



# EggNotes



## Board of Directors

**Chair:** Peter Waldner | 403-795-8621  
**Vice Chair:** Conrad Vanessen | 403-635-7998  
**EFC Director:** Beatrice Visser | 780-674-6297  
**EFC Alternate:** Jerry Hofer | 403-363-3501  
**Director:** Elie Hofer | 780-691-8512  
**Director:** Marcella Van Stryland | 403-392-4665  
**Director in Training:** Jorn Wipf | 403-635-0516

### 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

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- 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: December 12, 2024**

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



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**After Hours Response Line: 368-996-3447**  
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

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Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to provide an update about several federal government relations initiatives that are currently underway, especially in light of recent media attention these bills have received.

## Bill C-282

EFA is calling on Alberta Senators to support **Bill C-282, An Act to amend the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act (supply management)**, to help protect our domestic food supply. Trade agreements are an important part of helping Canada's agriculture sector achieve its full potential. However, pursuing these ambitious targets must not be at the expense of the stability of our food supply and rural communities.

The concessions granted in the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and most recently, the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) will have significant effects on thousands of small businesses in our province and on our Canadian economy for generations. Bill C-282 will prevent further erosion of Canadian egg, poultry and dairy production, and ensure we continue to produce staple food items within our borders.

## Bill C-293

EFA would like to thank Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Honourable RJ Sigurdson, for speaking out against Bill C-293 and in support of the agriculture and agri-food sector. While **Bill C-293, the Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act** may seem useful on the surface, there are significant concerns about the potential negative impact the Bill's vague language could have on Canada's animal agriculture sector.

The Canadian egg industry is specifically concerned by the Bill's language around livestock farming, the promotion of alternative proteins, and the focus on animal agriculture in the context of antimicrobial resistance rather than within the more comprehensive One Health perspective.



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# Healthy Farms

## *Strategic Energy Management for Industry Program*

Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA) launched applications for the new Strategic Energy Management for Industry (SEMI) Program on October 17, 2024. The \$50 Million program is funded by the Government of Alberta and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). SEMI is designed to help agricultural operations improve energy efficiency, reduce energy costs, and increase competitiveness by offering co-funding for energy-saving projects.



The first step in accessing SEMI is completing a Facility Readiness Assessment (FRA), which provides an in-depth analysis of how energy is used on your farm and sets the stage for further funding opportunities.

### *What is the FRA?*

The FRA is the initial step within the broader SEMI program and is designed to help agricultural producers understand how energy is consumed across their operations. By completing the FRA, your farm will receive a comprehensive assessment of energy use and personalized recommendations for improving energy efficiency. This assessment is key to unlocking additional SEMI activities and funding.

The FRA will help your farm by:

- **Analyzing Energy Use:** The FRA takes a deep dive into your farm's energy consumption, providing insights into where energy is being used and identifying inefficiencies.
- **Offering Tailored Recommendations:** You'll receive customized strategies for reducing energy use, which could involve low-cost operational changes or potential investments in energy-efficient equipment or technologies.

### *SEMI Program Funding and Activities*

Once you've completed the FRA, you'll be eligible to access additional funding within the SEMI program. The FRA is just the start of a broader journey toward energy savings. SEMI provides co-funding for a variety of energy-saving projects:



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- **Energy Assessments and Audits:** You can receive up to \$50,000 to conduct more detailed energy studies, allowing you to pinpoint specific areas where improvements can be made.
- **Energy Management Information Systems (EMIS):** If your farm consumes more than 400,000 gigajoules of energy annually, you can apply for up to \$250,000 to implement energy monitoring and management systems. Farms with lower energy use can access up to \$50,000. ***If you are not currently able to report gas and electricity consumption for your egg operation, this may be an opportunity to access the equipment and technology needed to do so.***
- **Capital Retrofits:** SEMI offers up to \$1,000,000 to help you invest in energy-efficient equipment and upgrades. This could include installing more efficient irrigation systems, solar panels, or upgrading storage facilities to reduce energy consumption.

For for-profit farms, the SEMI program covers up to 50% of eligible costs, and contributions can be in-kind, such as staff time or previous energy management efforts. This makes it easier to participate without requiring large upfront financial investments.

### Steps to Get Started

1. **Register Your Farm:** Begin by registering your farm on the SEMI portal at [www.semiprogram.ca](http://www.semiprogram.ca). Provide basic details about your operation and energy use.
2. **Define the Scope of the FRA:** ERA's Service Provider will work with you to customize the FRA for your farm. This includes setting the parameters for the assessment and identifying eligible in-kind contributions.
3. **Conduct the FRA:** The FRA involves a comprehensive review of your farm's energy use, including site visits, data collection, and meetings. Afterward, you'll receive a detailed report with recommendations for improving energy efficiency.
4. **Access Additional SEMI Activities:** With your completed FRA report, you'll be able to move forward with other SEMI activities, applying for additional funding to implement energy-saving strategies on your farm.

### Why the SEMI Program Matters for Farmers

The SEMI program is a comprehensive solution that helps Alberta's agricultural producers optimize energy use, cut costs, and contribute to a more sustainable farming future. By starting with the FRA, you'll gain a clear understanding of where energy-saving opportunities exist on your farm and be in a strong position to access further funding for efficiency improvements.

