

EGGNOTES – APRIL 2017

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EFA Board Update

Egg Farmers of Alberta recently hosted its 48th Annual General Meeting, which was incredibly successful thanks to wonderful attendance by egg farmers and industry stakeholders from across Canada, and the hard work of the EFA staff. Egg farmers shared positive feedback about the use of a parliamentarian to lead the session, who helped keep the meeting running smoothly and efficiently. The EFA Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who attended, and looks forward to serving the industry in the coming year.

On March 15, at the first meeting of the new EFA Board, Directors discussed the importance of being a committed member of the Board and our renewed commitment to serve Alberta egg farmers. The Board identified four key themes that will drive us forward in the next year, as we strive for continuous improvement and to represent the industry with the respect and values expected of us: professional, integrity, trust and unified. The Board will relate back to these themes and take the high road while representing EFA in public or within the industry.

The EFA Board of Directors has appointed Peter Waldner to the Board, to fill the Director position vacated by Meb Gilani. The appointment, which has been approved the Marketing Council, will run until the 2018 AGM.

Mark your calendars and save the date - the EFA Board and staff will be travelling the province this June, to provide egg farmers and industry stakeholders with updates and valuable information at our June Regional Meetings. To help make these meetings more accessible, and to keep them at a size that allows for effective discussion and engagement, a new meeting location is being added in Brooks! Meeting invitations with additional details will be sent out soon, and you can check out the calendar of events in this issue of *EggNotes*.

2017 Code of Practice Released

The final 2017 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens was released on March 27, 2017, following a review that was initiated in 2012. The updated Code of Practice is of the utmost importance to the egg industry, as it provides a solid foundation on which the Animal Care Program and standards are based. Working towards compliance is vital to maintaining public trust and the egg industry's social license.

With the finalization of the Code, the egg industry now has firm direction on standards for hen housing. EFA is committed to supporting farmers in meeting the Code requirements. EFA will keep egg farmers informed as the Animal Care Policy is updated and transition plans are developed. EFA's Production Management Committee (PMC) reviewed the Code requirements for furnished and loose housing at their meeting on March 30, and determined the following plans for transitioning to Code requirements:

Furnished Housing Systems:

It has been determined that further information must be gathered before a decision is made on how to transition existing furnished systems to the Code. EFA Field Coordinators will be collecting information on perch, nest and foraging space, which will be reviewed and used to develop a plan to meet the April 1 Code requirements.

It is important to note that EFA's policies will be changing to align with the 2017 Code, and it will be necessary for all production facilities in Alberta to meet the April 1 Code requirements before the updated national Animal Care Program is introduced. As such, EFA recommends that farmers with furnished housing begin assessing their current systems against the Code, and develop a plan to meet the requirements within approximately the next 18 months.

The following updates are being made to EFA's Animal Care Policy:

- For all furnished housing systems where design, application, approval, planning or installation was after April 1, 2017, the final Code requirements must be met when the facility goes into production.
- For all furnished housing systems built before April 1, 2017, the Interim Policy for Furnished Housing remains in effect until further on farm measuring can take place, and be reviewed by the PMC. The Interim Policy requires 116.25 square inches per bird, and that perch space and nests are provided for the birds.

Loose Housing Systems:

It has been determined that EFA will begin transitioning loose systems to the Code immediately. As such, the following updates are being made to EFA's Animal Care Policy:

- For all loose housing systems where new construction or re-tooling, including the phases of design, application, approval, planning and installation was initiated after April 1, 2017, the final Code requirements must be met when the facility goes into production.
- Non-cage housing systems (that are not 100% litter) can place at 144 square inches per bird at their next flock cycle, provided the other Code requirements are met, for both white and brown birds.
- Non-cage housing systems that are not meeting the Code requirements have until the earliest of January 1, 2019 or the adoption of the updated national Animal Care Program, to meet the following Code requirements:
 - a minimum height of 17.7 inches between the floor and ceiling of each level
 - nesting requirements
 - nest space must be enclosed on at least 3 sides
 - where curtains are used, they must extend close to the floor (without impeding the flow of eggs)
 - nest area cannot contain drinkers, feeders or perches
 - space between nest area and useable feed trough must be at least 6 inches
 - the floor of the nest area must be covered with a surface that promotes nesting and prevents injury
 - foraging requirements
 - hens in litter-based systems must be provided with continuous access to litter
 - foraging requirements (single tier systems)
 - if fully slatted or less than 15% of useable space is litter, must provide a solid surface area of at least 16 square feet for dust-bathing, litter, substrate for each 1,000 hens
 - for all other single tier systems, hens must be provided with at least 1 foraging site for each 1,500 hens
 - when multiple sites are provided, they must be evenly distributed
 - foraging requirements (multi-tier systems)
 - at least 33% of the useable space must be litter, except for up to 24 weeks of age, when the litter may be reduced to a minimum of 15% of the useable space

