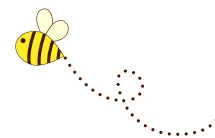




# EggNotes



## Board of Directors

<b>Chair:</b>	Peter Waldner   403-795-8621
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Marcella Van Stryland   403-392-4665
<b>EFC Director:</b>	Jerry Hofer   403-363-3501
<b>EFC Alternate:</b>	Conrad Vanessen   403-635-7998
<b>Director:</b>	Elie Hofer   780-691-8512
<b>Director:</b>	Jorn Wipf   403-635-0516
<b>Director in Training:</b>	Darryl Hiemstra   403-795-3569

### 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

Monday to Friday - 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

## EFA Staff

Stephen Scott

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

David Webb

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

Nicole Whitehouse

- Marketing & Community Relations Specialist,  
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

Melissa Procyk

- Admin Support Coordinator, 403-250-1197 / ext.101

Brandy Addai

- Emergency Preparedness & Response Coordinator,  
587-391-6128 / ext.128

Reshma Kurian

- Financial Coordinator, 587-391-6121 / ext.121

Erin Johnston

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

Kari Buijs

- Business Manager / Controller, 587-391-6123 / ext.123

Dave Lastiwka

- Field Services Coordinator, 587-999-3447

Murray Minchin

- Field Services Coordinator, 403-830-3447

### Egg Price Update Effective February 25, 2024

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	3.080	↑
A	Large	3.080	↑
A	Medium	2.780	↑
A	Small	2.420	↑
A	Nest Run	2.900	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.260	↓
B		0.750	↓
C		0.140	↓

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 portal.

EggNotes is the official monthly newsletter of  
Egg Farmers of Alberta.

**Next Issue: April 17, 2025**

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



#101, 90 Freeport Blvd NE, Calgary, Alberta, T3J 5J9  
P: 403-250-1197 | Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344 | F: 403-291-9216  
**After Hours Response Line: 368-996-3447**  
**Mental Health Help Line: 1-780-482-6576**  
Website: [eggs.ab.ca](http://eggs.ab.ca) | Producer Portal: [portal.eggs.ab.ca](http://portal.eggs.ab.ca)  
Email: [info@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca) | Office hours: M-F: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

# Board Update



Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to thank our fellow farmers, value chain partners, industry stakeholders, and EFA staff, for making our 56th Annual General Meeting such a resounding success. The Board was pleased to see 140 registered Alberta egg farmers participate in the AGM, as part of 294 overall attendees. We hope you enjoyed this year's AGM, especially the tremendous presentations from Brenda Robinson and Kevin Grier. The Board appreciates everyone who took the time to celebrate the highlights from the past year and look ahead to the future of the egg industry.

## EFA's 2025 Board of Directors:

- **Chair:** Peter Waldner
- **Vice Chair:** Marcella Van Stryland
- **EFC Director:** Jerry Hofer
- **EFC Alternate:** Conrad Vanessen
- **Director:** Elie Hofer
- **Director:** Jorn Wipf
- **Director-in-Training:** Darryl Hiemstra

Thank you to Beatrice Visser for her service to the EFA Board of Directors over the past nine years, which included several years as EFA's representative on the Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) Board of Directors. The EFA Board and staff would like to sincerely wish Beatrice all the best in the future.

## Emergency Measures

The Board would like to thank our fellow egg farmers for their commitment to the industry and dedication to ensuring that Albertans continue to have a stable supply of fresh, local eggs, as evidenced by the number of farms that have participated in the various programs designed to help meet consumer demand. We appreciate all egg farmers who have expressed interest and have stepped-up to serve the industry.



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# Healthy Farms

## *NRCB Construction Reminder*

The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) continues to see increased cases of unauthorized construction of pens, barns, catch basins, and earthen manure storage facilities at a number of confined feeding operations (CFOs).

The Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA) prohibits construction of a CFO, a manure storage facility, or a manure collection area, before required permits are issued. **Unauthorized construction is a serious offence and can result in consequences ranging from enforcement orders to prosecution that could involve monetary penalties.** In addition, operators may incur additional costs in addressing unauthorized construction issues such as costs associated with depopulation. Taking a regulatory shortcut may cost you more money in the end.



## *Call before you build*

**Before starting any construction at a CFO, manure storage facility, or a manure collection area, consult with an approval officer or inspector at the nearest NRCB office.** The NRCB will help you determine whether the work requires an AOPA permit. You can ask an approval officer to visit your operation to discuss your plans and confirm any steps that are needed to remain in compliance.