For more information or to get started, visit [www.semiprogram.ca](http://www.semiprogram.ca) or contact SEMI support at [semi@eralberta.ca](mailto:semi@eralberta.ca).



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# Healthy Birds

## *Pullets and Laying Hens Code of Practice - Progress Update*

In a recent issue of EggNotes it was noted that the public comment period on the Code review will run from November 2024 – January 2025 (producers will have a chance to provide input) and then the numbers should be finalized by spring/summer of 2025.

The Code (Amendment) Committee and the Scientific Panel convened in Ottawa on September 23-24. During the meeting, the Scientific Panel presented a draft report to the Committee, which served as the basis for their discussions. Following these deliberations, a detailed workplan was created, outlining key milestones to reach consensus on the three proposed amendments.

As a reminder, the three amendment topics are:

- Round feeder space for laying hens and pullets (sections 1.1.3 & 2.3)
- Minimum space allowance for pullets in free run multi-tier systems (section 1.1.4)
- Maximum number of tiers allowed in laying and rearing facilities

Several virtual meetings are planned, with another in-person meeting set for early 2025. **The public comment period has been revised and is now tentatively scheduled for March-April 2025.** The Scientific Panel is finalizing its draft report for peer review, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

You can keep up to date on progress of the Code review at [Pullets and Laying Hens Code of Practice - Progress Update - National Farm Animal Care Council](#)



# Healthy Communities

## *Mini internships through the University of Alberta*

In 2015, the University of Alberta under the direction of Professor Frank Robinson recognized the need for on-farm work experience within their agriculture programs. Many students entering these programs did not have rural backgrounds which posed a unique challenge when students went to enter the workforce with little on-farm experience. This led to the creation of the mini-internship program which sought to connect students with practical, hands-on experience. The internships allow students to work on a host farm (or other facility) for 1 week in either the fall or winter. On site, the students are exposed to a variety of different, hands-on experiences. While the program origins are rooted in agriculture, the program has shifted and grown over the years and now includes mini-internships in several areas including animal science/animal health, food production and processing, crop science, environmental and animal rehabilitation, environment (soil, water, plants), and government positions. As the program has grown, so too has the number of interested students. If you are interested in learning more about how you could support the future of the agriculture industry in gaining more knowledge and experience on your farm, please contact Carley Frerichs at [carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:carley.frerichs@eggs.ab.ca) or 403-250-1197 x 125.



## *Alberta Water Availability Engagement*

The province is facing both increasing water demand and severe weather events including drought and floods. While the government has taken recent actions to respond to droughts and support water users, a resilient and efficient water management strategy is essential for safeguarding Alberta's community health, environment and economy. Therefore, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas is engaging with all water users for the best ways to strengthen the system and sustainably enhance water availability for years to come.

Environment and Protected Areas wants to hear from Albertans about ways to enhance Alberta's water management system and make more water available for use for sustainable growth. They want to hear about opportunities and barriers and ways that the province can:



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- increase water conservation, efficiency, and productivity
- free up and optimize use of available water
- better capture and improve access to existing water sources
- improve water management and make faster approval decisions

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas is open to hearing your thoughts on these ideas or any opportunity to more effectively manage water in this province.

### ***Ways to Provide Feedback***

1. Take a brief survey
2. Attend an engagement session:
  - a. Discuss local opportunities and barriers, including conservation, efficiency and productivity, alternative water sources and water allocations and transfers:
    - November 18 at 6:30 pm – Northern Alberta virtual public open house
    - November 21 at 5:30 pm – In-person open house – Peace River
    - November 26 at 6:30 pm – Southern Alberta virtual public open house
    - November 28 at 5:30 pm – In-person open house – Lethbridge
    - December 3 at 5:30 pm – In-person open house – Red Deer
3. Online webinar

Learn about the intent of the water availability engagement and opportunities and issues the Government is aware of. This session will be recorded and posted here.

- November 14 at 7 pm – Engagement Overview Webinar

### ***Nielsen Update***

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to November 2nd, which is period 11 for 2024. The data indicates that in the latest 4-week period 3.6 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; a 4.3% decrease from the previous 4-week period (ending October 5th), and a 3.9% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2023.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 6.8% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, currently sitting at 47.6 million dozen eggs. Free-run eggs have seen the largest sales growth; a 33.4% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 1.2 million dozen eggs (2.4% 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 portal (Eggstra... / Egg Sales Trends).



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 25** | Changes to the office for the 2025/2026b Quota Leasing Pool

**November 29** | 2024 New Entrants are Announced

**December 12-13** | EFA Board Meeting

**December 24 and 31** | Half day office closures

**December 25-27** | EFA office closed

**December 27** | Allocate the 2025/2026a and 2025/2026b leasing pools

**January 1** | EFA office closed

**January 2** | QE1 2025 Sales Deadline

**January 9** | QE1 2025 Red / Green Date

**January 14** | Lethbridge Regional Meeting

**January 15** | Calgary Regional Meeting

**January 16** | Edmonton Regional Meeting



*Do you have a used conveyor for sale?*

Esther from Shady Lane Breeder Farm is looking for a used conveyor to add to her existing egg packer. If you have a used conveyor for sale, please reach out to Esther.

1-587-220-1381, [wisseesther@gmail.com](mailto:wisseesther@gmail.com)



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