EFA will continue to keep egg farmers updated on any new information regarding the 2017 Code of Practice and its implementation. A summary of the Code requirements for all hen housing systems can be found on the Producer website:

<http://www.albertaeggproducers.com/userfiles/files/Summary%20of%20the%202017%20Code%20of%20Practice%20Requirements.pdf>

A complete copy of the 2017 Code of Practice can also be found on the Producer website:

http://www.albertaeggproducers.com/userfiles/files/pullets_and_laying_hens_code_of_practice.pdf

Upcoming Events

EFA Office Closures:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday, May 22, 2017	Victoria Day

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Detail</u>
April 25-26, 2017	Aggie Days Lethbridge	Lethbridge, AB	-
April 26, 2017	AFAC Poultry Transportation Workshop	Leduc, AB	-
April 26, 2017	FPA Meeting	Ottawa, ON	-
April 27, 2017	EFA Grader Advisory Committee	Calgary, AB	-
April 29, 2017	AFAC Poultry Transportation Workshop	Leduc, AB	-
May 1, 2017	EFA Board Member Orientation	Calgary, AB	-
May 2, 2017	EFA Board Meeting	Calgary, AB	-
May 2-4, 2017	Amazing Agriculture	Edmonton, AB	-
May 3, 2017	EFA Facilitation Training	Calgary, AB	-
May 4, 2017	EFC Wake Up To Yellow	Calgary, AB	-
May 8, 2017	EFC Provincial Meeting	Ottawa, ON	-
May 8, 2017	CEIRA Annual Meeting	Ottawa, ON	-
May 9-10, 2017	EFC Strategic Planning	Ottawa, ON	-
May 10, 2017	AFAC Poultry Transportation Workshop	Airdrie, AB	-
May 13, 2017	AFAC Poultry Transportation Workshop	Airdrie, AB	-
May 17, 2017	EFC Egg Board Workshop	Ottawa, ON	-
May 24, 2017	AFAC Poultry Transportation Workshop	Lethbridge, AB	-
May 27, 2017	AFAC Poultry Transportation Workshop	Lethbridge, AB	-
May 29, 2017	APIEMT Meeting	Calgary, AB	-
June 8, 2017	EFA Regional Meeting	Grande Prairie, AB	Pomeroy Hotel
June 9, 2017	EFA Regional Meeting	Leduc, AB	Days Inn
June 12, 2017	EFA Research Committee	Calgary, AB	-
June 13, 2017	EFA Regional Meeting	Calgary, AB	Acclaim Hotel
June 14, 2017	EFA Regional Meeting	Brooks, AB	Heritage Inn
June 15, 2017	EFA Regional Meeting	Lethbridge, AB	Lethbridge Lodge
June 20, 2017	EFA Board Meeting	Calgary, AB	-

Egg Price Change

Effective January 29, 2017:

<u>Canada Grade</u>	<u>Egg Size</u>	<u>Current Price (29-Jan-17)</u>	<u>Previous Price (14-Aug-16)</u>
A	Extra Large	\$2.130	\$2.080
A	Large	\$2.130	\$2.080
A	Medium	\$1.900	\$1.850
A	Small	\$1.530	\$1.480
A	Nest Run	\$2.006	\$1.959
A	Pee Wee	\$0.270	\$0.270

B	-	\$0.750	\$0.750
C	-	\$0.150	\$0.150

Note: 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.

Nielsen Data

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to March 4, 2017 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 3.06 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 1.0% decline from the previous 4-week period (ending February 4th), but a 1.9% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2016.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 5.6% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 39.05 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 14.4% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 3.3 million dozen eggs (8.4% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

Field Statistics

With over a quarter of 2017 already in the books, here is an update about how farmers are doing with their on-farm programs so far this year.