Required permits must be in place before beginning any construction. If you have questions about what constitutes construction, contact your nearest NRCB office.

You can also self-report if you realize that work you have completed in the past or just started may need a permit. It is better to self-report and resolve the situation with the NRCB, than to continue and have to deal with potential severe enforcement consequences and increased costs down the road.



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## Enforcement

The NRCB may take enforcement action in response to unauthorized construction. Enforcement actions could include:

- requiring you to dismantle or depopulate the facility, at your own expense
- issuing you a compliance directive or an enforcement order (these are public documents that are posted on the NRCB website)
- prosecution, especially if you knew that you needed a permit, or do not cooperate with the inspector.

In determining the appropriate level of enforcement action, the NRCB considers:

- whether the operator is self-reported
- cooperation of the operator
- potential risk to the environment.

The NRCB's ***Unauthorized Construction under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act fact sheet*** is available on the NRCB website: <https://www.nrcb.ca/public/download/files/97595>

For more information, please contact an approval officer or an inspector at the NRCB office nearest you.

### NRCB field offices:

- Morinville: 780-939-1212
- Red Deer/Airdrie: 403-340-5241
- Lethbridge: 403-381-5166

## Eggcellence Criteria Webpage

A page has been created on the portal for producers to access the current criteria for the eggcellence club and draw. The intent is that producers will be able to use this criteria to self-assess their progress on their programs and make improvements as needed.

Please note, if you have made improvements to your Farm Programs, please notify your field service coordinator so that they can update your assessments. Failure to update your assessments before December 30th of each year may result in the ineligibility from eggcellence club events.



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## *Emergency Measures Policy Updates*

The Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board has reviewed and updated emergency measures policies following motions from the recent AGM to address egg supply challenges. Key decisions include:

- 1. MOTION: Mixing Multi-Age Flocks** – Producers can mix their own flocks on their own sites under specific conditions, but mixing birds of different ages in the same colony or cage is prohibited.
- 2. MOTION: Fair Allocation of Leased Birds** – Producers moving to 90 sq. inches per bird will be charged \$8.50/bird/year, with fees prorated based on flock schedules. Quota lease program (QLP) adjustments will simplify invoicing.
- 3. MOTION: Capacity Measurements** – The EFA board will review using manufacturer specifications for capacity measurements at the April 3, 2025, meeting.

## *Summary of Emergency Measures:*

- **End-of-Lay Flocks Reporting** – Producers must report flocks nearing the end of their cycle to optimize production capacity.
- **Enriched Housing Density Pilot** – A 1-year pilot allows enriched colony housing at 90 sq. inches per hen (Feb 13, 2025 – Mar 1, 2026). Feeder space requirements (2.8 inches per hen) apply.
- **Temporary Permits & Approvals** – NRCB will issue temporary permits to accommodate increased density.
- **Alberta Extended Lay to Table Program (AELP)** – Still accepting applications. Some flock mixing is permitted to maximize facility capacity.
- **Special Temporary Market Requirement Quota (STMRQ)** – Will be reviewed in April 2025 to ensure alignment with other emergency policies.
- **Conventional & Organic Facilities** – Conventional producers may top up flocks within limits, but organic producers cannot use emergency measures to bypass certification rules.
- **Salmonella Testing** – Policy discussions are ongoing, with a review scheduled for March 10, 2025.



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- **Dormant Barns & Sanitation** – Barns used for STMRQ must undergo cleaning and environmental SE testing before use.
- **Suspension of SC-SC Elements** – Farms taking part in an emergency measures program (90 sq.in., AELP, STMRQ) the following elements are suspended:

1.1.2: All-in/all-out program followed in each laying facility

1.1.3: Laying facility- is pressure wet washed with detergent or equivalent

1.1.3.i: Laying facility is disinfected and/or fumigated with an approved chemical

1.1.3.ii Lay facility is given a minimum of 7-day rest period before repopulation or if less than 7 days proof of microbiological analysis

This temporary emergency measure applies to all flocks in production, participating in an emergency measures program between February 13, 2025, and March 1, 2026, and is subject to review by the EFC Board of Directors during the pilot program.

Producers are encouraged to review the full policy changes carefully and take necessary actions to comply with new requirements.

