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Board of Directors Update

Hen housing is one of the most important issues that all egg farmers face, and it has been in the headlines recently. The Retail Council of Canada (RCC) represents many of the grocery chains in Canada, and they made a public announcement about switching to cage-free eggs within 10 years. Major retailers and restaurants, such as Costco, Walmart, Tim Horton's, Harvey's and Swiss Chalet have also committed to going cage-free within the next 4-10 years. Egg Farmers of Canada has also made an announcement that all conventional cages will be phased out over the next 20 years.

Egg Farmers of Alberta previously committed to stop installing conventional cages as of the end of 2014. Your Board of Directors recognizes that there are many producers considering either renovating their barns or building new barns, and they are not sure about what kind of equipment to install. Furnished/enriched cages, aviaries, free-run, free-range and organic systems are all choices to consider, which come with different costs and management challenges. EFA encourages producers to review *Points to Consider When Planning Your Production Facility*, EFA's *Hen Housing Guide*, and other related documents that are available on the producer website. EFA staff will be happy to assist you through the transition, and you should also consult the grading station to determine what market opportunities exist.

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EFA Vision Statement

Healthy Food, Healthy Farms,
Healthy Families.

EFA Mission Statement

Cultivating a sustainable egg industry together with farmers, consumers and other stakeholders.

EFA Office Hours

Our office will be closed **Friday, July 1st for Canada Day** and **Monday, August 1st for Heritage Day**. We hope this does not cause any inconvenience.

Egg Price Update

Effective January 31, 2016:

Grade A

X Large	\$1.970
Large	\$1.970
Medium	\$1.740
Small	\$1.370
Nest Run	\$1.854
Pee Wee	\$0.270

Grade B \$0.750

Grade C \$0.150

From the minimum paying price, processors can only deduct charges as authorized by the EFA Board. Farm-gate pickup rates were set in August 2010 and no increase in individual freight rates have been approved since that time.

Field Statistics Update

Here's an update on how our farmers are doing with their on-farm programs so far this year:

- 53 SC-SC Layer evaluations have been completed in 2016
 - Alberta's average score: 99.66%
 - 39 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating
- 31 Animal Care Program evaluations have been completed in 2016
 - Alberta's average score: 100%
 - 31 facilities have received a rating of 100%
- 32 SC-SC Pullet evaluations have been completed in 2016
 - Alberta's average score: 99.00%
 - 15 Alberta Pullet Growers have scored a perfect 100% rating
 - 4 pullet growers are newly accredited in the SC-SC Pullet program

We'd like to thank our farmers for their commitment and hard work each and every day to ensure that safe, quality eggs are produced humanely.

EFA Staffing Update

Meet ... Jean Symborski

Jean recently joined EFA as the Marketing and Social Media Coordinator. She holds a Bachelor of Communication Degree, with a Major in Journalism, from Mount Royal University. Since graduating in 2013, Jean has gained experience in both the non-profit and public sectors. She spent a summer as a marketing intern at Accessible Housing, a non-profit dedicated to providing barrier-free homes for those living with a physical disability. After completing her studies, Jean was a communications advisor for two years at Enform, a safety association for the oil and gas industry in Western Canada, where she managed their website and social media. Most recently, she took a break from social media to pursue a year in technical marketing for an oil and gas services company. Since being laid off in January, Jean decided to return to her real passion of new media, technology, and everything marketing and communications. She is thrilled to be involved with EFA as a member of the marketing team.

In her spare time, Jean experiments in the kitchen and makes frequent weekend trips to the mountains. Her boyfriend Felix and two-year-old tabby, Bijoux, are her favourite muse.

Producer Website Update

We are excited to be launching our Producer SharePoint site. Each producer now has their own unique login and password to access a SharePoint site that stores their documents from EFA, so they can access them when it is most convenient. Instructions on how to access and use the SharePoint site are available on the main page of the producer website. Here is a listing of documents currently accessible using SharePoint:

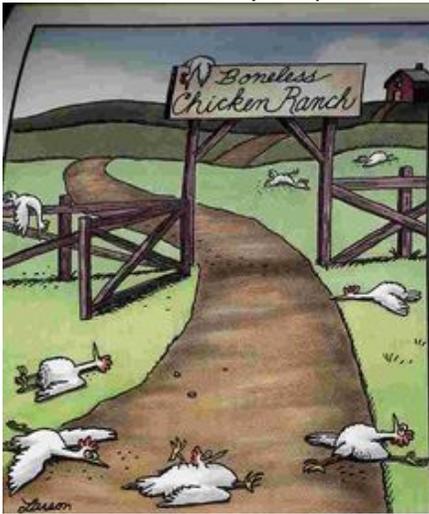
- SC-SC and Animal Care Evaluations
- SE test results
- PEEP assessments
- Levy statements

More will be added over time.

