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FIELD SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR/COORDINATOR
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Board of Directors Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board would like to thank their fellow producers and the EFA staff for making the January regional meetings a success. We appreciate farmers taking time away from their farm, to help the Board gather information, questions and concerns, which is then used to help plan for the year ahead. The Board would like to reiterate to every farmer just how vital their attendance and involvement is to EFA and the Alberta egg industry!

The EFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is also just around the corner, on Tuesday, February 24th. For more details about this year's AGM, please check out the article on page 2.

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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

The EFA office will be **closed on Monday, February 16th for Family Day**, and will be **closed on Friday, April 3rd for Good Friday**. We sincerely hope this will not cause any inconvenience.

EGG PRICE UPDATE

Effective from **January 4th, 2015:**

Grade A

X Large	\$2.030 ↓
Large	\$2.030 ↓
Medium	\$1.800 ↓
Small	\$1.430 ↓
Nest Run	\$1.911 ↓
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.

Egg Farmers of Alberta AGM

EFA is preparing for its 46th AGM, which is being held on Tuesday, February 24th, in Red Deer. EFA looks forward to a large turnout of egg farmers, as well as industry and government representatives. Following a review of EFA's Annual Report, elections will be held for 2 positions on the EFA Board of Directors.

The afternoon session will begin with the Producer of the Year announcement. Kurt Kadatz, from the Calgary Stampede, will give a presentation titled "Responding to Public Perceptions". Dr. Tim Blackwell, from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food, will give a presentation titled "Agriculture, Specialization, Trust and Professionalism". Both presenters will share their unique insights about building consumer trust and maintaining our social license to operate.

EFA would like to remind producers and honored guests that pre-registration is required for our AGM this year. In addition, EFA reserves the right to refuse registration and/or entry. We are excited about this year's event and hope to see you there!

Western Poultry Conference

Western Poultry Conference (WPC) is being held on Monday, February 23rd, in Red Deer; the day before EFA's AGM. This is a brand new experience for all poultry producers, which will include demonstrations, discussion of relevant current topics, and chances to ask leading experts your questions. WPC experts include:

Poultry Transportation – Jennifer Woods, J. Woods Livestock Services

Poultry Husbandry – Koos van Middlekoop, Poultry Consultant, Netherlands

Lighting in Poultry Barns – Gregory Bedecarrats, Associate Professor, University of Guelph

Gut Health in Poultry – Steve Collett, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Georgia

Water – Susan Watkins, Extension Specialist, University of Arkansas

DATE: February 23

TIME: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Sheraton, Red Deer

REGISTRATION: call 1-800-387-6030 to register (\$30 per person)

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

February 23

Western Poultry Conference
Red Deer

February 23 & 24

EFA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Red Deer

February 26

Animal Care Workshop
Airdrie

March 3 & 4

Animal Care Workshop
Lethbridge

March 5 & 6

BC Egg Board AGM

March 11

Manitoba Egg Farmers AGM

March 12

Saskatchewan Egg Producers AGM

March 18

Production Mgmt. Com. Meeting
Calgary

March 19

EFA Board Meeting
Calgary

March 24 & 25

Egg Farmers of Canada AGM
Ottawa

March 27

AFAC Livestock Care Conference
Calgary

April 8 & 9

FPOCQ (Quebec Egg Producers) AGM

Field Statistics Update

The final 2014 numbers are in for our on-farm program evaluations and the average score went up in every program! Alberta egg farmers have once again demonstrated that providing safe, high quality eggs that are from hens raised with the highest standards of animal care is the industry's top priority!

- Start Clean – Stay Clean™ (SC-SC) Layer Program
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 99.5%
 - ✓ 117 Alberta farmers scored a perfect 100% rating
- Animal Care Program (ACP)
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 99.0%
 - ✓ 106 facilities have scored a perfect 100% rating
- Start Clean – Stay Clean™ (SC-SC) Pullet Program
 - ✓ Alberta's average score: 98.2%
 - ✓ 54 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating
 - ✓ 31 pullet growers were newly accredited in the program

Congratulations to the following producers who have recently achieved their SC-SC Pullet accreditation, bringing the total to 31 producers and helping EFA surpass our goal of 30!