### *Solar Steam Webinar*

On February 13th, Egg Farmers of Alberta hosted the webinar, “Exploring Solar Steam: Renewable Heat Solutions for Poultry.” The webinar presented an overview of Solar Steam’s renewable heat solution – enclosed concentrated solar technology. The session explored how the technology could benefit Alberta’s egg farmers by advancing sustainability on farms including an overview of the economics of SolarSteam’s technology and how it could help your farm generate its own heat. Following the webinar, there was a question-and-answer session with SolarSteam’s CEO and Co-founder Apostol Radev. A recording of the webinar can now be accessed on the producer portal under Learning and Education: Webinars and EggBites.



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# Healthy Birds

## *Serotyping of Salmonella Tests*

Serotyping results from past flock tests are now being received at the office and are available to be shared with producers. These birds have been depopulated, barns cleaned, and eggs consumed and/or disposed of however if you are interested in the serotype of Salmonella that you tested positive for in the past, please contact [brandy.addai@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:brandy.addai@eggs.ab.ca) and you will be sent any SE negative, Salmonella positive results going forward after your flock has reached the 100 week mark.



# Healthy Communities

## *Alberta Open Farm Days*

Alberta Open Farm Days host registration is now open, and farmers can choose which day(s) they want to participate in.

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 is produced. The overall goal is to showcase Alberta's agriculture and tourism industry in a fun, engaging, and meaningful manner to Albertans of all ages.



The deadline to register is April 30, 2025. To register and learn more, visit: <https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/host-farms/registration/>



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## 2024 Producer of the Year!



Congratulations to Springside Colony, our 2024 Producer of the Year! This award honours a registered Alberta egg farmer who goes above and beyond, setting the standard for excellence in egg farming. Thank you for your dedication to producing high-quality eggs and supporting healthy families across the province!



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## ***Congratulations to Mike Stahl – Cutting-Edge Feather Award Recipient!***

EFA is excited to celebrate Mike Stahl, this year's recipient of the Western Poultry Conference Cutting-Edge Feather Award for Innovation!

This new award recognizes Alberta poultry farmers who embrace innovation, enhance productivity and sustainability, and make a meaningful impact in their communities and the industry. Mike's commitment to adopting forward-thinking practices and driving positive change exemplifies the spirit of this award.

Join us in congratulating Mike on this well-deserved recognition!



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## Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to February 22nd, which is period 2 for 2025. The data indicates that in the latest 4-week period 4.2 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 4.9% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending January 25th), and a 14.1% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2024.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 9.5% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, currently sitting at 49.5 million dozen eggs. Free-run eggs have seen the largest sales growth; a 50.6% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 1.8 million dozen eggs (3.6% 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 portal (Eggstra... / Egg Sales Trends).

## Update from your PMC:

Egg Farmers of Alberta's Production Management Committee (EFA PMC) held a meeting in Calgary on March 10, 2025. We would like to update you on the decision made regarding the 7 day down time during flock changes.

When the Emergency Egg Supply Initiative was introduced by the Egg Farmers of Canada PMC it included the decision to suspend several elements from the SC-SC program as a pilot. One of the elements was the 7 day down time during flock changes. To get flocks into production faster, EFC decided to suspend this element and allow producers to receive equivalency points even if the downtime is less than 7 days.

In alignment with subsequent guidance from EFC, the EFA PMC has decided to further extend the suspension of the 7 day down time to producers who do not qualify for the Emergency Egg Supply Program and allow them to place flocks within less than a 7 day down time. However, we strongly state that it is on each producer to do a thorough job when cleaning and not cut any corners. Cleaning and Disinfecting requirements and protocols still need to be followed with the strictest standards and all other cleaning and disinfection elements still apply to non-emergency flocks.

We are all producers together and it is up to each of us to uphold everything at the highest standards possible, so consumers keep the trust in us to producing the best quality eggs possible.



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*Save the Date!* 



### ***Lighting Webinar***

Egg Farmers of Alberta is pleased to present a save the date for our upcoming lighting webinar. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further updates and registration.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 27** | Egg Ambassador Workshop in Lethbridge

**April 3** | QE2 2025 – Sales Deadline

**April 3** | Board Meeting

**April 9-13** | Aggie Days (Calgary)

**April 10** | QE2 2025 – Red / Green Date

**April 18** | Good Friday – Office is closed

**April 24** | QE2 2025 – Purchase Deadline



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