



EggNotes



Board of Directors

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Vice Chair: Conrad Vanessen | 403-635-7998
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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

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 • 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: November 15, 2024

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
 Website: eggs.ab.ca | Producer Portal: portal.eggs.ab.ca
 Email: 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 remind producers that Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) has been working with egg farmers across the country to finalize the 2021 Cost of Production (COP) model, which will inform producers' egg pricing for the next five years. Completing a COP study is a massive but necessary undertaking by the industry, in order to determine a defensible and relative COP for all Canadian egg farmers.

We are happy to inform you that the COP study and analysis is nearing its end and will be presented to the EFC Board of Directors for approval at the November EFC Board meeting. If approved by EFC the COP could be implemented in early 2025. If these timelines are ratified by EFC there will be a COP survey review for producers at the January 2025 Regional meetings.

We would once again like to take the time to thank our participating producers from Alberta. Your participation in the COP study is integral to ensuring that producers receive a fair price for eggs and a return on their investments across the province.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 24** | QE4-2024 Purchase Deadline
- October 29** | Colony Elders Meeting
- October 29 & 30** | EFA Board Meeting
- October 30** | 2025/2026a QLP Results
- October 30** | Alberta Layer Meeting
- November 2** | 2025/2026b QLP Launches
- November 4-6** | 2024 New Entrant Interviews
- November 7** | QE4-2024 Summary of Quota Transfers
- November 11** | Remembrance Day (Office is closed)
- November 24** | 2025/2026b QLP - Forms Due



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Healthy Farms

PEEP Assessment Progress and Next Steps for Accurate Energy Reporting

So far in 2024, 123 producers have completed their PEEP assessments, with an impressive average score of 81%. Even more exceptional, 52 producers achieved a perfect score of 100% – congratulations to all!

As we've gathered data over the past few years, we've identified some inconsistencies in reported gas and electricity consumption, with figures varying dramatically (sometimes by a factor of 100 for similar-sized barns of similar age and facility type). These differences likely stem from unit conversion challenges and estimating energy usage in multi-commodity operations, where precise data may not be available.

To enhance the credibility of the data moving forward, beginning in 2025 we will only accept energy consumption data from validated sources, such as barn-specific submeter readings or energy bills specific to the egg barn. Estimates will only be accepted in cases where a shared pullet/lay facility is using a submeter or separate billing, and the producer is estimating the share for pullets vs. layers.

For those using submeters, we encourage you to note the readings at the start and end of your flock cycle or calendar year. This way, your reported numbers can be easily calculated by subtracting the starting figure from the ending one. Additionally, please ensure that you report your numbers in the original units provided, such as cubic feet for gas meters or GJ for energy bills.

EFA remains fully committed to supporting Egg Farmers of Canada in populating the National Environmental Sustainability and Technology Tool (NESTT) with farmer data from across the country. Thanks to the 56 producers who have authorized us to share their data with EFC, we're making great strides in demonstrating our alignment with national and provincial partners. We look forward to sharing your individualized NESTT reports with you soon!



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Common Corrective Actions

There has been a recent increase in the number of correction actions being issued related to the following Farm Program requirements:

- Failure to sign off on checking the back-up generator monthly
- Failure to record daily high and low cooler temperature
- Failure to record daily high and low cooler humidity

Egg Farmers of Alberta would like to remind producers that these record keeping requirements ensure both the emergency preparedness as well as food safety on your farm. Please verify that these requirements have been filled out on your daily and monthly tasks.

FireSmart Barn Assessments for Egg Producers

This summer, two producers had a free FireSmart Site Assessment done on their layer and pullet barns. This assessment involved a visit from an Advanced FireSmart Assessor, who was a member of their local fire department. The assessor walked the exterior of the barns noting such things as non-combustible gutters, roofing materials, siding and eaves. Also, they were looking for the exterior to be free of gaps, holes, and surrounding combustible materials. They looked at combustible surface and forest vegetation within 1.5-10 m of the building and 10-30 m of the building. As they noted any issues they saw, they provided recommendations on actions that could be taken to make the structure more fire resistant. At the end of the meeting, the assessor provided the producer with a written report of these issues and recommendations. These recommendations are voluntary and there will be no follow-up on these. These reports will not be stored by the fire department and are for the Egg Managers' information and use.