- ✓ Deerfield Colony
- ✓ Elmspring Colony
- ✓ Green Acres Colony
- ✓ Jenner Colony
- ✓ Kings Lake Colony
- ✓ MacMillan Colony
- ✓ Riverbend Colony
- ✓ Shamrock Colony
- ✓ Starland Colony
- ✓ West Raley Colony

Thank you to all our farmers for your commitment and hard work over the past year, and for your continued dedication in 2015, as you adopt the new elements of the Animal Care Program!

EFA would like to keep the momentum going and have even more Alberta pullet facilities accredited in the program in 2015. If you would like to get your facility to a level of accreditation, please call Dave Lastiwka at the EFA office, to learn more about the requirements.

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*:
March 27th, 2015

Next issue of *EggNotes*:
April 10th, 2015

"YOKES" OF THE MONTH



Guaranteed to crack you up!

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?

A: To prove to the gopher that it could be done!

Q: Why did the chicken cross the playground?

A: To get to the other slide!

Start Clean – Stay Clean™ (SC-SC) Updates

As of May 13th, 2015, three changes come into effect:

1. For the SC-SC Pullet program – the letter of certification received from the hatchery must include “chicks are from an SE free environment”.
2. For the SC-SC Layer program – the elements for measuring litter moisture and litter pH have been removed, as they were difficult to measure and therefore did not provide value to the program.
3. Mortality, feed consumption and water consumption records are moving from the SC-SC program to Animal Care Program requirements. This change has no impact on producers or their record keeping; continue to maintain these records as usual.

Animal Care Program Changes

As of January 1st, 2015, two new elements have come into effect for the Animal Care Program. Producers must have their records in place for Routine Inspections and Handling, Catching & Loading Guidelines. At the EFA Regional Meetings in January and in the December mail-out, EFA reviewed these elements and explained how the requirements can be met by completing the updated record books for Start Clean – Stay Clean™ (SC-SC) and ACP. If you have any questions about the new elements or how to meet the requirements, please speak to your EFA Field Coordinator.

EFC has clarified that **all employees must be trained on the Handling, Catching & Loading Guidelines immediately**, even if birds are not scheduled to be moved for some time! The guidelines must be reviewed, understood and signed by all employees (sign & date on the side of the guideline; not where the catching crew is supposed to be listed).

The Euthanasia Plan requirement is currently on hold until training programs can be rolled-out across Canada. EFA encourages producers to start working on their plan and to have it reviewed during their next Animal Care Assessment, to get feedback and determine what changes are needed.

After being approved by the EFC Board in November, the Beak Treatment Policy comes into effect on March 31st, 2015. This is a general element worth 10 points, which requires each laying facility to have a written beak treatment policy available that outlines the acceptable treatments, timing and limits. Beak treatment should be performed by infrared or hot blade treatment within the first 10 days of life. There is a new Beak Treatment Policy for Egg Managers to sign-off on annually, which is included at the front of the new record books. In addition to this, producers should keep the letter from their pullet grower or hatchery that confirms the method used for their flock's beak treatment.

LIVESTOCK CARE CONFERENCE

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) presents its annual Livestock Care Conference (LCC), which will be held March 26th & 27th, at the Calgary Stampede Grounds. The LCC provides an opportunity for researchers, industry, students, government and the public to address challenges and trends in animal care.

The first day of the LCC includes a handling demo on BCS and a 'meet the expert' session for post secondary students, as well as AFAC's AGM.

The second day of the LCC includes a diversified livestock panel, a key note speaker on livestock welfare, a talk about consumer perceptions, and a bear pit interactive session.

