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Board of Directors Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors recently completed its annual strategic planning session with the EFA staff, to help prioritize key issues and set targets and timelines for work in 2016 and beyond. This year’s strategic planning session was held at Heritage Park in Calgary, which provided a poetic backdrop; we should be proud of our farming heritage and celebrate what we’ve achieved as we strive to build a successful and sustainable future for Alberta’s egg industry.

EFA’s vision and mission statements were reviewed, and the Board believes they still capture our priorities and our passion. EFA’s vision is: Healthy Food, Healthy Farms, Healthy Families. EFA’s mission is: Cultivating a sustainable egg industry together with farmers, consumers, and other stakeholders. Towards the end of the year we’ll share a document via the producer website, which will outline EFA’s Key Indicators for 2016.

In an effort to continue to improve EFA’s Board Governance Model, the Board has determined that they are supportive of a change to our Plan Regulation, regarding nominations from the floor. Amendments were made a few years ago to allow nominations to be submitted in advance of the AGM, which gives EFA the opportunity to develop profiles for each of the candidates and distribute them in advance to the membership. The goal of this process is to ensure that producers learn about all of the candidates in advance, enabling them to make an informed decision about who they vote for.

The Board is proposing that EFA amend our regulations so that all nominations must be received in advance, and that nominations from the floor will no longer be accepted. The Board will be seeking feedback about this proposal from producers at the EFA Regional Meetings in January.

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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 on **Monday, October 12 for Thanksgiving Day**, and **Wednesday, November 11 for Remembrance Day**. We 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.

Field Statistics Update

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

- 111 SC-SC Layer evaluations have been completed in 2015
 - Alberta's average score: 99.85%
 - 69 Alberta farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating
- 111 Animal Care Program evaluations have been completed in 2015
 - Alberta's average score: 99.4%
 - 98 facilities have received a rating of 100%
- 77 SC-SC Pullet evaluations have been completed in 2015
 - Alberta's average score: 98.65%
 - 43 Alberta Pullet Growers have scored a perfect 100% rating
 - 9 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.

Special Programs Leasing – New Increased Incentive Available

In order to encourage flock placements at times of the year that are more beneficial to the supply demands of our industry, a special increase incentive is being offered through the special lease program. Producers who move their flock placement date from October, November or December to January are eligible for an incentive of 5% of their issued quota for a period of three years. Producers who have previously moved to a January placement and currently have a special program lease in place can increase their lease to 5% for the remaining years of their lease, however the request for this increase must be submitted to EFA in writing at least two weeks prior to the start of their annual lease renewal date.

The 2% incentive remains in effect for all producers that adopt the following best management practices:

- 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 March or April to May
- Is moving to a dedicated production facility for pullets or layers (from a facility that housed other poultry or livestock)

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please feel welcome to contact our office.

Producer Website Update

Take a look at some of the new resources we've added to the producer website:

- Under Best Production Practices/Pest Management - we've added resources on managing flies, mice and darkling beetles
- Under Best Production Practices - a new page on egg production has been added and houses resources on medium egg production and specific gravity testing for egg shell quality
- Animal Care - a new page on euthanasia is available and contains all of the resources currently available through EFA

Visit EFA's producer website:

www.albertaeggproducers.ca

Alberta Egg Market Update

The Nielson retail sales data is available up to August 22, 2015 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.72 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 3.5% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending July 25) and a 5.2% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2014.

Nielson retail sales in the last 52 weeks are down 0.1% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 35.78 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 17.8% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 2.72 million dozen eggs (7.6% of the total eggs sold in AB).

Separate Designation for SE Testing of Multi-Age Facilities

EFA is currently working with Alberta Agriculture to ensure that all facilities that may be considered separate go through the formal process of obtaining separate designation for the purpose of salmonella sampling. Separate designation is important as it may reduce the impact when SE is detected on farm by possibly limiting the response to one flock rather than all flocks housed in the barn.