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

"Yolk" of the Month

Guaranteed to crack you up!



Quota Utilization

In February 2016 the EFC Board approved an increase in the quota utilization threshold to 100% from the current 97%, effective as of week 9, 2016. The new Interim National Policy on Managing Inventory allows provincial boards to manage their inventory of birds as they see fit, provided they meet the prescribed threshold of 100%.

When quota is fully allocated, the utilization rate is not 100% as bird inventory levels are less than issued quota. Inventory is impacted by flock mortality and the required 7 days downtime between flock changes. In order to achieve 100% utilization, additional birds beyond a farms' issued quota must be placed.

EFA is working on developing an implementation plan for the utilization change that is orderly and fair to all our farmers. We ask that producers **do not order additional birds** until we officially announce the program and implementation date. With this in mind, here is some early information on what Alberta's plan to implement the quota utilization looks like.

At their meeting on May 3, 2016, the EFA Board determined that in order to bring Alberta's quota utilization threshold to 100%, EFA would allow each quota holder to place their issued quota plus a 3% utilization allowance. In order to implement the use of the 3% utilization allowance, EFA will reduce each quota holder's current issued quota to 97% and allow them to place a 3% utilization allowance in order to maintain current bird inventories. This 3% will move to each quota holder's reserve quota. Farms with capacity and birds can re-activate their quota at their next flock placement. Farms that are at capacity can lease quota to the quota leasing pool.

Going forward the number of birds you can place in your barn will be called your total allowable placement, and will be calculated by taking your issued quota, and adding the 3% utilization allowance.

This change will occur for all producers on the same date, which is yet to be determined.

We will be sending updates to all of our farmers as further details are available on the roll-out of these changes. We thank producers for their patience and co-operation as we make these significant changes to how we manage our quota in Alberta.

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*:
August 5, 2016

Watch for your next issue:
August 19, 2016

Classified Ads



For Sale:

9,000 pullets, 19-weeks in March 2017

Contact Tom at 780-888-7603

For Sale:

500 Lohman Brown, 19-weeks on July 11, 2016

Contact Levi at 403-892-1877

Poultry Health Project Update

This article is presented to you by the Poultry Health Services veterinary team

Egg Farmers of Alberta and Poultry Health Services recently started an ALMA-funded project that will address two main issues: successful flock vaccination and the control of Salmonella Enteritidis, Heidelberg, and Typhimurium, by using an autogenous vaccine. Below is a brief explanation about these goals.

Various vaccines are currently given to birds, by spray or water, and some are administered by injection. Birds react to the vaccines, and in the blood they produce antibodies (protective bodies) that will 'fight' viruses or bacteria if they infect the flock. How good the protection is depends on which vaccine is used, how accurate and how often the vaccine is given, as well as other factors.

As part of the project, blood samples will be taken from the flock several times, with 10 birds sampled each visit. The first samples happen at around 8-10 weeks, so the first pullet SE testing will be at the later end of the window. The second and third visits will happen during the regular layer SE sampling time windows. These blood samples will allow us to check the level of antibodies. We are testing for diseases that can cause a drop in egg production, or issues with shell quality (like Infectious Bronchitis). We ask for patience with the blood test results, as we cannot answer questions until we see the whole picture (when all vaccines are given and birds are in production). The first sample will give us history on the flock, which will be necessary to tell the whole story.

Autogenous Salmonella vaccine was prepared from isolates that have been detected at some of the participating farms. The vaccine needs to be injected in the breast or neck of the birds. For best results, the vaccine can be given as early as 12 weeks; between 14-16 weeks is also very good, but the vaccine should not be given later than 18-19 weeks. Farmers should never vaccinate birds in the layer barn. The earlier the vaccine is given, the earlier the protection will start.

As with all vaccines, farmers need to be careful when injecting. The vaccine is very harmful to people and if you incidentally inject yourself, you should seek immediate help from your family doctor or at a hospital.

A Frequently Asked Questions document with further information about the process and project is available on the Producer Website. Thank you to all the farmers participating in this project. We are looking forward to the results and to see what we can all learn from them.

