

EggNotes

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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 & other stakeholders

EFA Office Hours

Our office will be closed Monday, October 9, 2017 for Thanksgiving

Egg Price Update

Effective January 29, 2017

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen
A	Extra Large	2.130
A	Large	2.130
A	Medium	1.900
A	Small	1.530
A	Nest Run	2.006
A	Pee Wee	0.270
B		0.750
C		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.

EggNotes is the official newsletter of Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Submissions should be sent to:
info@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: October 13 2017



EFA Board Update

Your Board of Directors invited 10 producers to participate in an End of Lay Depopulation Strategic Working Session on August 24th. The goals of the facilitated session were to:

- Develop a collective understanding of facts and a common language to use in discussions.
- Engage in discussions of the issue at a strategic level.
- Develop and analyze potential options to address the issue while understanding factors like cost, risks, and long-term opportunities.
- Provide input to the Board's strategic planning session taking place on September 25 and 26.

The day included a review of past work and discussions, a discussion on trends in other markets, and key conclusions to consider that will drive options development. There was also a panel discussion where participants discussed the history of the issue and EFA's original Board vision, key trends, and a discussion on future options, including their pros and cons. The slides that served the basis of this discussion and that capture comments from the meeting will be posted on the homepage of the producer website in the near future.

The Board would like all producers to know that, while this is a complex issue that takes time to address, EFA is developing and investigating several options, and working on developing an industry strategy. We hope to use the Strategic Planning Session, October Meeting, and an additional strategic session this fall for further discussion and planning, with an eye toward an update at the 2018 EFA Regional Meetings in January and the EFA AGM. That being said, we will take as long as we need to make a good decision.

When making decisions, producers should understand that changes are coming. The following were emerging points of consensus from the meeting:

- Solutions need to be economically feasible, scientifically verifiable, and socially acceptable.
- While a national standard needs to be developed, Alberta will likely need to take a leadership posi-



tion in creating and implementing this standard.

- We need certified and appropriate methods that are standardized, available, and useable at every farm in Alberta.
- We need proactive engagement and messaging for the public (ie: government, customers, consumers).
- The following previously developed Board goals related to this topic are still relevant today:
 - o No producer fails the Animal Care Program;
 - o Producers should be able to euthanize birds on farm, meeting required standards, with a verifiable system;
 - o We need to ensure that the industry is not obstructed by external forces.
- It is essential that the industry is able to scientifically defend what each value chain stakeholder is doing.
- Whatever is chosen, we need to leave options for phasing-out methods so that farms are not exposed to the risk of regulation changes.
- We need communication plans to ensure a smooth transition period.
- There cannot be a hard cut-off.

There was consensus on the following emerging options:

- Phase-outs with support as science evolves and becomes more conclusive.
- Address issues with moving birds during depopulation.
- Being mindful and proactive with consumer perception of an acceptable system.

A small breakout group analyzed the pros, cons, and implications of current depopulation processes to identify criteria that should guide our strategy. EFA will be looking for producers to provide input on that list of criteria – stay tuned!

If you have any questions about the August 24th meeting, we encourage you to connect with one of your Board Directors.

Upcoming Events

September 15 - Farm Tour for Marketing Council (Lethbridge)

September 18-20: CCFI Public Trust Summit (Calgary)

September 20: EFA Stakeholder Engagement

September 21: EFC Board Meeting (Ottawa)

September 25: EFA Board Meeting (Red Deer)

September 26: Egg Industry Advisory Committee Meeting (Red Deer)

September 26-27: EFA Strategic Planning (Red Deer)

October 5: Research Committee Meeting (Lethbridge)



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AgSafe Pilot Project

If farm managers are looking for assistance with their farm safety programming, AgSafe Alberta will send an Advisor to work with the manager on the farm. The Advisor will gather information about the farm and assess the farm safety needs of each individual farm.