Animal Care Program:

- 40 ACP evaluations have been completed in 2017°Alberta's average score is 99.95%
 - 35 facilities have received a rating of 100%

Start Clean - Stay Clean Layer Program:

- 30 SC-SC evaluations have been completed in 2017°Alberta's average score is 99.87%
 - 25 egg farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating

Start Clean - Stay Clean Pullet Program:

- 17 SC-SC evaluations have been completed in 2017°Alberta's average score is 99.62%
 - 13 pullet growers have scored a perfect 100% rating

The SC-SC Pullet Program was introduced in Canada in 2009, as a voluntary program. Alberta farmers have embraced the program, with all pullet growers scoring well above the 90% required for full CEIRA coverage. In fact, pullet growers scored an average of 99.1% last year! While EFA is proud of how far the farmers have come, having all pullet growers achieve accreditation is important for ensuring that all farms meet the highest standard in the program, so that all birds moving into Alberta's layer barns have the best opportunity to be healthy and produce quality eggs.

EFA has established a goal to have all pullet growers accredited in the SC-SC Pullet Program by December, 2018. EFA strongly encourages all pullet growers who have not yet gained accreditation to take that step this year. To do so, pullet growers must have a score of at least 90%, and have 100% of

their records in place. The records required for accreditation are listed at the back of the record keeping calendar.

If you have any questions about what is needed to become accredited, please contact Dave Lastiwka at the EFA office (x128), and be sure to ask your EFC inspector to accredit you when they are on farm to complete your pullet assessment.

Update on Infectious Bronchitis Problem in Eastern Canada

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

Infectious Bronchitis (IBV) is a viral disease that causes a drop in egg production and egg shell quality. This is a problem in table egg layers, as well as in broiler breeders. Although there are many other factors that can cause the above-mentioned problems in laying flocks, (ie: feed quality, low Ca levels, and poor barn environment, to name a few), IBV is always suspected and producers request that this disease be ruled out. This is, of course, a prudent approach and we always encourage dead birds and blood samples to be submitted to the diagnostics lab.

In this article, we are going to briefly update you about the problems Eastern Canada, primarily Western Ontario and Quebec, have been facing in the last few years with new strains of IBV.

Here are the main signs seen in the affected flocks:

Laying hens may cough and sneeze for 10-14 days with feed consumption and weight gain reduced. Egg production may drop by as much as 70% and mortality can reach 5%. If other pathogens are involved like E coli or Mycoplasma, mortality can be higher. This virus is present in the respiratory discharge and feces of infected hens and is spread from flock to flock or between farms through air, ingestion of contaminated water or feed, manure spread by people (on their hands, clothes or boots) and equipment.

Infectious Bronchitis is a single disease but is caused by different strains or types of the virus. This is very important to understand, as the vaccines we use only protects against a field challenge from a virus of the same type. For example, many vaccines have so called Massachusetts strain and can protect your birds only against the Massachusetts field strain (please check the label carefully next time you handle a live IBV vaccine). Unfortunately, in 2014 a strain of IBV called 4/91 affected many flocks in Ontario and during 2015/2016 a so-called California and DMV (Delmarva) strains were detected. As mentioned above, these strains caused severe losses in table layer flocks; also affecting broiler breeders and broiler flocks. Producers are faced with a significant problem as current vaccines (live or killed) do not fully protect against these viruses. This said, producers need to continue to vaccinate with the available vaccines. This brings the importance of biosecurity to the forefront in the protection of our livelihood.

To the best of our knowledge, we have not seen these viruses affecting any flocks in Alberta. However, there is no time for complacency and we ask all EFA producers to strengthen the biosecurity at their farms; submitting birds and blood samples for diagnostics and vaccinating their flocks regularly.

The Infectious Bronchitis vaccine is very fragile and can be destroyed easily if not properly handled. In our next article we will focus on proper vaccination techniques and in the meantime, please consult with your veterinarian and field service representatives if you have any concerns.

Optimizing Cleaning and Disinfecting

The Start Clean - Stay Clean™ program requires that egg farmers have 7 days downtime between flocks. This time is to be used to clean and disinfect the barn, so that new flocks are introduced to a clean facility, free of bacteria or pathogens that may have been present in the previous flock. This article reviews the steps for cleaning and disinfection to make the most of those 7 days.

There are 4 steps of cleaning and disinfection. To be effective, each step must be completed well and in the correct order.

Step 1: Dry Cleaning

This step involves removing organic material from the barn. Manure, feed and dust provide the perfect environment for bacteria and viruses to live and cannot be properly disinfected, so ensuring the barn is completely clean of organic material is critical for a clean barn. During this stage all feeders and bins should be emptied, all manure and litter removed from the barn, steps should be taken to eliminate pests such as beetles, flies and rodents, and the water system should be flushed and disinfected.