Upcoming Events

June 22

EFA Research Committee Meeting
(Calgary)

June 29

EFA Board Meeting (Calgary)

July 4-5

EFA Board Training (Calgary)

July 6

Growing Forward 3 Funding
Priorities Meeting (Airdrie)

July 7

Avian Influenza Town Hall Call

July 9-13

EFC Summer Conference
(Mont Tremblant, QC)

July 12

Farm Safety Workshop (Balzac)

July 13

Farm Safety Workshop (Lethbridge)

July 19

Farm Safety Workshop (Leduc)

July 20

Farm Safety Workshop (Grande
Prairie)

July 21

EFA Production Management
Committee Meeting (Calgary)

July 25

Net-Zero Barn Grand Opening
(Brant)

July 25

EFA New Entrant Meeting (Calgary)

July 26

EFA Board Meeting (Calgary)

August 11

EFA Grader Advisory Com Meeting
(Calgary)

Feed Efficiency

What it Means and What it Tells you About Your Operation (Part 1)

By Matt Oryschak, Research Associate – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

What is feed efficiency?

Feed efficiency is the amount of product produced per unit of feed, and it is always less than 1 (no biological process is 100% efficient). It should not be confused with feed conversion, which is the reverse (amount of feed required per unit of production)! Feed efficiency is generally an easier concept to use when talking to most people. When feed efficiency increases it is generally a good thing, whereas when it decreases it is generally regarded as a negative. In the context of egg production, another way of defining feed efficiency is egg mass-to-feed ratio.

How do you calculate feed efficiency for your farm?

Most farms have a reasonably good idea of daily feed consumption, as feed allocation per hen can be controlled via automated feeding systems.

Daily egg mass production per hen housed is the average egg weight multiplied by the number of eggs laid each day. To estimate daily egg mass production per hen on your farm, there are 3 pieces of information you need:

1. Average 30-dozen case weight (in lbs)
2. Number of 30-dozen cases produced per day
3. Number of hens housed

First, calculate daily egg mass production as follows:

$$\text{Daily egg mass production (g/hen/d)} = \frac{\# \text{ cases produced per day} \times \text{case weight (lbs)} \times 454}{\# \text{ of hens housed}}$$

Note: The 454 factor (360 x 1.26) in the above equation converts the number of cases into number of eggs (30 x 12 = 360) and the case weight in lbs into average egg weight in g (454 g/lb ÷ 360 eggs/case = 1.26)

Step 2. Feed efficiency (egg mass:feed ratio) is calculated as:

$$\text{Feed efficiency (egg mass:feed ratio)} = \frac{\text{Daily egg mass production (g/hen/d)}}{\text{Feed allocation (g/hen/d)}}$$

Example: A farm with approximately 12,000 hens allocates 105 g of feed per hen per day. The flock generates 32 cases of eggs per day with an average case weight of just under 48 lbs.

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Continued from page 5:

Daily egg mass production for this farm would be:

$$32 \text{ cases} \times 48 \text{ lbs/case} \times 454 \div 12,000 \text{ hens} = 58.1 \text{ g/hen/day}$$

Feed efficiency for this farm would therefore be:

$$58.1 \text{ g egg mass/hen/d} \div 105 \text{ g feed/hen/d} = 0.553$$

What does feed efficiency tell you about your feeding program?

In most situations, feed allocation is controlled by the producer. It therefore serves to reason that changes in feed efficiency result either from a reduction in average egg weight or the number of eggs produced.

The two main drivers of egg production are available energy content of your feed and the ratio of other essential nutrients (e.g., amino acids, minerals, etc.) to energy in the diet. A suggested feed formulation strategy is to set all other requirements (Ca, P, digestible amino acids) in a ratio to energy in the diet. This way feed allocations can be changed without worrying that nutrients are over or under-supplied in the ration. Generally, feed allotments should be adjusted according to the energy density in the diet to ensure that all birds receive their target daily energy (caloric) intake, as per recommendations in the production guide for the specific strain.

The most likely reasons for changes in feed efficiency under commercial conditions are:

- Differences in digestible nutrient content between feed formulas, if formulas change frequently during the production cycle;
- Differences in digestible nutrient content between batches of feedstuffs, if feed formulas don't change dramatically during the production cycle; and/or,
- Changes in the health status of your flock - health challenges increase the amount of energy needed for maintenance functions (e.g., immune system to fight off disease), leaving less energy available to support egg production or reducing feed consumption.