During the first visit to the farm, Advisors will evaluate the operation and get a sense of how in-depth they want their programming to be. The Advisor may conduct a quick hazard assessment of the operation with the farmer to determine their areas of concern. The AgSafe Alberta Advisors will then follow through by assisting the farm manager with building a farm safety program customized to the farm. The complexity of the program will be determined with the farmer and can range from introductory to complex. If producers want to move beyond setting up a farm safety management system, AgSafe Alberta Advisors have the tools and resources to provide training to family or employees on the farm:

- Introduction to the new safety management system
- Farm worker safety orientation
- Hazard assessment training
- Incident investigation training

The AgSafe Alberta Advisor pilot project is flexible. For producers who are looking for an introduction to farm safety for themselves and others working on their farm, Advisors are available to guide farm managers through QuickStart programs if they are wanting assistance. QuickStart guides have been set up to allow producers to work on the programs on their own or to work with assistance from an AgSafe Alberta Advisor.

For more information, please contact Donna Trottier:

Donna Trottier P. Ag
Farm & Ranch Safety Extension Coordinator
AgSafe Alberta
403.348.9321
donna@agsafeab.ca



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Phosphorus Watershed Project



You are invited to the Agriculture Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) Tour in Acme Creek Watershed and Tindastoll

There are two dates to attend the tour; Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 10:00am - 3:00 pm or Thursday, September 28, 2017 in Tindastoll Watershed from 10:00am - 3:00 pm.

Please RSVP before September 20th to the following people listed on the invitation below:

For toll free, first dial **310-0000**

Acme: Troy @ 403-381-7106

Tindastoll: Wiebe @ 403-340-5375



Phosphorus Watershed Project

You are invited to the Agricultural Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) Tour in Acme Creek Watershed

Hosted by
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and
Intensive Livestock Working Group*

* (Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association, Alberta Milk, Alberta Pork Producers, Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board, Alberta Turkey Producers, Egg Farmers of Alberta)



Wednesday, September 27, 2017
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(Registration and coffee at 9:30 AM)

Acme Community Hall
139 Allison Street, Acme
Lunch provided

Open to anyone interested!

The tour will include:

- Get an update on the Phosphorus Watershed Project in Acme Creek Watershed.
- Learn about the Alberta Phosphorus Management Tool that is used to assess the risk of phosphorus loss in watersheds.
- Find out what BMPs have been implemented in the watershed to address phosphorus loss (stops will include advanced cattle watering and management, local feedlot innovations, riparian management, and more).
- Get a chance to speak one-on-one with project team members and producers who have participated so far.



Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Troy Ormann
Email: troy.ormann@gov.ab.ca
Phone: 403-381-7106
(For toll-free, first dial 310-0000)

Phosphorus Watershed Project

You are invited to the Agricultural Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) Tour in Tindastoll Watershed

Hosted by
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Red Deer County, and
Intensive Livestock Working Group*

* (Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association, Alberta Milk, Alberta Pork Producers, Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board, Alberta Turkey Producers, Egg Farmers of Alberta)



Thursday, September 28, 2017
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(Registration and coffee at 9:30 AM)

Fensala Hall
114 Creamery Way, Markerville
Lunch provided

Open to anyone interested!

The tour will include:

- Get an update on the Phosphorus Watershed Project in Tindastoll Creek Watershed.
- Learn about the Alberta Phosphorus Management Tool that is used to assess the risk of phosphorus loss in watersheds.
- Find out what BMPs have been implemented in the watershed to address phosphorus loss (stops will include off-stream watering, riparian fencing/planting, corral removal, stream crossing, and more).
- Get a chance to speak one-on-one with project team members and producers who have participated so far.



Please RSVP by Thursday, September 21, 2017
Wiebe Buruma
Email: wiebe.buruma@gov.ab.ca
Phone: 403-340-5375
(For toll-free, first dial 310-0000)





Furnished Housing Transition Plan

A plan has been finalized that will transition furnished housing systems in Alberta to the 2017 Code of Practice requirements. The final 2017 Code of Practice was released in March. Since that time, EFA's Field Coordinators have been collecting information on the furnished systems in Alberta including details on perch, nest and foraging space. We've also surveyed farmers with furnished systems, and have been carefully considering the pros and cons of various plans to transition furnished systems to the 2017 Code of Practice requirements.

