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FIELD SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR/COORDINATOR
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Board of Directors Update

Sustainability is an area where your Board of Directors has been focusing a substantial amount of time, making sure that our industry is socially responsible, environmentally sound and economically viable. Imagine our excitement when an egg farm from Alberta was chosen for not just one, but two national sustainability awards! New York Colony won the inaugural Canadian Poultry Sustainability Award for the both the table egg industry category and the overall poultry industry. Levi Hofer accepted these prestigious awards at the Canadian Poultry Sustainability Symposium in Guelph, Ontario. Jenna Griffin also spoke at the symposium about the Producer Environmental Egg Program (PEEP), which is helping Alberta egg producers identify their impacts on the environment and facilitate the use of best practices. Congratulations to New York Colony for being a leader in the Canadian egg industry and for proactively sharing their story and passion with their fellow egg farmers, industry and government partners, and the Alberta public!

In This Issue – Table of Contents

Egg Price Update	Page 2
EFA Board of Directors Nominations	Page 2
Producer Supplies	Page 2
Levy Update	Page 2
Upcoming Events Calendar	Page 3
Quota Update & Over Base Quota Fee Update	Page 3
Shipping Layers to Processors	Page 3
Field Statistics Update	Page 4
Producer Website Update	Page 5
Egg Farming Best Practice Tip & Bio-Security Tip	Page 5
New Entrant Program	Page 5
New Egg Manager Workshop	Page 5
SC-SC Changes – Category 1 Antibiotics	Page 5
Classified Ads	Page 6
Animal Care Program Updates	Page 6
Reminder: Western Poultry Conference	Page 7
Feature Article: Aggression in Laying Hens	Page 7
Reminder: Farm Safe Plan Workshop	Page 8
Reminder: Animal Care Workshop	Page 9
Feature Article: Protecting Your Farm	Page 9
Alberta Egg Market Update	Page 10
Government Relations Update	Page 10



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

The EFA office will be closed at noon on December 24th for Christmas Eve, closed on December 25th & 26th for Christmas, closed at noon on December 31st for New Year's Eve, closed on January 1st & 2nd for New Year's, and closed on February 16th for Family Day. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience. Happy holidays!

EGG PRICE UPDATE

Effective from **October 5th, 2014:**

Grade A

X Large	\$2.080 ---
Large	\$2.080 ---
Medium	\$1.850 ---
Small	\$1.480 ---
Nest Run	\$1.959 ---
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.

EFA Board of Directors Nominations

At EFA's upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), in February 2015, 2 seats on the EFA Board of Directors will be up for election. Ben Waldner and Muneer Gilani have each completed their first 3-year term and are both available for re-election.

EFA will continue the nomination process that allows Director nominations to be made in both advance and from the floor at the AGM. EFA will be distributing Director profiles, nomination forms and eligibility requirements to producers, in a package along with your 2015 levy schedule. The nominee must consent to the nomination in writing and every nomination form must be signed by two different registered producers. Nomination forms can be delivered to the EFA office via mail, email, fax or by hand, and **must be received by Friday, January 23, 2015.**

Nominee profiles will be distributed in the notice of meeting package and at the EFA AGM registration desk. Although nominations are allowed from the floor at the AGM, EFA encourages nominations to be submitted in advance. This gives producers time to review each nominee profile, enabling them to make a sound, informed decision.

Producer Supplies

The Grader Advisory Committee (GAC) recently met with the Alberta graders. One of the concerns raised is that plastic trays are being used for purposes other than hauling producers' eggs to the grading station. In order to properly manage costs within our value chain, EFA is seeking cooperation to ensure that the plastic supplies, which are property of the graders, are used only for the purpose that they are provided for.

Levy Update

Egg Farmers of Canada's (EFC) financial projections indicate that by the end of 2014, the Unrestricted Pooled Income Fund (PIF) balance will be above its Upper Trigger Point at just over \$51M. The EFC levy will be reduced by \$0.01/dozen, effective January 25, 2015, to \$0.2875/dozen.

