

# EggNotes

## Board of Director

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## EFA Staff

General Manager: Susan Gal  
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Marketing & Comm. Manager: David Webb  
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Marketing Specialist: VACANT  
ext: 103

Farm Programs Coordinator: Carley Frerichs  
ext: 125

Manager, Programs & Research: Jenna Griffin  
Ext: 129

Office Manager: Laurel Martin  
ext: 121

Logistics Coordinator: Brandy Addai  
ext: 101

Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston  
ext: 127

Business Manager: Kari Buijs  
ext: 132

Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastiwka  
ext: 128

Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin

## EFA Vision Statement

Healthy Food, Healthy Farms,  
Healthy Families

## EFA Mission Statement

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

## EFA Office Hours

Office is closed to the public until further notice  
but all staff can be reached by phone or email

## Egg Price Update

### Effective September 8, 2019

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.360	↑
A	Large	2.360	↑
A	Medium	2.130	↑
A	Small	1.750	↑
A	Nest Run	2.225	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.280	-
B		0.770	-
C		0.160	-

Note: From the minimum paying price, graders can only deduct charges as authorized by the EFA Board. Effective December 29/19, rates were set for each zone in Alberta and reflect the maximum rate that can be deducted from producer's weekly cheque. For further information, please refer to OPP #13.3 on the producer website.

EggNotes is the official newsletter of

Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Submissions should be sent to:

info@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: May 8, 2020

Note: EggNotes can be accessed on the EFA website (full issue PDF) or EFA's producer website



# Board Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors would like to thank our fellow producers for their patience and due diligence, as we navigate these unique and challenging times. Though unable to meet in person, the Board continues to meet to discuss the current situation and priority egg industry issues, by adopting alternate methods of remote communication and collaboration.

The Board would also like to thank the EFA staff for their ongoing commitment to serving our industry, even as they too have been forced to adapt to new working arrangements. Even though the office is closed to the public and most staff are now working remotely, it is otherwise business as usual for EFA.

In a time of uncertainty, it is important to focus on the positives. Albertans continue to turn to local farmers to provide them a stable supply of safe, fresh, affordable, high-quality food. The federal and provincial governments consider the food supply chain to be an integral and invaluable asset in these difficult times, and have taken great strides to help ensure the agriculture sector can continue to operate with minimal disruption through this crisis.

Now is the time to remember and embrace EFA's vision – Healthy Food, Healthy Farms, Healthy Families. We are all in this together!



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# HEALTHY BIRDS

## HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

#### COVID-19 Update

Egg Farmers of Alberta remains committed to navigating the unprecedented global situation prompted by COVID-19. EFA is working closely with Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC), Alberta egg farmers and the province's value chain partners, to assess any potential impact to our operations. The goal is to ensure that fresh, local eggs continue to be available for Albertans.

Though the EFA office is closed to the public, all business functions remain fully operational, with most staff now working remotely. Field staff from EFA & EFC continue to schedule farm visits to deliver the egg industry's national Animal Care Program and Start Clean – Stay Clean® food safety program. New precautions have been implemented to help ensure field staff and farmers stay safe and healthy.

The egg industry applauds both the federal and provincial government for taking steps to enable the national food supply chain and the agriculture sector to continue functioning with minimal disruption, in these challenging times.

Consumers can continue to enjoy eggs as they always have. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has advised that there has been extensive research on the potential transmission of COVID-19 through food consumption and has concluded that there is absolutely no evidence of this.

Alberta egg farmers can access the most up-to-date information about EFA's response to COVID-19, as well as a variety of resources, via a dedicated page on the producer website. That should be your first stop for all COVID-19 information!



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# HEALTHY BIRDS

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### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

#### COVID-19 EFC Field Services Update

On March 27th EFC provided updated guidelines for the field staff with respect to on-farm inspections. The full guidance document is available on the producer website for your information (on the homepage under COVID-19 update).

Under the new guidelines, farm visits will only be conducted under the following circumstances:

- The farm consents to receiving an audit/measurement/flock verification by an EFC inspector
- There are less than 25 employees/people at the farm
- No staff or workers have travelled abroad, or by air, in the last 14 days
- There are not currently any staff or workers self-isolating due to illness and there is nobody onsite with a respiratory disease or recently recovered from COVID-19
- There is an area where the count/audit can be conducted, that will allow for social distancing

NOTE: For Colonies, please take steps to ensure that only workers essential to the egg operation enter the production facility. If this is the case, please communicate this to your EFC field inspector, who will take this into consideration when assessing the size of the operation.

