

EggNotes

Board of Directors

Chair: Meb Gilani	403-899-8060
Vice Chair: Peter Waldner	403-795-8621
EFC Director: Beatrice Visser	780-674-6297
EFC Alternate: Jerry Hofer	403-363-3501
Director: Conrad Vanessen	403-635-7998
Director: Elie Hofer	780-691-8512

EFA Staff

Susan Gal
General Manager, 587-391-6124 / ext.124

David Webb
Marketing & Comm. Manager, 587-391-6126 / ext.126

Adelina Gashi
Marketing & Social Media Coordinator, 587-391-6122 / ext.122

Jenna Griffin
Manager Programs & Research, 587-391-6129 / ext.129

Carley Frerichs
Farm Programs Coordinator, 587-391-6125 / ext.125

Laurel Martin
Office Manager, 587-391-6121 / ext.121

Brandy Addai
Logistics Coordinator, 403-250-1197 / ext.101

Erin Johnston
Farm Services Administrator, 587-391-6127 / ext.127

Kari Buijs
Business Manager, 587-391-6123 / ext.123

Dave Lastiwka
Field Services Coordinator, 587-999-3447

Murray Minchin
Fields Services Coordinator

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

Due to COVID-19, EFA office is closed. Staff are
working from home and are available during regular
business hours by phone and email.

May 24 - Victoria Day, Office Closed

Egg Price Update Effective February 21, 2021

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.510	↑
A	Large	2.510	↑
A	Medium	2.220	↑
A	Small	1.890	↑
A	Nest Run	2.360	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.270	↓
B		0.760	↓
C		0.150	↓

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: June 11, 2021

Note: EggNotes can be accessed on the EFA website or EFA's producer website



#101, 90 Freeport Blvd. NE, Calgary, Alberta, T3J 5J9
P: 403-250-1197 Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344 F: 403-291-9216
Website: eggs.ab.ca Producer Website: albertaeggproducers.ca
Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Board Update

- Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors has been discussing strategies for maximizing the value of the limited opportunities we have to engage our fellow producers, and how to build upon the progress made over the past few years towards cultivating a truly sustainable provincial egg industry.

The Board has tentatively decided to delay the upcoming round of regional meetings from June to August, in the hopes of being able to meet in person. There are also plans to add a virtual Zoom option to one of the meetings, for those producers that prefer being able to attend without having to travel. This is the tentative schedule, which will be reviewed again during the June Board meeting:

- August 9 - Calgary & Zoom
- August 10 - Lethbridge #1
- August 11 - Lethbridge #2
- August 12 - Grande Prairie
- August 13 - Edmonton

The Board has also committed to redevelop EFA's sustainability strategy, which was originally developed back in 2014. The strategy introduced EFA's 4-pillars – healthy birds, healthy eggs, healthy farms and healthy communities – and resulted in major initiatives including the publication of EFA's annual Sustainability Report and EFA hosting two stakeholder engagement workshops. The Board looks forward to working closely with the EFA staff over the coming year to revamp our sustainability strategy, which we are confident will help guide EFA and the provincial egg industry for the next several years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 24, Victoria Day - Office Closed
June 2, Production Management Committee Meeting
June 9, EFA Board Meeting
June 10, Outcomes Based Animal Care Webinar



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Healthy Eggs

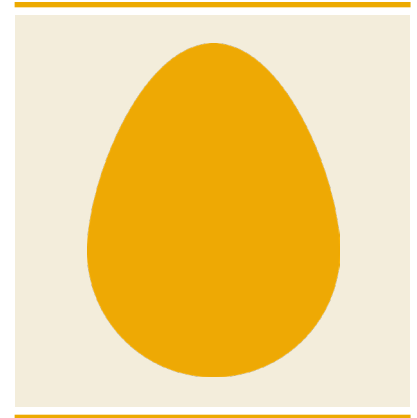
► Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to March 27th, 2021, which is period 3/13 for 2021. The stats indicate that in the latest 4-week period 3.22 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 5.8% decrease from the previous 4-week period (ending February 27th), and a 21.0% decrease in sales compared to the same period in 2020.

The reason for the significant decline was that this period marked the start of the first COVID-19 pandemic lockdown last year, when the market experienced extreme panic-buying of eggs.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 3.8% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 43.7 million dozen eggs. Regular white & brown eggs have seen the largest sales growth; a 4.6% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 37.2 million dozen eggs (85.2% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).

As a reminder, additional Nielsen trend data that is updated approximately every four weeks is available on the producer website.



Healthy Farms

► New EFC Funded Research Journal Publication

Did you know that one of the best ways to improve nitrogen use efficiency in egg production is the application of an ammonia scrubber in the barn facility?