The EFA Board reviewed the 2014 Operational Plan, budget and levy requirements at their December meeting. They set the total provincial levy at \$0.3812/dozen, effective December 28, 2014. This includes the EFC levy (\$0.2875) and the provincial levy (\$0.0937), which includes administration (\$0.0365), research (\$0.0025) and the provincial IP pool (\$0.0547).

The total per bird levy for 2015 will be \$9.698 per hen, per annum.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

January 13

EFA Regional Meeting
Edmonton

January 14

EFA Regional Meeting
Calgary

January 15

EFA Regional Meeting
Lethbridge

January 28

ILWG Meeting
Edmonton

February 2-3

EFA Board Meeting
Calgary

February 3

EFA Research Committee Meeting
Calgary

February 3

Animal Care Workshop
Edmonton

February 4

Animal Care Workshop
Grande Prairie

February 24

EFA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Red Deer

February 25

Western Poultry Conference
Red Deer

February 26

Animal Care Workshop
Airdrie

March 3-4

Animal Care Workshop
Lethbridge

Quota Update

At their November meeting, the EFC Board approved a motion seeking prior approval for a quota increase that equates to an additional 316,452 layers nationally, effective December 28, 2014.

EFC will submit the appropriate quota order amendments for prior approval from Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC). This will not take effect for Alberta until the EFA Board has received confirmation that the new order has been approved by FPCC, and then all producers will be notified in writing at the same time. EFA staff will not provide any information about the release of the quota increase for AB over the phone.

Over Base Quota Fee Update

The EFA Board has set the Over Base Quota Fee at \$0.57 per bird, effective January 1, 2015. In 2014, the fee was \$0.75. This fee is set on an annual basis, using the following criteria:

- The fee will be set by January 1st of each year
- The annual user fee will be a minimum of \$0.00 and a maximum of \$3.00 per bird
- The estimated year-end Over Base Quota Fee fund balance is not to exceed \$500,000
- Producers will be invoiced in conjunction with their levy statement

Shipping Layers to Processors

Producers must be aware of their responsibilities and liabilities, when it comes to shipping end-of-lay hens to federally inspected processing facilities. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Manual of Procedures, Chapter 19, addresses Poultry Inspection Programs at processing facilities, as they relate to the 1990 Meat Inspection Act Regulations. The following should be considered when conducting your risk/benefit analysis:

- Any dead-on-arrivals and breakages are publically available information, and they are linked to the farm name
- If there are high levels of breakages, poor feather cover or wet birds, the inspector may choose to notify the SPCA to investigate the farm

It is the producer's responsibility to identify whether or not their birds are fit for transport and processing! The Poultry Industry Council's resource 'Should this bird be loaded?' provides guidance about what birds are healthy to transport. Please contact the EFA office to request a copy.

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*:
January 30th, 2014

Next issue of *EggNotes*:
February 13th, 2014

"YOKES" OF THE MONTH



Guaranteed to crack you up!

Q: What do you call an egg lying in the garden?

A: An egg plant!

Q: What do you get when you cross an egg with a cement mixer?

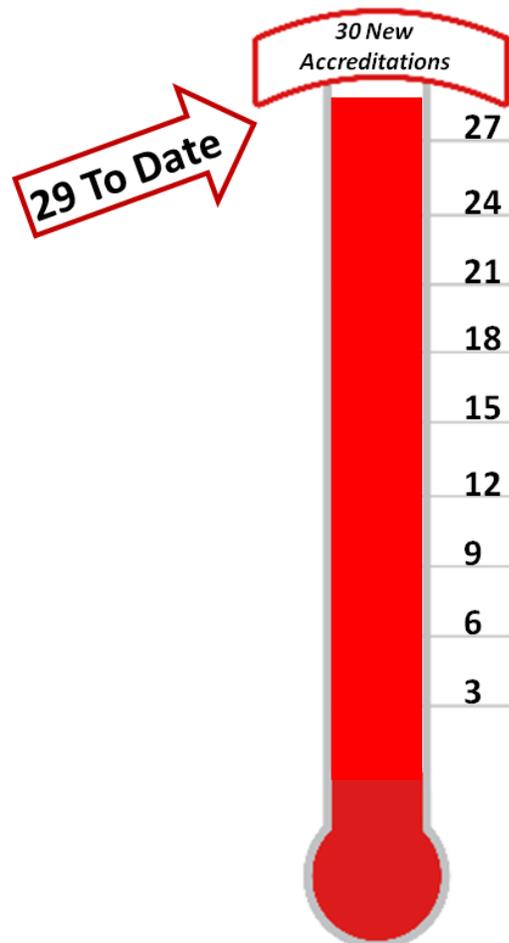
A: A brick layer!

