

EggNotes

Board of Director

Chair: Conrad Vanessen
403-635-7998

Vice Chair: Bernadette Vandeborn
780-349-6311

EFC Director: Beatrice Visser
780-674-6297

EFC Alternate: Peter Waldner
403-795-8621

Director: Jerry Hofer
403-946-0550

Director: Elie Hofer
780-998-4957

EFA Staff

General Manager: Susan Gal
ext: 124

Marketing & Comm. Manager: David Webb
ext: 126

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 Open for regular hours

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: April 10, 2020

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



Board Update

The Egg Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors would like to thank our fellow egg farmers, value chain partners and industry stakeholders from across the country, for making our 51st Annual General Meeting such a tremendous success. It was an engaging and entertaining AGM and banquet, with many thought-provoking speakers and memorable moments.

Another highlight was the auction held during the banquet, which raised over \$9,000 for STARS! Thanks to all the winning bidders, whose generous donations will help this incredibly worthwhile cause. The Board would also like to thank the Cambridge Red Deer Hotel & Conference Centre, Kyla Arneson and ConventionALL Management, and the EFA staff for another successful AGM.

The Board is pleased to welcome Elie Hofer (Scotford Colony) and Jerry Hofer (Newell Colony) for their first 3-year term. On a bittersweet note, we would like to thank Joe Kleinsasser for his 9 years of service to both the EFA and EFC boards, and John Hofer for his 6 years of service to the EFA board. Their knowledge and passion for the industry will be missed!

EFA's 2020 Board of Directors:

Chair: Conrad Vanessen

Vice-Chair: Bernadette Vandeborn

EFC Director: Beatrice Visser

EFC Alternate: Peter Waldner

Director: Elie Hofer

Director: Jerry Hofer

The Board will review all motions that passed during the AGM's closed session in the coming months. We look forward to a successful and prosperous year ahead for the egg industry in Alberta and across Canada!



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA_AB_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



EggFarmersAlberta



HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Nielsen Update

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to January 4th, 2020, and indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.4 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 7.3% increase from the previous 4-week period (ending December 7th), and a 0.8% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2019.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 0.2% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 41.08 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3) have seen the largest sales growth; a 2.8% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 4.7 million dozen eggs (11.4% 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.

AB Open Farm Days

Registration is now open for the 8th annual Alberta Open Farm Days, which will be held on August 15-16, 2020. The goal is to showcase Alberta's agricultural and tourism industry in a fun, engaging and meaningful manner to participants of all ages. Egg farmers can open their farm to the public on either date, or for the entire weekend. Last year's event set records with 150 participating farms, 31 culinary events, and over 40,000 visitors!

Alberta Open Farm Days is a great opportunity to invite your neighbours in for a visit to share stories and help them learn more about the farming families who provide their fresh, local food. To learn more about Alberta Open Farm Days, please visit their website at www.albertafarmdays.ca, or call David at the EFA office.

EFA is standing by to help interested egg farmers register, plan and host a tour during Alberta Open Farm Days. Resources, swag, bio-security gear and potentially personnel are readily available through EFA's Grassroots Public Relations Program, and additional incentives will be made available to any registered egg farmers who choose to participate in this year's event – stay tuned for more details about EFA's Alberta Open Farm Day incentive!



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA_AB_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Quota Leasing Pool Update

The 2020/2021 Quota Leasing Pool (QLP), which runs from August 15, 2020 to February 14, 2021 was finalized in February. This pool had the same fill rate as the 2020 pool at 48%. For all the stats from the last pools, please visit our producer website.

Again, there is disappointment in the fill rate. Please keep in mind that the pool allows for producers to lease from the pool, providing that they have the capacity, or are increasing capacity within the dates of the leasing pool. The Board administered program was developed to help ensure that all producers had access to leasing birds on a more equitable basis. The QLP was developed as an interim measure to allow producers at capacity time to lease out for a maximum period of 10 years. This allowed those producers time to plan, and to produce the quota that was allotted to them. It was never intended to be used as a solution to provide vast amounts of quota to fill existing barns. The goal is to ensure that quota is operated by the producer the quota is issued to.

Egg Farmers of Alberta Research Video Release

Egg Farmers of Alberta is pleased to present the release of three new research videos on the producer website under Information Centre (EFA Research). These new videos capture a brief overview presentation of the researchers work followed by a question and answer period between the researcher and members of the research committee. The content of these three videos are as follows:

- Dietary strategies to reduce ammonia emissions
- Dietary approach to reduce the carbon intensity
- How infrared beak treatment affects beak tissue and healing response in white and brown feathered layer pullets

These videos provide producers with science-based information to make continual improvements in their management and production practices.





Ergot and Hen Masculinization

Members of the Research Committee have identified ergot and its potential relationship to hen masculinization as an area of concern. As a result, Egg Farmers of Alberta has put together a short article to summarize the current science-based research as well as one Albertan egg farmers experience:

“The wheat screened feed was contaminated with ergot, at roughly 0.02 grams (which was below the acceptability level set by the producer of less than 0.05 grams) and appeared to correspond with the development of spurs.”