After careful consideration, EFA has established a formal transition plan for furnished housing systems to adopt the 2017 Code of Practice. EFA has decided to maintain the density requirement of 116.25 in² for all hens housed in furnished cages. Here are some of the discussion points that led to this decision:

- Furnished housing systems are designed based on a density of 116.25 in² , which is the current density standard for the EU and the UEP.
- Overstocking in furnished systems can contribute to animal welfare issues. Placing at higher densities in furnished systems can result in birds competing for amenities that are in short supply, resulting in aggressive behavior, higher mortality and lower quality egg production.
- The industry, is already fighting an uphill battle in promoting furnished housing. Allowing producers to house at a higher density could negatively impact the reputation of furnished systems.
- EFA believes this option is the most fair to all farmers with furnished systems.
- Egg farmers in Alberta currently have the capacity to house all allocated quota, reducing the pressure to house the birds at a higher density. The risk to the reputation of furnished systems does not outweigh the rewards.
- Allowing producers to house at a higher density goes against a motion from the 2014 AGM that furnished housing will be placed at 116.25 in² for white and brown birds.
- Across Canada, other provinces that previously adopted the interim standard and 116.25 square inch density requirements, continue to uphold this policy (no one is moving from 116.25 square inches to 90)

As EFA has been enforcing the interim housing policy since 2013, farmers with furnished

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housing systems are already placing their birds at 116.25 in² . Placing at this density will help to ease the transition to the additional code requirements.

The transition plan for all furnished housing systems installed before April 1, 2017 is as follows:

- Birds must be housed at a minimum density of 116.25 in² .
- Systems that are not meeting all other April 1, 2017 code requirements have until the earliest of January 1, 2019 or the adoption of the new Animal Care Program to meet requirements. April 1, 2017 requirements are as follows:
 - Height Requirements:
 - A minimum height of 17.7 inches between floor and ceiling of each level
 - Nesting Requirements:
 - Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 6.3 in² of nest space area
 - Nest space must be enclosed on at least 3 sides
 - Where curtains are used, they must extend close to the floor (without impeding flow of eggs)
 - Nest area cannot contain drinkers, feeders or perches
 - Space between nest area and usable feed trough must be at least 6 in
 - The floor of the nest area must be covered with a surface that promotes nesting and prevents injury
 - Perching Requirements:
 - Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 4.4 inches of usable, elevated perch space.
 - Perches must be positioned to minimize fecal fouling of birds, feeders or drinkers below
 - Perches must be constructed of materials that are easily cleaned and do not harbor mites
 - Perches must be designed to minimize injury to hens that are mounting or dismounting, and nearby hens
 - Perches must not extend into nests
 - Perches must be at least 0.75in in width/diameter
 - Foraging Requirements:
 - Each hen must be provided with a minimum of 3.8 in² of a flooring surface for foraging.

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Subsequent deadlines for meeting code requirements will need to be met by the effective dates outlined in the Code of Practice (January 1, 2022).

Farmers with furnished housing systems will be receiving letters explaining how EFA plan to implement this policy on their farm. We thank all farmers for their co-operation as we work to implement the requirements in the 2017 Code of Practice.

Poultry Industry Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness is a critical priority for Alberta's poultry industry. Whether it be mitigating the risk of or responding to poultry disease, or managing a non-disease incident, the ability to rapidly respond to and manage emergencies is important to all of us in the poultry industry. The Alberta poultry industry (API) is working with producers and service providers to manage this risk and to help protect our industry. As you may be aware, the API was successful in receiving a grant to help us reduce the risk of disease spread across the industry and improve our emergency preparedness and response efforts. We are very excited about this opportunity to improve our ability to mitigate and manage risks within the poultry industry in Alberta.

In order to ensure that we develop a successful program to support and help producers and service providers, we want to update you on important elements that will impact you, and receive your feedback and input. We are starting with in-person information sharing sessions in September, which will be followed by presentations, including webinars, commencing this fall.