Field Statistics Update

Here's an update on how our farmers are doing with their Stay Clean – Stay Clean (SC-SC) and Animal Care Program (ACP) evaluations, so far in 2014:

- 144 SC-SC layer evaluations have been completed in 2014
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 98.7%
 - ✓ 41 Alberta farmers scored a perfect 100% rating
- 148 ACP evaluations have been completed in 2014
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 98.8%
 - ✓ 102 facilities have scored a perfect 100% rating
- 104 SC-SC pullet evaluations have been completed in 2014
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 97.9%
 - ✓ 39 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating
 - ✓ 29 pullet growers are newly accredited in the program

Thank you to all our farmers, for their commitment and hard work each and every day, to ensure that safe, high quality eggs are produced humanely!



EFA's goal is to have 30 producers newly accredited in the SC-SC Pullet Program in 2014.

Congratulations to the following producers who have recently achieved their SC-SC Pullet accreditation, bringing the total to 29 producers and helping us move closer to our goal, while demonstrating their commitment to excellence in food safety!

- ✓ Creekside Farms
- ✓ Oaklane Colony
- ✓ Prairiehome Colony
- ✓ East Raymond Colony
- ✓ Ponderosa Colony
- ✓ Cameron Farms
- ✓ Parkland Colony

EFA PRODUCER WEBSITE

Be sure to check the producer website regularly for important updates about Avian Influenza in BC and other industry developments; notices are posted on the homepage. Also, now would be a good time to review the Producer Emergency Response Plan, as well as the self-quarantine and diagnostic submission protocols. These resources are available under the 'Emergency Preparedness' tab.

Visit EFA's Producer Website:
www.albertaeggproducers.ca

EGG FARMING BEST PRACTICE

Everyone, including the producer, must change into protective clothing such as clean coveralls and boots, before entering the laying facility or any restricted area. Boot dips do not provide sufficient protection, as they require constant management and proper use, in order to be effective. Changing your boots is your best defense.

BIO-SECURITY TIP

Chore birds from youngest to oldest. If you have any suspect barns, for example where mortality is higher than normal, chore them last and be sure to use a separate change of protective clothing and footwear.

New Entrant Program

EFA's New Entrant Program (NEP) was established to encourage new farmers and new investments in our industry. Through this program, 10% of new quota allocations are set aside for the program. On January 5, 2015, EFA will announce the NEP dates, including when the NEP will begin accepting applications. All related NEP information is available on our website:

www.eggs.ab.ca/egg-industry/New-Entrant-Program

New Egg Manager Workshop

In early November, EFA hosted two events for those new to the egg industry. On the evening of November 5th, EFA hosted a welcome reception for the new entrants who received quota through the NEP. New entrants met the EFA Board and staff, while learning about our industry and how to establish a healthy, productive flock from Dr. Darko Mitevski (Poultry Health Services) and Dr. Val Carney (ARD). New entrants are required to setup their barns and begin production within two years of receiving their quota.

The following day, EFA hosted our inaugural New Egg Manager Training session, which was provided to new entrants and newer egg managers. The full day was spent reviewing everything from EFA's new vision and mission statements, to an explanation about quota, to details about each of the industry's on-farm programs. The workshop was designed to provide a good foundation on a variety of important topics that will help position new egg managers for success. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and EFA will look to host more such training days in the future. Please contact the EFA office to add your name to the invite list!

SC-SC Changes – Category 1 Antibiotics

In 2014, the Canadian egg industry implemented strict restrictions on the use of Category 1 antibiotics. By September 24, 2014, all flocks going into lay must be free of Category 1 antibiotics and this must be demonstrated through documentation from the pullet grower.