To avoid the first two situations, it is recommended that diets for hens be formulated on a digestible nutrient basis and that individual batches of feedstuffs and mixed feeds be sampled. If you are purchasing ingredients from off farm on a regular basis, you should make sure there is a guaranteed minimum nutrient specification (e.g., oil content in expeller pressed canola meal). If flock performance does not meet expectations, feed allocations may need to be adjusted and samples analysed to identify the cause and to adjust feed formulas accordingly.

The third bullet underscores the importance of good on-farm hygiene and following biosecurity protocols and following best practices under the Start Clean – Stay Clean program. In situations where feed consumption decreases but there is no apparent infectious disease present, testing the feed for mycotoxin levels (e.g., DON) may be warranted.

In part one of this article we discussed:

1. What feed efficiency is in the context of an egg operation (egg mass-to-feed ratio);
2. How to calculate feed efficiency for a farm, using average 30-dozen case weight, egg production (# of cases/d), # of hens housed and daily feed allocation; and,
3. How tracking feed efficiency for your operation can tell you about adverse changes in the digestible nutrient content in the feed, health status of the flock and some basic principles to help manage these risks.

In the next issue of *EggNotes*, we will take a critical look at the relationship between feed efficiency and profitability. If you'd like to read it now, please visit the best production practices page of the producer website: www.albertaeggproducers.ca/best-production-practices/egg-production/.

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

Now it's even easier to subscribe to *EggNotes*! Check out the Publications page on the EFA website to sign-up for a subscription, read the current issue, and even read past issues:

www.eggs.ab.ca/about/publications

Code of Practice

The draft Laying Hen Code of Practice, which has been in the review process since 2012, is expected to be released by the end of June. Once the draft code is released, there will be a 60-day comment period where you can voice your comments about specific recommendations in the code. We anticipate that the updated code will provide guidance on best practices in all types of modern hen housing including furnished and loose housing systems. The code of practice is the foundation for our industry standards and our Animal Care Program and we would like our farmers to get engaged in the code review process in order to demonstrate leadership in animal welfare in the egg industry. EFA will communicate the release of the code and details on how you can voice your feedback to the code committee.

Environmental Farming

Question 4.5 of the Producer Environmental Egg Program (PEEP) asks about energy sub-meters. Finding out how much energy is used for your egg operation is a key step toward being able to look for ways to reduce the amount of energy consumed and still get the job done. Farmers need to know what their consumption is before they can determine how efficient their farm is.

This is a low-hanging fruit opportunity for producers to improve their PEEP score. While the average score on this question was only 3 (out of 10) in 2015, the Growing Forward 2 On Farm Energy Management program is still open, and offers a 100% grant for the cost of up to 3 sub meters or \$3,000.

Having an energy and gas meter installed will allow producers to monitor consumption specifically for the layer barn. Some producers have it set up so they get reports automatically sent to their computer or smart phone. If a producer cannot have a separate meter installed, make sure to look at the overarching utility bills to see how the layer facility may be contributing to energy use.

The Growing Forward 2 Program is ending soon, so act fast! To apply, call Alberta Agriculture at 310-FARM or visit their website: www.growingforward.alberta.ca.

Quota Leasing Pool Update

Overall, the first round of the leasing pool was successful, however we did run into a few challenges and we believe that with a new program like this, it is important to listen to feedback and make improvements.

EFA Board and staff have been recording feedback from our farmers on how the Leasing Pool has been working. Before we launch the pool's second year, we are taking the time to conduct a review to ensure that the main issues that have been identified are addressed. Details of the updated program will be available later this summer.

To all our Alberta egg farming families and our industry partners, have a fun and healthy summer!

Healthy Communities

The devastating Fort McMurray wildfires shocked us all. The Alberta egg industry rallied together to help contribute to the relief efforts. EFA donated \$5,000 to the Red Cross and worked with the provincial graders – Burnbrae Farms and Sparks Eggs – to donate 2,700 dozen eggs to the Edmonton Food Bank. EFA will also match donations from egg farmers, up to a maximum of \$20,000! Contact the office for a pledge form.

Healthy Eggs

With warmer weather ahead of us, it is important to keep in mind proper techniques for wrapping your egg pallets in preparation for transport to the grader, to prevent mold and protect egg quality.