We have recently updated our policy on separate designation with Alberta Agriculture in order to clarify some of the requirements. In addition to the previous requirements, the following criteria now must be met in order to qualify for separate designation:

- The production facility and all connected facilities to those housing the flocks are dedicated to the regulated table egg industry (housing only pullets and/or layers).
- If there are common doors between the barns, then they must remain locked and sealed shut during the entire period of lay. The door seal must be sufficient to withstand pressure washing during cleaning and disinfection without having water leak from one side to the other. This is demonstrated by no light leakage from one side of the door to the other.
- The designated area before entering each bird housing area that allows for changing of boots and coveralls must be either:
 - within an ante-room, or
 - in a space that does not have any other housing area entrances.
- For loose housing facilities, birds should not have direct access to the shared area. An ante-room, second door or fencing that provides separation between the birds and the shared area upon entrance is required to prevent birds from escaping.

A copy of the full policy and requirements for separate designation is available on the producer website under Information Center/EFA Policies/OPP 7.3 - SE Sampling Protocol for Layer Barns and Pullet Barns. For inquiries, please contact the EFA office.

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 of the EFA website to sign-up for a subscription, read the current issue, and even read past issues:

www.eggs.ab.ca/about/publications

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*:
December 4, 2015

Next issue of *EggNotes*:
December 18, 2015

“Yokes” of the Month



Guaranteed to crack you up!

Q. Why did the egg cross the road?

A. To get to the Shell station!

Q. Why did the turkey cross the road?

A. It was the chicken's day off!

PAACO Training

This September, EFA sent three staff members to be trained on poultry animal care auditing. Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO), offers their auditor training to ensure that there is a consistent, high standard for auditors in the industry. Today most organizations requesting third party audits are requiring that their auditors be PAACO certified.

Animal welfare auditing in the poultry industry is becoming a priority for many in the value chain. This year, the PAACO training sessions for poultry had some of the highest attendance rates ever.

We'd like to share some of our key learning about animal welfare auditing with our farmers:

- Auditors are free to report on anything they see from the time they pull up to your farm to the time they leave.
- An auditor's job is to compare what they see on your farm, with the criteria of the audit tool they are using. For example, if an auditor is on farm to complete the Animal Care Program, they will evaluate just those items for the program. They may provide comment on other areas.
- Animal welfare audits are starting to incorporate animal outcomes into the audit assessments. This means rather than looking at things like density and feeder requirements, they are looking at bird health by scoring things like foot health and feather cover.
- Documenting what you do is an important requirement for most animal care audits. This lines up with many of the updates to the animal care program over the past year, with new requirements for documented employee codes of conduct and standard operating procedures for euthanasia.

EFA's role is to coach and support our producers as our on farm programs evolve. We believe that the PAACO training has helped elevate our understanding of the audit process, which will allow us to provide better education and support to our farmers in the future.

Third Party Audits



We would like to remind producers that third party audits for the Animal Care Program will begin this month. The auditor from Alberta is Mona Ivan from NSF-GFTC, the company contracted by Egg Farmers of Canada to complete these audits. Mona will be auditing the Animal Care Program only and will be looking at the same criteria that

EFC does when they deliver the program. Upon request, Mona can provide government issued ID (such as a driver's license) to verify her identity before accessing the barn. You can expect at least one third party Animal Care Audit every three years.

Upcoming Events

October 29

AFAC Crisis Communication Forum

November 2

Colony Elders Meeting with EFA
BoD

November 3

EFA Board Meeting

November 3

New Entrant Reception

November 4

New Egg Manager Training

November 17

ILWG Meeting

November 18

EFC Meeting

November 24-26

APIEMT Training and Team Meeting

November 27

Livestock and Crop Sector
Round-Table Workshop

November 27

AFAC Board Meeting

December 10-11

EFA Board Meeting

December 15

Production Management
Committee (PMC) Meeting

Climate Change Leadership Consultations

The Alberta Government (GoA) is developing a proposal to address climate change, as well as a provincial adaptation strategy to help ensure the province is better prepared for a changing climate.