For more information or to register, please visit: lcc.afac.ab.ca



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

Density Update

In late 2013, EFC proposed a change to density requirements, which would require any farms not housing birds at a minimum of 67 square inches (conventional cages) to meet that minimum within two full lay cycles. The initial target date was by the end of 2015. Further consultation with the provinces occurred throughout 2014, with timeline being the primary stumbling block. At their November meeting, the EFC Board agreed to an implementation deadline of January 2020, which all provinces supported.

The unified national approach is very important from a retail perspective. There is still work to be done, as EFA and EFC need to work together in order to establish the following:

- A consistent interpretation of national cage measuring policies
- A clear understanding of how producers who are currently between 66.5 and 67 square inches will be impacted by this transition

Once these issues are resolved with EFC, EFA will finalize the Alberta transition plan and provide an update for producers.

Special Programs Lease

EFA introduced new eligibility criteria to qualify for the Special Programs Lease, at the Regional Meetings in January. This program uses quota that was set aside by the Board for special programs, to encourage producers to adopt best management practices. Producers who meet the following requirements qualify for a three-year, 2% Special Programs Lease:

- Have 10,000 layers or less of issued quota in production as multi-age flocks, and are moving to an all in – all out cycle
- Is adjusting flock placements from November/December to January, or from March/April to May
- Is moving to a dedicated production facility for pullets or layers, from a facility that also housed other poultry or livestock

If you would like a copy of the policy or an application form, please contact Agatha Smykot at the EFA office.

CEIRA Update

Please be advised that the election for Canadian Egg Industry Reciprocal Alliance (CEIRA) Voting Delegate has now closed. Susan Schafers has been acclaimed as Voting Delegate by egg subscribers for Alberta.

EFA PRODUCER WEBSITE

Be sure to check the *EFA Policies* page in the *Information Centre* section, as we are constantly adding updated policies, including the recently added policies related to the Producer of the Year and Special Programs Leasing.

As a reminder, presentations from past Regional Meetings can also be accessed under the *Information Centre* section.

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

'HEALTHY BIRDS' TIP

When monitoring temperature in the lay facility, don't only do so at your own working height, but at the height where the chickens are. With cage systems, take measurements at the bottom and the top tier. Check regularly that your temperature sensors are working, by hanging a good manual thermometer next to the sensor.

'HEALTHY EGGS' TIP

Ensure everyone entering the Restricted Area (RA) wears protective clothing, footwear and hair covering, and sanitizes hands. Producers should provide this equipment for all visitors to their farm.

'Healthy Farms' Tip

The impact of a farm injury can be devastating, both emotionally and financially, for producers and their families. However, most injuries are predictable – and preventable – if producers, farm managers and farm workers know what to look for, and how to control the hazards.

That's why the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) are teaming up to celebrate Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), from March 15-21. It's a time to reflect on the importance of farm safety, and empower producers with the information and resources they need to make their farms safer.

You can participate in CASW by identifying a potential hazard on your farm and developing controls to reduce the risk. Controls can be engineered, administrative, or as simple as personal protective equipment. Sharing your hazard and control story with other producers can help improve farm safety!

Protecting Your Farm – Update & Reminder

As a follow-up to the *Protecting Your Farm* article in the December issue of *EggNotes*, EFA would like to remind all producers just how vital it is to continue taking every precaution with regards to bio-security, to keep your farm protected and your flock healthy. Please read that article for more details about how you can ensure your bio-security is maintained.

In British Columbia (BC), Avian Influenza (AI) was recently found in a backyard flock, which is being attributed to contact with wild birds, rather than contact with one of the previously affected barns. With waterfowl set to return to Alberta in the spring, maintaining bio-security is a top priority.

Used Cages Required for African Community

The International Egg Foundation (IEF) is working to increase egg consumption and egg industry knowledge in the Southern African region. As part of this work, they are looking for donations of used cages, to provide to egg farmers in Zimbabwe. Ultimately, this project will make eggs available to more people of this region. Used A-frame style systems would be ideal for setting up farmers in Zimbabwe, but other systems may be helpful as well. All shipment and customs brokerage fees would be covered by the Zimbabwe Poultry Association.