When packing your pallets:

- Ensure there is space between each layer, this will create air circulation which will minimize sweating. Also ensure that there is enough support to the pallet so that eggs aren't damaged during transport.
- Minimize the time a wrapped pallet of eggs is left outside of refrigerated conditions. Even if the pallet is wrapped properly, it will all be for nothing if cold eggs are left in much warmer conditions for any extended period of time.
- Consider using a netted pallet wrap, which will allow for much greater air circulation.

Healthy Birds

Already this year, we have seen many days with temperatures in the high 20s and even low 30s. With a potentially hot summer on its way, it's important to keep a close eye on the temperature in your hen housing area and work to keep it below 30 degrees – this is the danger zone for hens, especially when paired with high relative humidity or when the temperature raises quickly. Keep an eye on your birds, they will let you know when they are getting too warm. Chickens can't sweat. When a chicken gets too hot, she will pant with her beak open and often hold her wings out slightly from her body.

Healthy Farms

The Alberta Government is moving ahead with the next phase of consultations to address how employment standards, occupational health and safety, and labour relations requirements should be applied. This phase of consultations began on June 13th with stakeholders being divided into six groups that will individually focus on the Employment Standards Code, the Labour Relations Code, best practices for agriculture, a review of existing requirements and exemptions and what education, training and certification will be useful. Each group will have about a dozen stakeholders, including both producers and workers, selected from nearly 250 submissions from the agricultural sector, labour groups and technical experts to sit on these boards. Susan Schafers sits on the Employment Standards Code working group that will determine how various employment standards can be implemented in ways that make sense in the context of the agriculture sector.

Additional information, including the full list of the stakeholder that make up the working groups, is available online at www.alberta.ca/farm-and-ranch.cfm.

The AgCoalition will host three meetings across Alberta this month to engage farmers to gather input and strengthen the producer voice during the Government of Alberta's consultation sessions. Meeting participants will collaboratively determine priority issues for each topic and will develop consensus-based positions that will work best for farmers and employees. Input garnered from the meetings will in-turn be communicated to producer nominees participating in the government consultation sessions.

Meetings will take place in Lethbridge on June 22nd, Leduc on June 27th and Grande Prairie on June 30th. An independent third party will facilitate the meetings with two representatives from each sector at each meeting.

EggNotes

Soft Egg Salad with Warm

Pancetta

Dressing



Ingredients

4 eggs
2 oz sliced pancetta, finely chopped
2 shallots, thinly sliced
1 tbsp Dijon mustard
1 tbsp honey
1/2 tsp each salt and pepper
2 tbsp cider vinegar
1/4 cup water
1 bunch kale, trimmed and chopped, about 6 cups
1/2 cup halved red and yellow cherry tomatoes

Directions

Place eggs in medium saucepan and cover with warm water. Set over high heat and bring to boil. Cover with a tight-fitting lid and remove from heat. Let stand for 5 minutes. Drain and place eggs under cold, running water until cool enough to handle; peel and set aside. Meanwhile, set large non-stick skillet over medium heat. Add pancetta and cook for 5 minutes or until browned. Using a slotted spoon, transfer pancetta to paper towel-lined plate. Add shallots to the skillet. Cook for 2 minutes. Stir in mustard, honey, salt and pepper until well combined. Pour in vinegar and water. Simmer for 2 minutes or until slightly reduced. Add kale and tomatoes; toss to coat. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until slightly wilted. Divide kale evenly between plates. Cut each egg in half and place over kale. Scatter pancetta over each serving.

Easter Eggstravaganza Celebrity Cooking Demo

The lucky family that won EFA's social media contest during the Calgary Zoo's Easter Eggstravaganza was treated to a delicious brunch at the EFA office, courtesy of celebrity chef Pierre Lamielle! They were treated to a French style, Mexican inspired,



savory scrambled egg dish. The meal concluded with a sweet and scrumptious chocolate raspberry torte. The family got an up close and personal cooking demo, and were even able to help out, while learning lots about egg nutrition and local egg production.



Alberta Egg Market Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to May 28th, 2016 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.9 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 1.5% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending April 30th) and an 9.8% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2015.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 6.0% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 37.7 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 9.7% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 2.88 million dozen eggs (7.7% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

Upcoming Marketing Events

Come visit the EFA booth at these *EGG*cellent events:

- Calgary Stampede July 7-17, 2016 (in the Western Events centre)

2016 Marketing Statistics

• Total # of events attended:	6
• Total # of school and health presentations:	77
• Total # of events sponsored:	41
• Total # of resources distributed:	32,455
• Total # of promotional items distributed:	26,037