Alberta's Climate Change Advisory Panel is guiding a stakeholder engagement process in order to provide advice to Alberta's Minister of Environment and Parks on what that strategy should look like. The Panel's recommendations will be tabled this fall, with Alberta's new proposal to address climate change being in place in time for the Conference of Parties (COP) World Summit in Paris in December. The COP is the supreme body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In Alberta, emissions from agriculture were 22 megatonnes, or 8%, of provincial emissions. Emissions from soil management practices, including irrigation, tilling and application of fertilizer and manure, account for almost half of Alberta's agricultural emissions. Emission reductions are currently driven voluntarily through the ability to generate and sell carbon offset credits.

Questions being posed by the consultation include:

1. What role can agriculture play in helping Alberta to achieve its emission reduction goals?
2. What policy approaches could be applied to reduce emissions from agriculture?
3. How can agriculture's emission reduction potential – through emission sequestration and emission reduction – be leveraged to reduce Alberta's emissions?
4. How can Alberta strengthen current policies to drive emission reductions?

Representatives from Alberta's Livestock and Cropping Sectors attended a technical input session on September 17, 2015. Producers interested in reading the discussion document, seeing feedback submitted to the panel, or signing up for updates can do so at: <http://alberta.ca/climate-leadership.cfm>.

REMINDER: Egg Ambassador Contest



Every registered Alberta egg farmer should have received details about our Egg Ambassador Contest, along with an entry form. EFA encourages all farmers to share how they've been an ambassador for Alberta's egg industry in their community throughout 2015. We want to summarize our collective efforts in the areas of public relations, government relations and social responsibility – every contribution helps our industry! We invite you to share as many details as possible, to help us paint a more complete picture of what our farmers have been up to this year. **There are prizes to be won and the deadline for entries is October 31, 2015.**

For more information, contact David Webb at the EFA office (x 126).

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

Farm Safety – Meeting OHS Requirements

As a farm owner, operator, or manager, you are responsible for knowing and applying best farm safety management practices and for ensuring the safety of everyone who lives on, visits, or works on your farm.

Identifying and dealing with hazards is the first step in a workplace health and safety program. It is also required by law, according to Part 2 of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code. Historically farming has been exempt from the *OHS Act*, however, it is clear that the government will bring in new regulations to protect Alberta's farm workers. Under Part 2 of the OHS Code, employers must:

- Perform a written hazard assessment
- Prepare a report that includes the result of the hazard assessment and the methods used to control or eliminate the hazards
- Have the assessment in writing and available to workers at the site
- Where reasonably practicable, involve the workers in the hazard assessment
- Communicate the results of the hazard assessment to all workers
- Control identified hazards

Recently, EFA worked with consultants and several egg farmers to develop a list of the top nine most dangerous tasks on a typical egg farm, as well as a list of the hazards and potential controls for each. We have recently added a Farm Safety Producer Package to the producer website which includes Job Task Hazard Assessment (JTHA) checklists based off of the lists of tasks and controls. The producer package will walk you through why we are suggesting you complete the checklists and the additional resources to learn more about farm safety and the potential for expanding your JTHA into a FarmSafe Plan.

We have also uploaded 14 Standard Operating Procedures templates for common egg farm activities that you can edit to fit your farm. These may help you put controls in place.

It is up to you whether you would like to get started on developing a farm safety risk assessment for your farm now, or if you would like to wait for more information. While we expect a regulatory change from the Government of Alberta this fall, we do not yet know about timelines for implementation. Our aim is to help support you in meeting eventual regulatory requirements.

In January at our regional meetings, we will have the FarmSafe Plan available for all producers to pick up, and will give a presentation explaining its purpose and how to complete it. After the January regional meetings, Field Service Coordinators will be following up during farm visits to ensure each producer has a copy of the manual, understands how to complete the assessment, and knows where to go for additional support.

New Egg Manager Training

For the second year, Egg Farmers of Alberta is pleased to be offering a New Egg Manager Training Workshop. The workshop is for new egg managers, or egg managers that would like to brush up on the ins and outs of the industry including:

- an overview of EFA
- quota 101
- best management practices for animal care, biosecurity and food safety
- record keeping
- much more!

The workshop will be held November 4th, 2015 from 10:00am to 3:30pm in Calgary. If you are interested in attending, please contact Peggy Galbraith at our office to register.