API strongly encourages you to attend one of the scheduled in-person information sessions, which are scheduled for 10:00 am – 3:00 pm:

- September 21, Red Deer, Sheraton Red Deer Hotel (3310 50 Ave)
- September 22, Lethbridge, Sandman Hotel (421 Mayor Magrath Dr S)
- September 25, Grande Prairie, Pomeroy Hotel (11633 100th St)
- September 26, Edmonton, Holiday Inn Conference Edmonton South (4485 Gateway Blvd)

The main objective for these sessions is to provide producers and poultry industry service providers with a thorough understanding of the direction our collective industry is taking to mitigate and manage risks. At the end of these sessions you should have a better understanding of the tools (response, monitoring, and protection) and support that would be available to you in the event of an emergency, and of the strengths of your own biosecurity program.

Due to the number of producers and service providers across Alberta, API is requesting that no more than 2 representatives from your farm or company attend the session. Please register for one of these sessions by contacting bcornejo@ermcglobal.com by September 8, 2017. For additional information, please contact Bruno Cornejo at 780-483-9203.



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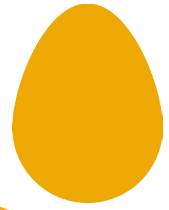


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Healthy Eggs



European Fipronil Recall

In late July, a scandal involving eggs came to light in Europe, with headlines like;

“Egg Contamination Scare” and “Toxic Egg Scandal Grows” found in newspapers across the continent and around the world.

Millions of eggs have been pulled from supermarket shelves in more than a dozen European countries after it was discovered that some had been contaminated with the potentially harmful insecticide Fipronil. This situation has the potential to be the largest egg recall in history. Many potentially contaminated eggs were used in processed products, so the recall is extending to foods such as mayonnaise, ice cream and noodles.

Fipronil is typically used to treat fleas, lice and ticks on domestic pets such as cats and dogs, but is banned for use on animals used for food production. The World Health Organization considers Fipronil to be moderately toxic to people and it can damage organs if consumed in larger quantities. Tests have found levels higher than the recommended limit in contaminated eggs.

The insecticide apparently entered the food chain in the Netherlands, one of Europe’s biggest egg producers. A criminal investigation is now underway, centering on the pest control company that allegedly sold the product and a Dutch poultry farm cleaning company that used it.

Over 180 farms in the Netherlands were temporarily shut down while further tests were carried out.

Fipronil accumulates in the fat of chickens, so Dutch farmers caught up in the issue now face having to depopulate their flocks. The road to recovery for farmers in the Netherlands will be long, as market access can only be restored once there are no traces of Fipronil in their eggs.

Food suppliers are now working to certify their eggs as being fipronil-free, completing food safety testing to rebuild confidence in the egg supply chain.

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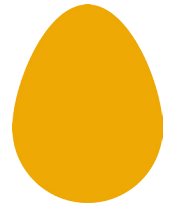
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Whenever crises like these take place around the world, it is important that we pay attention and learn what lessons we can.

- Keep all chemicals stored safely away from your flock
- Be certain that every product used in your barn, for cleaning or flock treatment, is suitable for laying hens in production. If you aren't sure, contact your veterinarian to confirm that a product is suitable

Sources:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-40878381>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/netherlands-eggs-fipronil-1.4237743>

Neilson Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to August 19, 2017 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.92 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 1.5% decline from the previous 4-week period (ending July 22nd), but a 2.0% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2016.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 4.5% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 39.91 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth; a 16.5% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 3.5 million dozen eggs (8.7% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).



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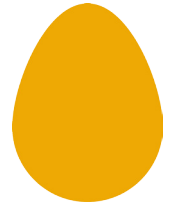


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Egg Farmers of Alberta

Managing Mice



EFA's Production Management committee invited Phil Merrill, Alberta Agriculture's Provincial Rat and Pest Specialist to their last meeting to share his top tips for managing mice in a layer barn. We would like to share Phil's expertise, the same that has helped keep Alberta rat free, with you.

Mice are opportunists, if there are no entry points, habitat, or feed mouse control is relatively easy.

Eliminating food sources for mice can be a challenge in a poultry barn. While it is important to clean up spilled feed, mice can live on feed dust and leakage. Your best opportunity for managing mice is to prevent them from entering the barn in the first place.