To read more about ergot and its potential relationship to hen masculinization, visit the producer website at Healthy Birds (Poultry Health).



Avian Influenza Detection in British Columbia

Egg Farmers of Alberta would like to remind Alberta producers of the importance in maintaining the best biosecurity practices on their farms. On February 3, 2020 test results detected H5 Avian Influenza in a wild Trumpeter Swan in Abbotsford, B.C.

Producers best defense against the introduction of Avian Influenza in their flocks is to maintain strict biosecurity and have any unexplained clinical signs or mortalities investigated by your poultry veterinarian.

Upcoming Events

- March 16** - PMC Meeting - Calgary Office
- March 17** - EFA Board Orientation - Calgary Office
- March 18** - EFA Board Meeting - Calgary Office
- March 25** - EFC AGM - Ottawa
- March 31 - April 1** - Ontario AGM
- April 7-8** - Quebec AGM



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA_AB_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



EggFarmersAlberta





Transportation Training

Egg Farmers of Alberta has been in communication with the Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on the finer details of the transportation training requirement. From these communications it has been clarified that only commercial haulers (those hired to transport poultry) will need to have certificate/document in transportation training that aligns with the CFIA regulations. However, producers will still have a responsibility to complete documentation of Shipping & Receiving birds as well as their Contingency Plans (emergency plan). Additionally, if you are the shipper of the birds, you will have a responsibility to inform the recipient of that flock on the details of your transportation documentation.

The Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) has also announced that their online poultry transport module is now live and covers the transportation regulations, however, it does not necessarily outline the requirements for a poultry producer. The cost of online training for one species is \$200.00, which will need to be paid by the producer if they wish to take the online module.

In classroom transport training has tentatively been booked for August 2020. This training will be for educational purposes on a voluntary basis for producers. However, the training will include assistance on how to fill out the transportation paperwork to comply with CFIA's transportation regulations and is highly recommended for all producers involved in transportation.



Clarification on Animal Care Program Elements

The EFC Production Management Committee has recently made changes and clarifications in regard to the following Animal Care Program elements and how they are audited:

- 4.2.1 Feed withdrawal
- 5.1.2 Feed consumption records
- 5.2.2 Water consumption records

continues on next page



Additionally, auditor guidance has been developed for element 7.1 Feed and water access, the new requirement which was added to the Animal Care Program in October 2019.

Feed Withdrawal

The requirement is that a processor feed withdrawal time was provided and followed. The requirement applies to flocks that are sent to a processing plant for slaughter, including federal, provincial and/or colony plants. It does not apply to flocks that are depopulated on-farm. Feed withdrawal begins when the birds do not have access to feed, either when the feed lines are lifted or when the troughs are mostly empty (when the majority of the birds have eaten the majority of the feed after the feed lines have been shut off). To know exactly when feed withdrawal time begins, farmers need to know when the feeders were shut off and how long it takes for the majority of the birds to clean out the majority of the feed in the troughs. If the birds are processed on-site in a colony slaughter plant, the processing plant manager should provide a feed withdrawal time recommendation to the layer manager to follow. It is not mandatory to have a letter or document from the processor outlining the recommended feed withdrawal time as this information may have been communicated verbally. The farmer is required however to know what the recommended feed withdrawal time is. Feed withdrawal time, or information that allows this to be calculated (e.g., time feed was no longer accessible; time catching began), must be documented for the auditor to verify the processor's recommendation was followed. There is a spot to document start and end times in the Shippers Information Form in the SC-SC calendar.

Feed and Water Access

On October 18, 2019, element 7.1 "All Hens must have access to feed and water at all times", was added to the Animal Care Program. In normal circumstances birds must have access to feed and water at all times. Feeding and watering equipment must be maintained and kept in good working order to ensure they function properly and give the birds continued access to feed and water. Feed withdrawal prior to catching and loading and interruptions in water for the purposes of vaccinations or water system maintenance are acceptable. If water is shut off during the dark period, the producer must demonstrate that the birds are able to drink overnight, and that the length of time water was shut off was within the dark period (at or after lights are turned off, and water turned back on at or before lights are turned on). This can be demonstrated through overnight water consumption records and records that show the time water was turned on and off. Additionally, the PMC determined that providing feed and water on the floor for loose hens is not acceptable. Therefore, loose hens are considered non-compliant and a CAR will be issued. Loose hens must be caught and returned to their housing system within 24 hours.

continues on next page



Feed Consumption Records

Feed consumption records are required in both the Animal Care and SC-SC® Programs and are currently audited using the same record. A discrepancy between the element in the ACP and SC-SC® caused confusion on the actual requirement. EFC has clarified that daily feed consumption records are required as per the original intent of the requirement in the SC-SC® Program. Daily feed consumption can be calculated through the following methods:

- i. Daily bin scale weights or dump hopper weights computed out to daily consumption values
- ii. Daily run times from cross-auger timer

Weekly values (e.g. from feed delivery slips) computed out to daily values at the end of the week is not acceptable. As this may be a change to the current method of assessment, a six month implementation period will be respected. This element will be assessed as outlined above as of August 20, 2020. Furthermore, this requirement will also be in the redeveloped Animal Care Program, and therefore, will become mandatory.