Learn more by reading the new research journal publication on the comparative life cycle assessment of technologies and strategies to improve nitrogen use efficiency in egg supply chains posted on the producer website under the heading Egg Farmers of Canada Research on the Research page (Information Center).



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► **Safety Minute (from AgSafe Alberta)**

This month we reflect on air quality. Air quality can be a problem for workers when any of these hazards are present: poisonous gases, chemical fumes or mists, dusts, moulds, viruses, bacteria, or an oxygen deficiency.

Many barns have great ventilation systems in place. However, there may still be spaces on our farms where we should take some time to reflect on the air quality for our workers.

Reflect on the spaces around your farm:

- Are there places where mould or dust are present?
- Areas where dried feces can become airborne?
- Is there a confined or restricted space that may have a low oxygen atmosphere?
- Are there places where chemicals are used and mists or residues may be present?

What can you do to protect your lungs?

- Can the ventilation be improved for these areas on the farm?
- Have masks available for workers. Ensure that they are fit tested for a proper fit, especially if the wearer has facial hair
- Train everyone how to select the appropriate mask for the job and properly wear it.
- Train everyone how to clean their masks if they are reusable

Symptoms of exposure can be seen in 4-8 hours, but we may not always see the effects right away from this injury. Repeated exposures lead to problems like Grain Fever (Toxic Organic Dust Syndrome), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Farmer's Lung (Extrinsic Allergic Alveolitis).

AgSafe Alberta has recently received a grant to deliver mask fit testing and training. Please reach out to AgSafe to find out more.

► **Wildfire Advisory Notice**

Egg Farmers of Alberta would like to advise Alberta pullet/egg producers that there is growing concern regarding the threat of wildfires this spring in Alberta. A provincial wildfire map can be found by visiting <https://wildfire.alberta.ca/wildfire-status/status-map.aspx> where the status of wildfires is updated regularly.

The Government of Alberta website also includes some recommendations on what steps individuals can take to prevent wildfire risks. To view the recommendations, please visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/firesmart-your-spring-cleaning-around-your-home.aspx>

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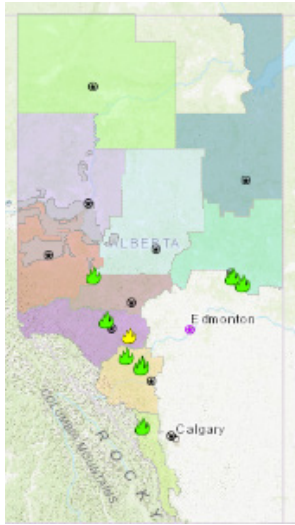


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Legend:	
	Out of Control
	Being Held
	Under Control
	Mutual Aid
	Wildfire Coordination Centre
	Forest Area Fire Centre

Healthy Communities

► Congratulations Muneer Gilani

For the past several years, Muneer Gilani has served as Alberta's representative for the Canadian Egg Industry Reciprocal Alliance (CEIRA), which provides insurance for approximately 1,750 members across Canada. EFA and the entire provincial egg industry wishes to congratulate Muneer for recently being elected Chair of CEIRA! We know that Muneer will continue to serve the best interests of Canadian producers. Joe Kleinsasser will now serve as Alberta's CEIRA Director.



► You are Invited to the Canadian Research Forum

The Poultry Innovation Partnership is excited to announce a new initiative - the Canadian Poultry Science Network, featuring the first annual Canadian Research Forum. This new initiative arose from the annual Prairie Poultry Meetings which had historically brought together researchers and their graduate level poultry science students from the three Western provinces (Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba) to present their planned and completed research projects. This year, the meeting has expanded and includes researchers and students from across Canada.

The meeting is scheduled for June 21-23, 2021 and is a virtual event. The virtual meeting platform will allow attendees to easily interact, provide feedback and ask questions. An invitation has been extended to industry partners and producers to attend the Canadian Research Forum and learn about the cutting-edge research that is happening across Canada.

To register please email Brenda Reimer at Brenda.Reimer@ualberta.ca or call (780)-446-3144.



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► University of Alberta Student Engagement

Development of a Virtual Table Egg Farm
U of A Class Matches Up Students with Livestock and Poultry Producers
F. E. Robinson, University of Alberta

In these times of pandemic restrictions, it has been a challenge to stay engaged and keep students engaged in university classes. As a co-instructor of An SC 101 at the University of Alberta along with Dr. Martin Zuidhof and Dr. Leanna Grenwich, we had to deal with that reality with a record 140 students this term. Last fall when it became apparent that we were going to be in an online-learning situation, I wanted to do something that would not only accommodate online-learning but would allow us to do something more positive than we were used to doing in an in-class format. Typically, we have taken the class (in three afternoon sessions) to three farms (beef, dairy and broilers). Those were amazing learning opportunities but because of Covid that option was off the table this year.