The following tips will help you prevent mice from entering your barn through good design and maintenance:

- Ideal barn construction for pest management will have at least 18" of brick or cement up the side of the exterior wall before metal siding starts.
- Be careful of corrugated metal siding as mice can hide in the folds – siding should always start at least 18" above the ground. Use metal flashing where the siding and concrete meet.
- Limit wood and concrete joints on the exterior of your building, as this is a potential point of entry. All wood that is lower than 18" from the ground should be covered in tin.
- Cracks are a potential point of entry – fill cracks with cement filler. If using caulking, keep in mind that mice can chew through it, so use steel wool behind the caulk.
- It is recommended that there be no grass for 50 feet around the barn.
 - The ideal product for around the barn is fractured 30-50ml screened gravel as it makes it difficult for mice to cross.
 - While a concrete pad around the barn may look nice, it is easy for a mouse to travel quickly over cement.
 - If you choose to have vegetation around the barn, keep it clipped short and be aware that you are going to have mice around the barn and will need to have significant mouse control in place.

All laying barns are required to have a pest control program in place as part of your SC-SC on farm food safety program.

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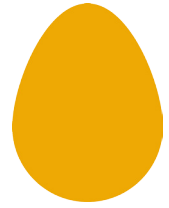


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Here are Phil's recommendations for a good pest control program:



- Baiting is more effective than traps, but you do need to have traps in order to monitor your pest levels.
- When choosing a bait:
 - o Select a single feed bait so that mice only have to eat it once to be effective. If it has +Bromadiolone in the ingredients list then it is single feeding.
 - o Cheese and dough textured bait is very effective – mice love it.
 - o Anticoagulant baits are recommended – they are effective, but there is an antidote if a cat or dog eats it
 - o Be sure the product you choose is registered for use in Alberta – some products aren't, or are only approved for specific use. At this time the only single feed, dough textured, anticoagulant bait registered for outdoor use in Alberta is Resolv. Final and Faststrike/Fast Draw are registered but can't be used outside.
 - o Organic producers are limited in their choice of baits but can use Rampage (cholcal-ciferol) in the barn, but outside of the bird housing area.
- When placing bait:
 - o Use bait stations at unsecured entrances to the building such as doors and the manure exit.
 - o Bait attics and remote areas of your barn.
 - o If you are experiencing pest issues in your barn, consider using more than one type of bait, providing choice for the mice.
 - o By law, when baiting outside you must contain bait so that animals and children can not access it.

Unfortunately 10-20% of mice won't go in bait boxes as they are too restrictive. Homemade bait boxes that look natural and are less restrictive can be very effective. To meet the legal requirements bait stations need to meet the following requirements: bait can't be shook out, kids can't reach into it and it has to be secured (ie to the wall). Tubes with a baffle, secured to the wall can work well.

- Replace your bait with fresh product at least once a year
- Change your bait product every other year as some mice will learn to avoid it if you always use the same product

For those of you interested in new technology, there is a new vacuum system being used for mouse control in facilities such as food plants and hospitals that must be mouse free. This



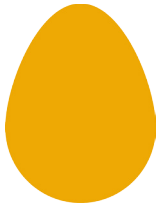
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may be the future of mouse control – a video demonstrating the system can be seen at: <http://beatenpath.ca/how-it-works/>.

Having an effective program in place for managing mice is important for safeguarding food safety and specifically for keeping Salmonella out of our layer barns. We hope you have found these tips from Phil helpful. For more information on how to manage mice and other pests such as beetles and flies, resources are available on the Producer website under Best Production Practices / Pest Control.

Leasing Pool Update

There are still close to 50,000 units of quota available in the 2017/2018 leasing pool. If you think you are able to use it, please call Kari. Here are the stats from the prior leasing pools

QLP Timeframe	Pool Name	Available Quota	Requested Quota	Fill Rate %	Allocated Quota %	Requested Quota %	Lease Charge Rate	Lease Payment Rate
April 2016 - May 2017	2016/2017	208,791	227,930	91.30%	100.00%	91.60%	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00
April 2017 - April 2018	2017/2018A	264,471	311,111	78.17%	100.00%	85.01%	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00
April 2017 - April 2018	2017/2018B	100,618	51,654	100.00%	51.34%	194.79%	\$ 8.00	\$ 4.10



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