Please also note that the Government of Alberta has deemed businesses that support the safety of food including animal and plant health and animal welfare an essential service. Therefore, we encourage you to participate in the SC-SC® and ACP audits during this time. While physical inspection of the facility/facilities is necessary to complete an Animal Care or SC-SC® audit, there is an option to perform the paperwork portion of the audit remotely.



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HEALTHY BIRDS

## Individual Bird Euthanasia Workshops Postponed

The recent restrictions on gatherings imposed by the Alberta government to reduce the spread of coronavirus has halted the planning of the Individual Bird Euthanasia Workshops. These workshops were originally scheduled for the end of May (see below dates) and were intended for producers who had not previously attended Egg Farmers of Alberta euthanasia workshops.

- May 25, 2020—Leduc region
- May 26, 2020—Calgary region
- May 27, 2020—Lethbridge

**At this time, Egg Farmers of Alberta does not have alternative dates for these workshops.** Please stay tuned for rescheduling updates.

Note that the Whole Barn Gassing Workshops (on July 28-29th for Northern region and October 5-6th for Southern region of Alberta) and Transportation Training Workshops (on August 11-12 for Lethbridge and August 18-19 for Calgary and Leduc) are still in the planning phase in anticipation that the gathering restrictions will be lifted by the scheduled dates.

If you have any questions, please send your inquires to [carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca)

### Upcoming Events

- April 10** - Good Friday - Office Closed
- April 15** - EFA Board Orientation Training
- April 16** - Quota Exchange Q2 Red/Green Date
- April 21** - New Entrant Re-development Committee Meeting
- April 22** - EFA Board Orientation Training
- April 23** - Unform Levy Project Team Meeting
- April 28** - CEIRA AGM
- April 29** - EFA Board Meeting
- May 6** - EFA Board Meeting



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## HEALTHY BIRDS

### Animal Care Program Implementation Timelines

Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) is still awaiting the launch of the new Animal Care Program. At this time, EFA still does not have a confirmed deadline for when flocks must comply, however it has been confirmed that there will be an 18-month implementation period after the approval of the program. It is likely that the program will go to the Egg Farmers of Canada Executive team for approval in the summer of 2020, which means a current estimated effective date in late 2021 or early 2022.

EFA would like to thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work to ensure all of Alberta's Egg farms will meet the new Animal Care Program standards. Additional information will continue to be communicated as it becomes available for implementation timelines. For further questions about the new standards or the timelines to comply, please contact Jenna Griffin ([jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca)) or Carley Frerichs ([carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca)).



## HEALTHY FARMS

### Be Seen, Be Safe Update

Since November 2019, the Be Seen, Be Safe app has had unforeseen glitches causing an increase and continuous need for maintenance on the app. One example of these glitches is that location services notify those users with Apple smartphones of their movement over the past month, creating further concerns over privacy. The open source operating systems used for smartphones (Android and Apple) underwent redevelopment making it nearly impossible for downloadable apps, like Be Seen, Be Safe, to keep up with the ongoing software updates and has resulted in continuous glitches. Due to these issues, the Be Seen, Be Safe working group has been seeking alternative options for poultry producers.

In the interim, a Manual App has been developed. The Manual App (also called the Farm Health Guardian or Automated System) is a simple to use app for smartphones that links to the Be Seen, Be Safe database and continues to use its features (analytical tools, visitor books, outbreak simulation for trace in and out, and sending alerts) and eliminates the

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concerns for being tracked (does not use location services) or draining battery power from continuously running in the background. The Be Seen, Be Safe working group views the Manual App as the newest “version” of the original Be Seen, Be Safe program. The transition to the Manual App will also be an opportunity to remedy unregistered producers, user re-assignments, and new egg managers since the Manual App will require the download of a new application on individuals’ smartphones. The estimated release date for the Manual App is May 2020, and additional information and instructions will follow its launch.

The other alternative option the Be Seen, Be Safe working group is exploring is a technology called Biosecurity Passport. The Biosecurity Passport will work similarly to the Be Seen, Be Safe app but eliminates the need for smartphones by placing a hardware device on farm and using keychains for visitor detection. Once again, it will offer the same functions as Be Seen, Be Safe including: arrival notifications, visitor record books, disease trace in and out, alert capabilities. The Be Seen, Be Safe working group will be piloting this hardware on select farms at the beginning of July 2020.

