and challenges that come with each housing system, so you are better equipped and feel more confident making the choice that is best for you, your flock and your farm.

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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*:  
**October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Next issue of *EggNotes*:  
**October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

## "YOKES" OF THE MONTH



*Guaranteed to crack you up!*

**Q:** What do you call a mischievous egg?

**A:** A practical yolker!

**Q:** Why are chickens good employees?

**A:** Because they work around the cluck!

## **From Your Producer Services Manager, Continued from Page 3**

There are also a number of programs available to assist you if you are out of production during your renovations. Quota Credit and Levy Abatement programs require that you apply in advance in order to receive full program benefits. Calling AEP to discuss housing system options in advance, will also help ensure that any applications can be prepared and submitted on time.

### **Regulatory Requirements for Selling Eggs**

Producers that sell eggs from their farm gate or at farmers' markets, should be aware of the regulatory requirements set out under the Purchase and Sale of Eggs and Processed Eggs Regulation. According to the regulation, eggs can be sold at a farmers' market or from farm gate, directly to consumers for their own personal use, provided that:

- The eggs are produced on the producer's own farm
- The eggs are clean, have no visible cracks and are not leaking
- The eggs have been kept at an ambient temperature of 7°C or less, after being washed and placed in cartons (*per the SC-SC program, your barn egg cooler for unwashed eggs should be maintained at a temperature of 10-13°C*)
- The eggs are packed in clean cartons that are conspicuously labeled with the word "UNINSPECTED" in letters that are at least 2 cm in height

If you have any questions about the Start Clean – Stay Clean (SC-SC) Program, the Animal Care (AC) Program or hen housing systems, please feel welcome to contact Christina Robinson, at ext.125.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### **September 13**

WEMA Meeting (Calgary, AB)

### **September 18-22**

IEC Conference (Washington, DC)

### **September 29-30**

EFC Board Meeting (Ottawa, ON)

### **October 3**

AEP Board Meeting (Calgary, AB)

### **October 4**

AEP Strategic Planning (Calgary, AB)

### **October 5-6**

NFACC Conference (Ottawa, ON)

### **October 6**

PHCE Meeting (Edmonton, AB)

### **October 13**

SETT Meeting (Ottawa, ON)

### **October 17-18**

Feeding a Hungry World – Summit  
For Agriculture (Ottawa, ON)

## CLASSIFIED ADS



### **#1) For Sale:**

Advance barn floor sweeper

Contact:

403-588-9250

Please call after 7pm

## **Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG) Update**

### **New ILWG Chair**

The ILWG is pleased to announce that Darren Ference assumed the chair of the ILWG on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Darren brings plenty of organizational experience to the position as he concurrently Chairs the Alberta Turkey Producers, with a diverse background in the livestock/poultry industry.

All ILWG member organizations have congratulated outgoing chair Martin Van Diemem (Alberta Chicken) for more than two years of strong leadership that featured commitment, a passion for the industry and attention to detail. Martin moves onto representing poultry at the Agri-Environmental Partnership Alberta.

### **Farm Safety**

The Government of Alberta has named 15 members of a new council tasked with bringing government and industry together to work towards the shared goal of improved farm safety. It is being co-chaired by Page Stuart, Highland Feeders and Jason Krips, ADM at Alberta Agriculture. Page has reported back to the ILWG that the council has held two meetings and she is impressed with the caliber and commitment of council members.

In the coming months, the council will work to develop an action plan on farm safety. To ensure she has the livestock/poultry perspective, the ILWG has struck a poll group of producers she will use to critique ideas and bounce questions off from time to time.

### **Water Advisory Team**

With growing concern that water policy will be one of the major influencers on the sustainability of agriculture and will dominate the industry/government agenda over the next number of years, Agri-Environmental Partnership Alberta has moved to strike a "Water Advisory Team". The ILWG played a large role on this small team that has developed its terms of reference and will have several seats at the discussion table.

The purpose of the advisory team is to inform, engage and receive input and feedback from agriculture stakeholders, regarding provincial water quality & supply initiatives and water policies related to allocation.

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

## NIRS EQUIPMENT GRANT

Feed costs represent a large component of annual costs in livestock operations. In order to maintain an optimum balance between feed costs and production, feeds analyses are used to formulate rations and/or supplements. Feedstuffs vary widely in nutrient concentration due to location, harvest date, year and other management practices. Analyzing feed for moisture, protein and energy, or to identify key minerals or minor nutrients of interest, can help determine the optimal amount of feed. Feedstuffs can be analyzed using traditional wet chemistry or Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy (NIRS).

Up to 50% of eligible equipment costs, to a maximum of \$20,000, is available for the purchase of NIRS equipment located in Alberta. The funds are provided by the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) and are being administered by the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF). The purpose of the grant is to support the adoption of NIRS by the Alberta agriculture community. Eligible applicants include farms, feeders, feed processors and related research and analytical operations actively working with feed ingredients such as grains, vegetable proteins, co-products and forages/roughages. More information and application forms are available at:

[www.acidf.ca/feeding](http://www.acidf.ca/feeding)

## From Your Research Officer

### **Egg Yolks May Protect Against Osteoporosis**

Recent research conducted in South Korea, suggests that an egg yolk water soluble peptide (YPEP) may act as an alternative to current osteoporosis treatments. After initial experiments confirmed a positive effect of YPEP on bone tissue, the researchers used osteoporosis susceptible rats as an animal model. The rats were fed either a standard diet or a 0.1% YPEP-supplemented diet for 3 months. Rats that were fed the supplemented diet had an increased bone density and thickness, as well as reduced bone loss. The study suggests that YPEP could be a promising alternative to current therapeutic agents for the management of osteoporosis in humans and, in addition, that there could be bone health benefits associated with consuming egg yolks.

### **Genetic Selection of Laying Hens Could Improve Shell Quality**

In a report presented earlier this year, Dr. Max Hincke of the University of Ottawa, discussed a potential solution to the problem that eggs from older birds tend to crack more easily. Hincke noted that while weak shelled eggs becomes a problem as a flock ages, individual birds vary in the extent to which age influences shell quality. Working with Dr. Al Kulenkamp and Dr. George Ansah, at Shaver Poultry Breeding Farms, Dr. Hincke was able to identify three types of DNA linked to egg shell calcification, indicating that variation in this observed trait is partly inheritable. Eggs collected at 40, 60 and 80 weeks of age were analyzed for shell thickness, shell breaking strength, shell deformation, egg weight, egg width and egg length. Older birds with one of the three types of DNA produced eggs with thicker shells that tended to be stronger. Hincke concluded that the results could be easily implemented in a layer breeding program once a DNA test is available. It would then become a matter of screening the population of breeding candidates for the desired genes.

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

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