I had an idea. What if we set up a plan to have even more farmers interact with students online? I found 48 producers who agreed to come online and talk about their farms. Six of these farmers were Table Egg Producers, including: Susan Schafers, Elie Hofer, Dan Kleinsasser, Michael Hofer, Dan Vandenborn and Levi Hofer. Each week for 8 weeks, I had 6 producers join the class and share videos or slide presentations about their farm. What every one of these producers put into this project was simply amazing.



I also split the class into 36 groups and each group was tasked with developing a farm for a pre-determined commodity. Two groups of students each constructed a virtual layer farm, with Susan Schafers and Dan/Bernadette Vandenborn as mentors. Students had to deal with land location, processor arranging, equipment, feeding programs, factors affecting production efficiency, and best of all, responding to a disaster scenario. Each group produced 24 slides describing these aspects of their virtual enterprise.

Egg collecting technology

For egg collection our farm uses a series of conveyor belts. With a large number of hens manually collecting the eggs would not be feasible. The system works by, the eggs are rolled from the nesting area onto a conveyor belt that transports them safely to where the eggs are packed. These conveyor belts are located under the nesting area. The benefits of this system is, it is not labour intensive, and is done at any time. Less contact has a positive effect on biosecurity, as well the eggs are not crushed and transported safely.



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Without exception, the interaction that was apparent between these producers and my students was probably the most valued transfer of knowledge I have encountered in my 35 years of teaching. I sincerely appreciate this producer support in helping to educate the next generation of agrologists and food consumers.

► **Alberta Open Farm Days Reminder**

EFA is calling on registered egg farmers to consider participating in Alberta Open Farm Days 2021, which is scheduled for **August 14th & 15th**. Farmers can choose which day(s) they want to participate. EFA sent a memo to all producers on April 30th, along with an event toolkit, which has also been posted to the Egg Ambassadors page in the Healthy Communities section of the producer website.

Alberta Open Farm Days is a province-wide open house. This unique weekend event is intended to bring Albertans together through educational and experiential agricultural-based initiatives to learn more about where local food comes from and how it was produced. The goal is to showcase Alberta's agriculture and tourism industry in a fun, engaging and meaningful manner, to participants of all ages.

The deadline for host farms to register is May 31, 2021. All host farm registrations for Alberta Open Farm Days are done through the event website, which is also where interested farmers can find more information: <https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/host-registration>

Diamond Egg Packer for Sale

OK Colony is selling a Diamond Egg Packer which consists of 1 left hand conveyor discharge for \$4,000. If you are interested, please contact Ted at 403-752-4172 ext. 713



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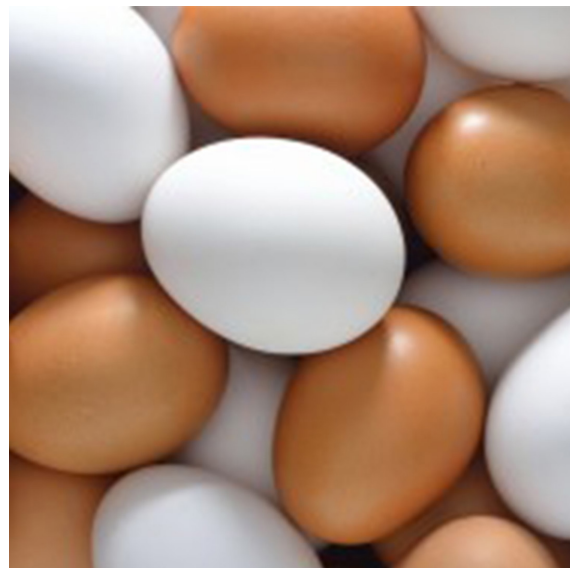


► Communications Update

We believe in two-way communication between our consumers and us, and we want you to stay informed, be active and engaged about our social media happenings. Each month we'll include a communications update of a piece of work that we are proud to show you! We would also love your opinion on what you want to see, so if you have suggestions feel free to send them to adelina.gashi@eggs.ab.ca or call 587-391-6122.

► Healthy Eating Campaign for May

As part of our 2021 marketing strategy, we've developed a themed monthly campaign as an engaging and creative way to share all the wonderful information about eggs. For the month May, we will be focusing on the theme of myth busting by dispelling common egg and industry related myths. The goal of this month's campaign is to accurately inform the public and target consumers about our industry and debunk common myths. Check out the top egg and industry myths at <https://eggs.ab.ca/campaign-may2021/>. Here's what you can expect to see on our social media channels this month:



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