Although other alternative technologies (ABS tracs and CLAS) were investigated for their biosecurity functionality, the Manual App and Biosecurity Passport were determined to be the best options moving forward as they offer many of the same benefits and features as Be Seen, Be Safe and eliminate some of the previous concerns and glitches. Egg Farmers of Alberta encourages producers to engage in the transition to the interim manual app but at this point is not recommending deleting the Be Seen, Be Safe app. It is important that producers continue to participate in these biosecurity programs to help control the spread of disease and prevent an outbreak from becoming a catastrophe. Further updates will be provided as the launch of the Manual App approaches. For additional information, please feel welcome to contact Carley Frerichs at [carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca).



## Quota Updates

Quota Certificates and Letters: Quota Transaction confirmations are now paperless. EFA will now be sending all correspondence related to quota transactions by email and fax. If you require a hard copy, contact our office and we will send you a copy by mail.

Quota Exchange Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): A new FAQ document about EFA’s Quota Exchange has been posted to the Quota Exchange page on the producer website.



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## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### Government Research Update

On March 30th the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Devin Dreeshen announced the creation of Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), a non-profit, arm's-length agriculture research organization.

The following is from the Government of Alberta's press release:

“Early this year, government consulted with farmers, industry and key partners in the agricultural sector. From that engagement, there was a consensus that farmers, in collaboration with others involved in research, are best positioned to determine agricultural research priorities.

RDAR's structure takes the best parts of previous research models, such as Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) and Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF), as it ensures research reflects the priorities of farmers and ranchers. It is imperative that agriculture research in Alberta achieves outcomes that can be applied in the field and on the ranch.

A regionally reflective advisory board will assist the interim board with important projects to ensure value, profitability and areas of focus.

An interim board and CEO has been put in place to establish RDAR. Research funding will begin flowing by September 2020 and achieve full operational capacity by March 2021. Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, \$2 million in grant funding will be provided this year to support initial operations, which will allow RDAR to begin focusing on priority research right away.”

Dr. David Chalack is the interim board chair of Results Driven Agriculture Research.



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## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### **Enterra Black Solider Fly Larvae Feed Ingredient Tour Summary**

On February 18, 2020 the Research Committee (RC) toured Enterra's newly opened black solider fly production facility. In the past, the RC has supported research projects evaluating feedstuff that potentially has the capability to reduce the carbon footprint of egg production. Thus, the RC investigated how black solider fly feed ingredients may be a valid environmentally friendly alternative to current commercial feedstuff.

Enterra's sustainable feed initiative looks to reduce food wastage by diverting produce and agricultural byproduct (150 tons wet/day) that would otherwise be disposed of and using it as a feed for the insect farm.

To read more about the RC learnings from their tour visit the producer website at Information Center (EFA Research).



## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### **Egg Ambassador Update**

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, all planned Egg Ambassador activities have been cancelled. This includes the Egg Ambassador Workshop, Aggie Days Calgary, and Aggie Days Lethbridge. Please stay tuned to future issues of EggNotes and the producer website for additional updates, including the status of the Calgary Stampede.



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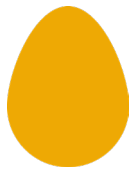


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## HEALTHY EGGS

### Increased Risk of Avian Influenza During Spring Wild Bird Migration

There is an increased risk of Avian Influenza (AI) during the Spring wild bird migration. It is important that farmers are consistently practicing good biosecurity – it is the best protection for your farm and your flocks!

Spring is a season with increased Avian Influenza risk:

- Wild migratory waterfowl are known to carry AI viruses
- These viruses often do not cause illness in waterfowl, however certain strains can cause severe illness and death in domestic poultry.
- Massive movement of wild birds during migration increases the risk of AI transmission to poultry farms.
- AI viruses can be transmitted to domestic flocks through direct contact with wild birds or their droppings, or through contaminated water supplies.

Take steps to protect your flocks:

- Discuss biosecurity and the current AI threat with your staff and family members.
- Keep the doors to your barns locked to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Ensure that everyone entering the restricted area of your poultry barn adheres to strict biosecurity protocols each and every time they enter.
- Best practice: only use clean, barn-specific footwear when entering the barn.
- Deter wild birds from the areas around your barns.
- When practical, deter wild birds away from your water source.
- Appropriate water treatment reduces the risk of disease transmission from wild birds.
- If you have a free-range flock with access to the outdoors, you need to manage your risk as you let your birds outside.
- Review your biosecurity protocols, update them to address any gaps



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