All Pullet Flock History Certificates provided by the pullet growers for their customers, must now include the following wording: "To the best of our knowledge, these chicks/pullets have been grown in an environment free of SE and confirm that no Category 1 antibiotics were given." Pullet Flock History Certificate templates are available on the Producer website, under 'Start Clean – Stay Clean / SC-SC Pullets'.

CLASSIFIED ADS



#1) For Sale:

400-500 Lohman White pullets, 19 weeks on January 23, 2015

Contact: Joe @ 403-838-2545 x.712

#2) For Sale:

Shaver White pullets, 19 weeks on January 15, 2015

Contact: Walter @ 403-534-2166 x.207

#3) For Sale:

2007 Vencomatic Side-belt Nest System with Slats

- Approx 6 cycles on equipment
- Up to 150' available
- Will split into multiple sizes to accommodate smaller flocks
- Water & feed lines are available

Contact: Patrick @ 403-369-2405

#4) Wanted:

Manure agitator to fit into small, underground pit.

Contact: Susan @ 780-963-3249 or 780-722-3238

Animal Care Program Updates

Effective January 1, 2015, three new elements will come into effect for the Animal Care Program (ACP), including:

- Routine Inspection
- Handling, Catching, Loading Guidelines
- Euthanasia Plan

EFC has provided an update on the implementation of the Euthanasia element. Given that this element requires that “only personnel that have been trained in proper euthanasia methods should perform euthanasia” and training has not yet been completed across Canada, this element will be implemented on January 1, 2015, but not scored until a national training program has been launched. This means that during an ACP evaluation, EFC inspectors will not assess your Euthanasia Plan to score it, but will assist farmers by assessing the completeness of the plans that have been developed. EFA encourages all producers to complete their Euthanasia Plan as thoroughly as possible before their 2015 EFC inspection, to take advantage of the complimentary review of your full plan, so that all recommended changes can be made before it becomes mandatory.

In December, EFA will be sending a package to each egg manager, detailing the changes to the ACP and the steps needed to ensure that you are meeting the requirements of the new elements. This package will include a record keeping sheet for January 2015. Calendar record keeping books will be distributed to producers at the EFA Regional Meetings in January. The record keeping books will have some changes in order to help producers meet the new requirements. EFA is also planning to provide producers with a comprehensive review of the new ACP elements and record keeping changes, at the January Regional Meetings.



WESTERN POULTRY CONFERENCE

Join us for a brand new experience for all poultry producers. Western Poultry Conference has something for everyone – with demonstrations applicable to all poultry producers, relevant current topics, and chances to ask leading experts your questions.

Western Poultry Conference will feature poultry husbandry expert Koos van Middlekoop, who will help you understand what your birds are telling you, gut health expert Stephen Collett, water expert Susan Watkins and many more!

Conference Details:

Date: February 23, 2015

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Sheraton, Red Deer, AB

Cost: \$30 per person
(\$25/person for group of 4 or more)

Registration: 1-800-387-6030
(registration opens January 5, 2015)

For more information, contact:

Valerie Carney
Phone: 780-415-2269
Email: valerie.carney@gov.ab.ca

Space is limited, so register early!

Aggression in Laying Hens

- by Caitlyn Erickson and Dr. Clover Bench, PhD, University of Alberta

Aggression is a common behaviour in poultry that can lead to compromised health, injury, cannibalism and impact production efficiency. Prevention through management and environmental strategies can help to reduce or eliminate aggression you may experience in your flock.

Aggression has been observed in every modern laying hen housing system, including cage systems, free-run systems and aviaries. Some common indicators of aggression include feather loss, poor plumage condition around the head and neck, decreased body weight and skin injuries.