Step 2: Washing

The goal of washing is to remove any remaining organic material that was not removed during step 1. When done correctly, washing can remove 90 to 99% of pathogens in the barn.

Cleaning will take less time and be more effective if surfaces are pre-soaked with warm water and detergent before pressure washing. Soaking will help break down organic matter and biofilms, where bacteria like Salmonella can be harbored.

To make the most of your investment of time and money, be sure to choose a detergent that is compatible with your disinfectant, and with the type of water on farm.

When it's time to wash, use a pressure washer with enough pressure to remove the organic materials from the barn and equipment. Using hot water that is at least 90 degrees Celsius will help to remove those stuck on biofilms.

Step 3: Disinfect

Prepare the barn for disinfecting by making sure that all organic material has been removed from the barn; disinfectant won't work on organic material. Also ensure the majority of water from washing is drained away, as it can dilute the disinfectant. The temperature of the barn is important, since all disinfectants work better at a temperature above 18 degrees Celsius.

Choose a disinfectant to fit your situation and needs. Be very careful to follow the directions on the disinfectant so that the right concentration is used and left on for the correct contact time. Be sure to

give the disinfectant sufficient time to work. Most disinfectants need at least 10 minutes of contact time to work (20 – 30 minutes is better). Once the required contact time has passed, rinse the barn and equipment down thoroughly with clean water.

Step 4: Drying Time

Drying time is a very important step in the cleaning and disinfection process. In fact, if the building is not dried properly, the excess moisture can result in bacteria multiplying to higher levels than seen before cleaning! No one wants their hard work to go to waste, so be sure to leave enough time for the facility to dry thoroughly. Research in the poultry industry has shown that a 48 hour drying time can dramatically reduce contamination compared to 24 hours.

A detailed guide for Cleaning and Disinfecting, which includes information on how to choose the right type disinfectant, is available on the producer website:
www.albertaeggproducers.ca/userfiles/files/Cleaning%20and%20Disinfection%20of%20poultry%20barns.pdf

AgCoalition

Following the announcement of Bill 6 legislation, the Government of Alberta appointed 72 participants to six consultation tables, to review various aspects of the intended legislative framework. The table topics included employment standards, labor relations, Occupational Health and Safety codes, best practices and education. The newly formed AgCoalition responded with an intent to meaningfully participate in the consultation process, and 23 AgCoalition nominees participated in these six consultation tables over the past year.

The AgCoalition provided an unprecedented capability for the Alberta agriculture industry to respond cohesively and collectively, providing informed inputs into the consultation process that reflected producer feedback.

To date, two of the six consultation tables - those focused on employment standards and labor relations - have completed their work. The Government of Alberta has posted these reports for public feedback. EFA appreciates the time taken by egg farmers to provide their feedback through the consultation process, including the recent online survey. The AgCoalition has also compiled feedback on all the final reports from these two tables, and has submitted a collective response to the Government of Alberta.

Avian Influenza Town Hall Call

Alberta egg farmers were invited to join the poultry industry for an Avian Influenza Town Hall Call on March 30, to learn from experts on topics related to keeping disease off your farm, AI outbreaks occurring around the world, on-farm feed mixing risks, and effective cleaning & disinfecting of your transition zones and equipment. If you missed the call, it was recorded and posted on the producer website (www.albertaeggproducers.ca/emergency-preparedness/avian-influenza), where you can listen in full.

Alberta Agriculture gave an update on the current state of Avian Influenza around the world:

- H5N6 is currently circulating in Japan and Korea, and has caused them to cull more than 30 million birds since November of last year.
- China has multiple strains circulating. H7N9 first appeared in 2013. It is low pathogenicity to birds, but is passed from animals to humans and has caused human mortality since 2016. It is only found in poultry during trace-backs from infected humans. 1,364 cases have been confirmed in humans with almost 500 mortalities.
- Wild bird strain H5N8 was first diagnosed in June 2016, when it was causing disease and mortality in migratory wild fowl. This strain has a high potential to spread – since October when first cases were identified in Germany, it has spread to 36 countries in EU, Africa, and the Middle East. There have been 618 outbreaks in wild birds and 400+ in commercial poultry.
- In North America there was an H5N2 detection in January, in a wild duck in Montana. This is the same strain the US dealt with in 2015. In March, there were 2 cases of High Path [Tennessee] and 5 of Low Path [Tennessee, Wisconsin, Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia]. These are all in the Mississippi flyaway that crosses over the prairies when birds fly to Alaska.