If you are interested in donating used cages to this worthy project, please contact: Vincent@internationaleggfoundation.com

CLASSIFIED ADS



#1) For Sale:

- 600 white pullets, 19 weeks on April 15th

Contact: Sammy (Keho Lake Colony)
@ 403-757-2330

#2) For Sale:

- White pullets, 19 weeks on April 2nd

Contact: Willie (Jenner Colony) @
403-878-2695 x414

#3) Wanted:

- Plastic chicken crates

Contact: Jake @ 403-588-9250

#4) Hiring:

- **Electrical Technician** to wire, program & service ventilation and feeding computers

Phone: 403-337-3767

Email: bsnyder@glass-pac.com



Research Update

EFA has been working with VAST and Euthanex to develop Modified Atmospheric Chamber (MAC) carts for end of lay hen depopulation. EFA is happy to report that testing on the cart is complete and information packages are now available at the EFA office, which provide details about availability, pricing, recommended operating procedures, and spec drawings for self-construction. These packages are also being provided to producers attending EFA's euthanasia workshops, where producers will be able to view the cart, learn about proper gassing and ask questions.

EFA is hopeful that the Growing Forward 2 Livestock Welfare Program will re-open in the spring and provide 50% cost sharing for producers interested in purchasing full cart systems or gas control units. For more information, or to add your name to a list of producers interested in sharing a MAC cart system, contact Jenna Griffin at the EFA office.

Environmental Farming

EFA set a goal of having 100% of registered producers complete a Producer Environmental Egg Program (PEEP) assessment in 2014. Thanks to the support of the producers, EFA was able to achieve that goal!

This year, EFA will be looking to improve upon the program by updating the questions, based on producer feedback, to ensure they are relevant to egg managers and high-impact in terms of environmental performance. In the spring, producers will receive an updated assessment form and will be asked to complete a quick follow-up assessment, to build on the learnings from last year.

In 2015, EFA's goal is to see 10 producers that scored below 60% last year, score over 60% on their PEEP assessment this year. EFA is aware of some producers who have already implemented some of the following beneficial changes, which are relatively easy to make:

- Convert lighting away from incandescent
- Install gas and electricity sub-meters
- Investigate options to ensure that their primary manure storage site in the field is permanent (ie: has a clay liner or concrete base)

The Growing Forward 2 Confined Feeding Operation Stewardship Program can help producers improve their manure storage, and it is still accepting applications! The GF2 On Farm Energy Manager Program can help with lighting upgrades for existing facilities and energy sub-meters, and is expected to re-open in May 2015.

ALBERTA EGG MARKET UPDATE

The Nielson retail sales data is available up to January 10th, 2015 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 3.01 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 10.5% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending December 13th) and a 0.7% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2014.

Nielson retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 3.7% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 35.8 million dozen eggs! Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 22.3% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 2.5 million dozen eggs (6.9% 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

Social Responsibility

EFA presented Alberta Food Banks (AFB) with a cheque for \$30,000, enabling AFB to order more than 12,000 dozen eggs for their network of 60 food banks across the province in 2015! EFA has partnered with Sparks Eggs to help facilitate the ordering and delivery of eggs, while the project was supported in part by EFC's *Egg Farmers Give Back* program. EFA is proud and honored to be able to provide more Albertans with fresh, high quality, locally produced eggs!



Upcoming Events

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

- **AG Expo** **February 26 & 27, 2015**
Lethbridge – Exhibition Park
- **Mom, Pop & Tots Fair** **March 7 & 8, 2015**
Edmonton – Northlands, Edmonton Expo Centre, Hall A
- **Calgary Health Show** **March 28 & 29, 2015**
Calgary – Spruce Meadows

2015 Marketing Statistics

- Total # of events attended: 4
- Total # of events sponsored: 7
- Total # of school & health presentations: 14
- Total # of resources distributed: 4,093
- Total # of promotional items distributed: 3,300