While the assessors were very impressed with the state of the barns they observed, there were actions that were recommended that may be of interest:



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1. Have a 1/8 inch screen on the eaves and ensure they are kept clean of debris and non-combustible materials



2. Ensure the exterior of the building is free from gaps or holes



3. Ensure the first 1.5m surrounding the building is clear of combustible materials



The producers who had the assessments done were both very impressed with the assessor and both stated that they learned something new from the visit! They also plan to implement any changes recommended where possible.

We are encouraging all egg managers, whose counties offer this service, to have this assessment done on your layer and/or pullets barns or any structures on farm that you may be looking for recommendations on. Please reach out to brandy.addai@eggs.ab.ca who can assist in getting an appointment set up with your local county, or feel free to reach out to your local fire department and ask them if they are involved in the FireSmart program.

Healthy Birds

A factsheet on the effects of strain, perch shape, and rearing environment on keel bone damage and perching behaviour in enriched-housed laying hens

Researcher Dr. Clover Bench and her master's student Emily DePaoli aimed to identify factors that contribute to keel bone damage in laying hens from enriched housing systems. The study demonstrated that Lohmann Brown birds experienced more severe keel bone deviations as well as a higher number of fractures and deviations compared to Lohmann White birds. They also found that round perches caused more severe deviations and a higher likelihood of deviations. The factsheet provides a diagram that demonstrates the pressure placed on the rear portion of the keel bone by round perches. Lastly, no effect was observed for rearing environments impacts on keel bone damage. Find out further details and the researchers' recommendations by visiting the research outcomes page on the producer portal.



Animal Care Program Requirements

Since the launch of the revised Animal Care Program in May 2023 the auditor guidelines have been monitored, and clarifications provided as feedback was gathered. As a result of this assessment, Egg Farmers of Canada would like to highlight the following program requirements for producers:

1. **Ammonia testing** – Producers must ensure that they have properly functioning equipment. If meters and sensors are used, calibration needs to be conducted.
2. **Euthanasia training** – Documentation of training must show the content covered in the training. Certificates provided by Egg Farmers of Alberta will include the content covered in the associated training course. Please ensure the course content reflects the euthanasia practices you are using on-farm.
3. **Euthanasia methods** – The backup or alternative method of euthanasia on-farm must be different than the primary method. Example: Cervical dislocation may be a producer's primary method of euthanasia, but their backup method is decapitation.

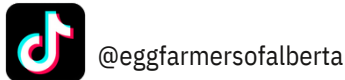
4. **Back-up generators** – During producers animal care program audit, they will be asked to show the auditor their back-up generator. If the generator is not within walking distance, photo evidence or a written note from the on-farm electrician can be provided. Testing back-up generators must be conducted monthly and recorded.

5. **Alarms and fail safe devices** – Power and temperature alarms must be tested monthly and recorded. Producers must have records to demonstrate monthly testing. In instances where tests are sent to a cellphone, a record on the cellphone along with a clear date for the test is considered equivalent. Some examples of testing include:

- Monitoring system like Agri-Alert
- Using the built in test function in the controller
- Alarm triggered at some point during the month, cross referenced with temperature or power status, and this recorded in a monthly log or equivalent
- Contract an external provider to test alarms
- Manually test alarm functioning by heating or cooling near probe / sensor (temperature)
- Change set point to below current temperature and see if the alarm goes off, to check alarm functioning (temperature)
- Flip the breaker or power switch to verify alarm functioning (perhaps in coordination with back up power system test) (power)

Clarification on recording outdoor temperature

Egg Farmers of Canada field inspectors have noted a few instances where producers are writing down the outdoor temperature at the start or end of the day when in barn temperatures exceed 28°C in their record keeping calendars. We would like to clarify that if the in-barn temperature exceeds 28°C, the producer should be writing the temperature **high** for that day. This way, it provides context on why the in-barn temperature would be high.