The number one way to protect your flock is to keep yourself and your hens away from wild birds!

Presenters also talked about feed mixing as a potential source of disease introduction. The wet harvest season has meant that in some parts of the province there are a large number of crops still left in the field. Viruses survive well in cold conditions and can be building on crops. A lot of producers will blend feeds on farm with their own grain. At this time of the year, it is important to question where the grain has been.

Loose Housing Ramps Tip

In multi-tier free-run systems, ramps are needed to provide the birds with access from one level to the next. Dr. Harlander, from the University of Guelph, has been researching optimal ramp design and has found that ramps with a 40 degree incline or less were easily negotiated by chicks, pullets and adult laying hens, without the use of their wings to steady themselves. The material used for the ramps is also important; using a wire grid for the ramp provides the birds with more stability.

Shell Quality Tip

If you notice that eggs come off the belt with rough or 'sandpaper' shells, this is a sign that something is happening with the birds that warrants a closer look. There are many causes, which can include a disease such as Infectious Bronchitis or ILT, improper lighting changes, water shortages, or disturbances or stress at the time a hen is due to lay that delays laying. To help uncover the cause, check eggs in the barn before egg belts are run, to determine if the problem is isolated to one area of the barn. Check the physical area and your records to figure out if there has been an event that would help explain the change in shell quality.

If your investigation leads to a suspected cause, take corrective action and observe changes. If the problem persists, contact your poultry veterinarian for further advice.

Job Task Hazard Assessments

EFA put together a Farm Safety Producer Package in 2016, to assist egg farmers in developing Job Task Hazard Assessments (JTHAs) for the 9 most dangerous jobs on a typical egg operation. Template forms were provided to all farmers at the EFA Regional Meetings in January, 2016.

EFA hosted workshops throughout the province in July, to assist in identifying and dealing with hazards, as the first step in a workplace health and safety program. The presentation from the workshop is available on EFA's YouTube channel (link provided on the Producer website), and has been published to your SharePoint site. Additional resources from the workshops include a training checklist for new employee orientation.

An editable Word version of the JTHA template is available for download from the Producer website: www.albertaeggproducers.ca/best-production-practices/farm-safety

EFA strongly encourages all egg farmers to complete the JTHA checklist, since it is the first step towards identifying possible sources of accidents or injuries, and putting preventative measures in place!

Aggie Days Calgary

Is there anything better than a room full of people who love agriculture and who are passionate about animals? We don't think so and neither do the people at the Aggie Days.

EFA headed down to Calgary Aggie Days in the Agriculture building on the Stampede grounds and wow, did we have a good time! We have attended in years past, but this was the first year that we were able to showcase live hens at the event. Even better, we were able to show-off our brand new 30 foot booth!

We couldn't have asked for a better turn out and we received so many compliments on our fancy new appearance and our fancy live hens! We even had Stampede staff come around to our booth telling us that having the hens there for everyone to see was the highlight of Aggie Days.

This was a great way to kick-off our event season at EFA, with thousands of students in attendance during the week. On the weekend families paraded the Agriculture building and the compliments just kept flowing!

The amount of questions we received was amazing and it was so cool to see kids and adults alike, feeding the hens right out of their hand... you don't see that every day in the big city!

A special thanks goes to our Egg Ambassadors for showing up and putting a face to local egg farmers, and the amazing ladies who helped out at the booth all week and weekend, making sure all information was answered and everyone left with a little more knowledge than they came with. Thank you!

Keep your eyes peeled, because next week (April 25 & 26) we head down to Aggie Days Lethbridge to surprise more students and educate them about egg farming and the hens that lay them!

Poultry Industry Emergency Management

Alberta's four poultry boards have been approved for funding through the Federal Agri-Risk program, to develop an Incident Command Structure for emergency management, and to update the industry's Emergency Response Plan and resources. This project will be implemented over the next year and has a budget of \$819,000, to develop the following:

- Updated Emergency Response Plan
- Crisis Communication Plan
- Personal Protective Equipment Program
- Geo Fencing, Alert/Notification and Mapping
- Depopulation and Disposal Program

Additional details regarding this project and changes to the Emergency Management Plan and resources, will be provided to egg farmers at the EFA Regional Meetings in June. Any further updates will be provided throughout the year, as needed.

NRCB and Manure Storage

Several egg farmers are interested in improving their outdoor field storage to create 'permanent' storage (ie: create a concrete pad or clay base), as they are not using their indoor barn storage. Others have expressed the desire to convert this to covered storage. These are positive improvements that will help move farms toward best practice for manure handling and storage.