Water Consumption Records

Water consumption records are required in both the ACP and SC-SC® Programs. To align the ACP program with the SC-SC® program, the ACP element question for water consumption records has been modified to include “daily”. Daily water consumption records have always been required; this just increases the intent and clarity.

Research Update

On February 21st EFA released a Call for Research Proposals. The goal of this call is to increase awareness of EFA’s research priorities, the number of research proposals related to the priorities, and the percentage of EFA’s research budget aimed at making progress in these areas.

More information is available at <https://eggs.ab.ca/industry/research-development/>

Check out Egg Farmers of Alberta’s (EFA) new and improved Quarterly Research Update document on the producer website. This document provides quarterly updates on how research funded by Egg Farmers of Alberta is progressing. Visit the producer website at Information Centre (EFA Research) to view what’s new in EFA funded research!



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA_AB_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



Updates to the Producer Website

Ergot and Hen Masculinization:

Members of the Research Committee have identified ergot and its potential relationship to hen masculinization as an area of concern. To read more about ergot and its potential relationship to hen masculinization, visit the producer website at Healthy Birds (Poultry Health).

In Barn Ammonia Monitoring & Management Document:

Are you interested in learning more about ammonia? Egg Farmers of Alberta has released a document on the producer website called In Barn Ammonia Monitoring & Management. The document covers the background information on ammonia and how it is formed, what impacts it has on birds, workers, and equipment, what causes a rise in ammonia, monitoring tools, and strategies to reduce ammonia emissions. To learn more visit the producer website at Healthy Farms (Manure).

NRCB Short-Term Manure Storage Fact Sheet:

A fact sheet from the NRCB has been added to the producer website under Healthy Farms (Manure). This fact sheet outlines information and requirements on short-term storage of manure. Did you know that short-term solid manure storage sites cannot be used for more than an accumulative total of seven months over a three year period? For more information, head to the producer website.

EFA 2019 Producer of the Year

Congratulations to Daniel Kleinsasser and Wild Rose Colony, for winning the Egg Farmers of Alberta 2019 Producer of the Year award! There was a three-way tie for the honourable mention, which went to Oaklane Colony, Scotford Colony and Sunrise Colony. All four of these farms are outstanding representatives of the enthusiasm and passion shared by so many egg farming families across the province. Good luck to all registered egg farmers in 2020!



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA_AB_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta



AGM Awards and Recognitions

As part of a new recognition program, each year EFA will host a special event to congratulate farmers that have achieved an egg-ceptional level of performance in their on-farm programs. To receive an invitation, farmers must meet the following requirements:

- Score 100% on the Animal Care Program for 2 or more years in a row
- Score 100% on the SC-SC Program for 2 or more years in a row
- Achieve a score of 90% or higher in PEEP for 2 or more years in a row
- Be in good standing with the Board (all fees paid)

On the morning of February 25th, prior to the AGM, EFA held our first ever egg-Cellence breakfast! Invitees were welcomed to the mezzanine and had the opportunity to mingle with their peers and special guests Roger Pelissero and Tim Lambert from EFC. Attendees were provided with advanced registration and reserved seating at the meeting. Congratulations to the 15 farms invited.

The new recognition program also includes an egg-ceptional performance draw. All farmers achieving the following requirements in a year are qualified to have their names entered into the egg-ceptional Performance draw:

- Score of 100% in the Animal care Program
- Score of 100% in the SC-SC Program
- Score of at least 80% in the PEEP Program
- JTHA Certificate
- Completion of a Biosecurity Assessment

The winning farmer may choose one of two possible prizes:

Prize 1: A trip to an industry related conference or meeting.

Prize 2: \$1,000 toward equipment or supplies for the layer barn.

Congratulations to Craig Van Stryland of Harhil Farm who was the recipient of the prize for 2019.



Western Poultry Conference Highlights

The annual Western Poultry Conference had another great turn out with over 300 attendees across the four different poultry commodities. This year's presentation topics included:

Raising birds without the use of antibiotics

The use of phytochemicals (plant derived, natural bio-active compounds such as essential oils, herb extracts, oleoresins, tannins, and saponins) in the poultry industry

- Mental health
- Student research
- Respiratory health and protection for workers
- Poultry mortality investigation
- Discussion panel on Salmonella
- Managing water quality

If you are interested in a copy of conference proceedings for more information please contact Carley Frerichs at carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca or (403)-250-1197 x 125.



EggFarmersAlberta



EggFarmersAlberta



@EFA_AB_eggs



Egg Farmers of Alberta