Healthy Communities

Now it's even easier to stay up-to-date with the latest news from Egg Farmers of Alberta, as well as the latest farmer blog posts from Susan Schafers! When you visit the "News" page on the EFA website (www.eggs.ab.ca/about/news), you can click the "Subscribe to Blog" link in the top-right corner. A pop-up window will appear that allows you to sign up for automated reminders. You can do the same by visiting Susan Schafers' blog homepage (www.eggs.ab.ca/farming/farming-by-dog-rump-creek) and clicking the "Subscribe to Farmers Blog" link in the top-right corner. Whenever a new story is posted to each page, you will get a reminder via email, at the address you provide.

HEALTHY BIRDS HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Healthy Birds

Chickens have super eye sight and can see more details, movement and colours than humans. They can also see fluorescent lights (105Hz) flickering. This means that if you can notice a light flickering, your chickens definitely can and it likely feels to them like they are in a disco club. We have seen flickering lights cause stress in birds, resulting in feather pecking and reduced egg shell quality. If you are noticing some of these issues with your flock, check the lighting!

Healthy Eggs

This is the time of year that pests such as mice are looking for a warm place to spend the winter. Make your barns less appealing by eliminating their feed and water sources.

Keep all feed in rodent-proof bins, covered cans or metal hoppers. Reduce feed spillage and immediately dispose of dead animals. Eliminate water sources such as leaky taps, open water troughs, sweating pipes and open drains.

Healthy Farms

In 2015, the EFA board set a goal of having 10 producers who scored less than 60 on PEEP improve their score to above 60. Our Field Services Coordinators, Murray and Dave, have been hard at work doing annual assessments with **134** completed to date! We are happy to report that we already know of over **30** producers who have improved their score to be above 60. A big congratulations to everyone who has taken steps to improve the environmental performance of their operation!

Current: 34



Goal: 10 Producers
from <60 to >60

TPP Update

On October 5, 2015, the Government of Canada announced that the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement had been concluded. EFA is cautiously optimistic about the deal, and we applaud the government for successfully negotiating another international trade agreement that maintains the supply management system.

The final TPP deal will increase international access to Canada's egg market by 16.7 million dozen eggs, which will be phased-in over a 5-year period, starting from the time the Government of Canada ratifies the TPP. That new access will further expand by 1% over each of the following 13 years, ending at a total increase of 19.0 million dozen eggs (in likely 18-20 years from now).

The increasing amount of imported products will mean that Albertans will have access to less fresh, locally produced eggs and egg products. EFA requires additional time to fully review and analyze the potential future impacts the TPP will have on egg farmers and the entire egg value chain. Alberta egg farmers should check the producer website regularly for further updates.

Foodies Farm Tour

Egg Farmers of Alberta had the pleasure of taking several Calgary area foodies, food bloggers and food reporters on a tour of an Alberta egg farm. River Bend Colony hosted the tour on August 11 where egg manager, Walter Decker, gave the group a tour of the pullet and layer barns before demonstrating how eggs are collected. Many questions were asked and everybody was thrilled to have the chance to tour an authentic, modern egg farm.

During egg collection, the group talked about how the eggs being gathered that day would be picked up by the grader the following day and then hit grocery store shelves the following week. The industry process was contrasted to the portion of eggs that River Bend Colony sells direct to consumers at the Calgary Farmers' Market each weekend, noting how eggs sold at grocery stores were equally fresh and locally produced! Our gracious hosts then treated the group to lunch, which was both a wonderful cultural and culinary experience for the foodies!

You can find out more about the farm tour from the perspective of one of our guests – Tara Noland – by reading her blog:

<http://noshingwiththenolands.com/visiting-an-egg-farm-in-alberta/>

2015 Marketing Statistics

• Total # of events attended:	16
• Total # of events sponsored:	80
• Total # of school and health presentations:	63
• Total # of resources distributed:	66,524
• Total # of promotional items distributed:	134,434

Upcoming Events

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

- Edmonton Women's Show
October 17 & 18, 2015
- Calgary Women's Show
October 24 & 25, 2015