Farmers do need to be aware that although they are not expanding their facility, an NRCB authorization permit is required to construct, expand, or modify a manure storage or collection facility, when there is no increase in livestock numbers. Accordingly, creation of permanent manure storage in the field still requires an authorization permit and may still trigger a full assessment on any grandfathered farm.

When determining whether construction or modification of a manure collection or storage facility meets requirements of AOPA, approval officers are required to determine whether or not existing facilities may cause a risk to the environment. This is done via the use of a science based environmental risk screening tool designed by the NRCB in 2007-08, in consultation with Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment, and industry experts.

So that farmers have a better understanding of what to expect from the Risk Assessment, EFA has posted a copy of the tool on the producer website: www.albertaeggproducers.ca/best-production-practices/environment/

Operations that are grandfathered are not required to meet AOPA construction standards, but are required to address any potential issues that may pose a risk to the environment. In most cases, minor operational changes or enhancements to existing monitoring requirements are the most appropriate response.

EFA has also uploaded a Permits Under AOPA fact sheet that reviews when a permit is needed, how applications are reviewed, the consequences of unauthorized construction, the time required to get a permit, and post construction inspections. The fact sheet, courtesy of the NRCB, is available at: www.albertaeggproducers.ca/best-production-practices/building-the-ideal-production-facility/ *[see the bottom of the page]*

Producer Website

Spring has arrived, along with the expected start of wild bird migrations. With Avian Influenza causing issues around the world, including the United States, it is important to take precautions during this time to protect your flock. All the resources egg farmers may need can be found on the AI page of the producer website: www.albertaeggproducers.ca/emergency-preparedness/avian-influenza. Available resources include info about AI, step-by-step bio-security guides, and links to the audio from the recent Avian Influenza Town Hall Call.

Several updates related to a variety of research projects have been added to the producer website: www.albertaeggproducers.ca/information-center/research-program/projectupdates. The following updates are now available:

- The quarterly research report provided to the EFA Board and EFA Research Committee
- The final LAPS feasibility report from Serecon
- Dr. Clover Bench's Hen Housing and Bone Strength presentation, which she gave at EFA Regional Meetings in 2016
- A presentation that evaluates beak treatment abnormalities and their bird impact, which was funded by EFA
- Information about the net-zero barn cooler benchmarking project
- A project overview for Alberta Agriculture's manure drying cost/benefit analysis study

For Sale: Truck

EFA has a white 2012 Ford F-150 4x4 with topper for sale. The truck has had one driver (non-smoker) and no accidents, and has 20,000 km on the tires. Asking \$12,000 or best offer.

For more information, call Laurel at 403-250-1197 x121.

Wanted: Micro-table / Micro-box

An Alberta egg farmer is looking for a micro-table or micro-box for an Ultramix Rad-3000 feed mill.

A finder's fee is available, for anybody who can help locate one of these items.

For more information, or if you have one of these items available, call Mike at 587-340-7344.

Wanted: Bagging Unit & Sewing Machine

An Alberta egg farmer is looking for a bagging unit and sewing machine.

For more information, or if you have one of these items available, call Mike at 587-340-7344.

Reminder: AFAC Poultry Transportation Workshop

If you transport chicks, pullets or end of lay hens, EFA urges you to attend an upcoming Alberta Poultry Handling and Transportation Workshop, presented by AFAC. Workshops are scheduled for April 26, April 29, May 10, May 13, May 24 and May 27.

Visit the official website (<http://www.afac.ab.ca/programs-and-events>) or call 403-652-5111.

Reminder: Food Safety Funding Available

A new funding program is accepting applications to help farmers invest in equipment and tracking systems to improve on-farm food safety practices. Farmers can receive up to a 70% reimbursement on eligible activities, to a maximum of \$5,000. Eligible activities must be related to the SC-SC program, between April 1, 2017 and February 28, 2018.

Visit the official website (<http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/>) or call 310-FARM (3276).

Reminder: Remote Area Heating Allowance

Alberta Agriculture has launched a program to reduce the cost of heating fuels for those Albertans who do not have access to natural gas service. The program provides direct rebates of 25% of the cost of fuel (less GST) on consumption up to 18,185 litres (4,000 gallons) of propane, or 12,275 litres (2,800 gallons) of heating oil per year, or a proportionate combination of both.

Visit the official website (<http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv294>) or call 780-427-0125.