Hen behaviour can also be used to determine the presence of aggression. When an antagonistic bird exhibits aggression towards other birds, the recipient may display avoidance behaviour (lower of head or walking away) or may reciprocate the aggression. Examples of aggressive behaviours that may be displayed in cage housing systems include:

Pecking – forceful, downward peck of the beak aimed at the head or neck of a bird

Threats – one bird, in front of another bird, with her head erect and neck feathers raised

Fights – two birds threatening and pecking each other in rapid succession

Flocks in group housing systems, which generally allow more space, can also exhibit aggressive behaviours. These aggressive behaviours include:

Stand-Offs – two birds staring at each other for more than a few seconds

Leaps – one bird jumping and kicking her feet towards another bird

Chases – an agnostic bird running after another for more than a few steps

Continued on Page 8...

FARM SAFE PLAN WORKSHOP

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) is providing free workshop registration for producers who want to develop an Alberta Farm Safe Plan. The Farm Safe Plan will provide farmers with a step-by-step process to develop a health and safety system for their farm and business. For a limited time, free workshops are available with trained advisors, to help support farmers through the process of implementing the plan. The workshop and all resource material is provided free of charge by ARD, in exchange for feedback about the program. Completing a Farm Safe Plan makes producers eligible for Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) premium rebates!

Five 2-day workshops have been scheduled across Alberta in 2015:

Edmonton: January 7 & 21

Lethbridge: January 9 & 15

Olds: January 16 & 22

Red Deer: January 29 & February 5

Grande Prairie: January 26 & 27

To register, contact:

Lindsay Rodriguez
Phone: 780-427-4187
Email: lindsay.rodriquez@gov.ab.ca

Be a leader in farm safety and
signup today!

Aggression in Laying Hens... Continued from Page 8

Common causes:

1. Re-establishing social hierarchy when birds are re-grouped, introduced, or when group members leave
2. Barren environments which do not adequately satisfy behavioural needs
3. Birds that are hungry
4. Competition over resources (ie: feed, water, preferred enrichments, favoured locations)
5. Noisy environment
6. Changes in lighting schedules or management
7. Distribution of resources (ie: insufficient space between or numbers of resources)
8. Overcrowding

Possible Solutions:

Ensuring the behavioural needs of hens are met may reduce aggression, but can be limited by your current housing system. Important laying hen behavioural needs include dustbathing, nesting, foraging, and perching. Appropriate enrichments should be provided to meet these needs, such as nest boxes, perches, and substrate for dustbathing and foraging whenever possible. Management and housing factors may also influence aggression levels, including:

Flock Size & Stocking Density – aggression levels tend to be lower in larger flocks and higher at greater stocking densities

Competition – competition rises when resources become limited, which increases aggressive interactions; adequate resources including feed, water, perches and nest boxes should be provided for all hens

Housing – appropriate housing conditions should be kept to reduce aggression, including minimum noise levels and appropriate lighting levels

Take Home Message:

Aggression can be both a welfare and production concern in all housing systems. It is important to determine the underlying cause of any aggression and address it promptly. The goal is to reduce aggression while promoting production and good overall welfare.

ANIMAL CARE WORKSHOPS

EFA will be hosting 5 Animal Care Workshops across Alberta, in February and March 2015, which will focus on bird handling and euthanasia. Jennifer Woods, a livestock handling specialist with expertise in euthanasia, animal handling and behavior, will be leading the training.

It is very important that every registered egg producer and pullet grower in Alberta sends one person to these workshops. All participants will receive a certificate of completion, which will be crucial for proving that you have met training requirements for your Animal Care Program, going forward.

Registration details will be sent out in early January. Please mark your calendars and save the date!

Edmonton: February 3

Grande Prairie: February 4

Airdrie: February 26

Lethbridge: March 3 & March 4

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

Protecting Your Farm

Producers are reminded that Alberta remains at the Alert level in terms of bio-security. The Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak in BC continues to unfold and it is critical that we take every precaution to help ensure that the virus does not spread to Alberta. In the Netherlands, where they are also currently responding to an AI outbreak, it was confirmed that wild ducks in the area tested positive for a highly-infectious H5 variant of AI. Knowing that the ducks carry the AI virus, it is believed possible that duck droppings were carried from fields into barns, on the farmers' shoes. This knowledge re-enforces the importance of following strict bio-security practices.

Bio-security is the best way to protect flocks and farms from outside disease and pathogens, by essentially keeping the 'bad stuff' out of your barn. While egg farmers are familiar with bio-security, now is a good time to review on farm practices, to ensure bio-security efforts are effective. Good bio-security starts outside the barn, when a person first arrives on the farm. Visitors should be able to clearly see where they can and cannot go on your farm, while a visitor parking sign should be posted and clearly visible, at least 50' away from the barn. The barn door should always be locked, to prevent any breaches in bio-security. Egg farmers are the gatekeeper for their barn and are ultimately responsible for ensuring that everyone who enters the barn observes the farm's bio-security protocols. When a guest enters the barn, be sure to have them sign the visitor log book, which is important when a trace-back investigation needs to be completed; it also ensure your visitors read and understand your animal care and bio-security protocols.

Upon entering the barn, an obvious line or barrier between the restricted and unrestricted areas should be visible. Nothing dirty should ever touch the clean side of the barn, including boots, clothing and equipment. A common error occurs while putting on clean boots – once your first clean boot is on, you must step onto the clean side, or your bio-security will have been breached. Having a bench as the barrier will help facilitate easier boot changes, while avoiding this common error. Remember when leaving, that nothing from the clean side should touch the dirty side. Some other keys to successful bio-security include:

- Have a clean, well organized change area, with a place for dirty gear
- Provide a hand washing area or hand sanitizer, that is easily accessible
- Always think about what you're bringing into the barn and clean it too

Bio-security only works when everyone is doing it properly, including the egg farmer, helpers, employees and visitors. Taking these small steps can make a huge difference in helping prevent the spread of disease!

Continued on Page 10...

ALBERTA EGG MARKET UPDATE

The Nielson preliminary retail sales data is available up to November 15th, 2014 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.86 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 5.1% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending October 18th) and a 2.8% increase in sale compared to the same period in 2013.

Nielson retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 5.0% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 35.9 million dozen eggs! Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 22.6% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 2.4 million dozen eggs (6.7% of the total eggs sold in AB).

EFA ONLINE!

The EFA consumer website has been completely redesigned to have a stronger egg theme, shine a spotlight on our farmers, and provide consumers with much more of the information they are seeking!

Get Cracking to: www.eggs.ab.ca



Like us on Facebook!

facebook.com/EggFarmersAlberta



Follow us on Twitter!

twitter.com/EFA_AB_eggs

Protecting Your Farm... Continued from Page 9

Avian Influenza (AI) Update & Reminder:

- Currently 9 farms confirmed with AI in southern BC (Fraser Valley)
- CFIA is working to humanely depopulate the poultry on these farms and has restricted the movement of poultry and poultry products in the area
- If your flock exhibits any of the following symptoms, contact your vet immediately, initiate a self-quarantine and submit diagnostic samples:
 - High mortality (greater than 0.5% for 2 days in a row)
 - An egg production drop of more than 5% over 2 days
 - Abnormal behavior (ie: quiet/inactive flock, ruffled feathers)
 - Changes in feed and/or water consumption

If you have any questions, please contact Poultry Health Centre of Excellence (403-948-8577). In case of emergency over the holidays, during office closures, contact EFA (403-607-4296)

Government Relations Update

Several representatives from EFA, along with their SM5 partners from Alberta chicken, hatching egg, turkey and milk, recently had the opportunity to meet with over 30 MLAs, including the Premier of Alberta – the Honourable Jim Prentice – and the Minister of Agriculture – the Honourable Verlyn Olson. It was a tremendous opportunity to discuss the many benefits of supply management, as well as a wide variety of pertinent issues such as food safety, animal care, farm safety and social license. EFA is thrilled to be able to work with such an engaged government that is committed to issues that the province's egg farmers are passionate about.

Upcoming Events

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

- **SAIT Annual Health Fair** **January 14, 2015**
Calgary, SAIT campus
- **Teachers Convention** **February 12 & 13, 2015**
Calgary, Telus Convention Centre

EFA 2014 Marketing Highlights

- Total # of events attended: 27
- Total # of events sponsored: 118
- Total # of school & health presentations: 54
- Total # of resources distributed: 100,268
- Total # of promotional items distributed: 106,593