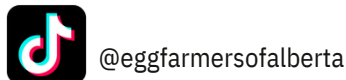
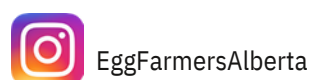


Preference for pecking blocks between White and Brown Feathered Laying Hens

In the Day One Canadian Poultry Research Forum meeting report there is an article on a research study evaluating differences between white and brown feathered laying hens and their preferences and use of pecking blocks. The research project sought to identify if birds have a pecking block preference, if there are strain differences for the use of pecking blocks, and if there is a relationship to the time of day for use of different pecking blocks. The study found that overall birds increased their use of pecking blocks with age. There was a preference in pecking blocks based on the strain of bird. White feathered birds preferred calcium based pecking blocks, while brown birds preferred pecking blocks which contained minerals, grains, and molasses. The researcher, Dr. Tina Widowski, also found that white feathered birds utilized the pecking block before lights out, while brown feathered birds used the pecking block throughout the day. The researcher concluded that the reason white feathered birds migrate to calcium based pecking blocks and brown feathered birds do not may be attributed to their higher calcium appetite. Additionally, brown feathered birds consume more feed per day compared to white feathered hens, and therefore may get their calcium requirements from their additional feed consumption. To see what other cool poultry research has been done, check out the Canadian Poultry Research Forum meeting reports on the Research Outcomes page on the Producer Portal.

Research on Perch Space for Pullets

Currently, the Code of Practice for Pullets and Laying Hens does not provide requirements for perch space for pullets. This is attributed to a lack of scientific literature in this area. Therefore, perch space recommendations are presently based off of laying hen data. However, the smaller size and weight of pullets likely result in different perch space needs than laying hens. A study by researcher, Dr. Karen Schwean-Lardner at the University of Saskatchewan evaluated perch space for pullets and proposed that providing between **12-15 cm of perch space** is adequate for pullets. This research, along with other scientific literature conducted prior to the next Code review, will help to inform changes made to the code. To learn more about this study, visit the Research Outcomes page on the producer portal.



Healthy Communities

Tour of the Carbon OxyTech Laboratory

On September 6, the Research Committee toured the Carbon OxyTech laboratory at the University of Calgary. During the visit, members got to see the facility where the Carbon OxyTech technology was created and run a quick sample converting chicken feathers into liquid fertilizer. The committee is looking forward to further analysis from the researcher on chicken feathers and animal byproducts to determine if there is a value-added opportunity using this technology.



Picture: (left) Beatrice Visser, Mike Stahl (Rosalind Colony), Abdallah Manasrah (founder and CEO of Carbon OxyTech), Peter Waldner (Oaklane Colony), Jenna Griffin (EFA staff), and Carley Frerichs (EFA staff) (right)

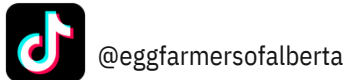
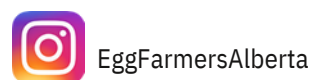
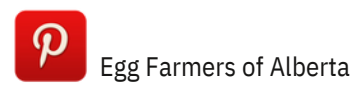
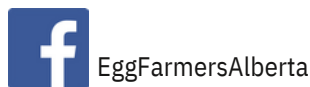
Celebrating World Egg Day at Save-On-Foods

World Egg Day was a huge success! Our Amazing Alberta egg farmers were at Save-On-Foods, answering all your egg-citing questions, giving away free recipes, and handing out egg coupons!

It was wonderful to see shoppers connecting with the farmers who bring fresh, local, and nutritious eggs to their tables and be able to show their appreciation for all their hard work. Thank you to all the farmers for taking the time to come out and engage with the community!



Bernadette Vandeborn, Vandeborn Farms
Eli Waldner, Baker Colony
George Entz, Kings Lake Colony
Matthew Wipf, Springside Colony



Alberta Layer Meeting Reminder

Register for the upcoming Alberta Layer Meeting using the link below. Space is limited and attendance will be capped so make sure to RSVP as soon as you can.

We hope you can join!



**ALBERTA
LAYER MEETING**

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND VACCINE DESIGN/
ADMINISTRATION DISCUSSIONS

OCTOBER 30, 2024
9:00AM - 1:30PM MT
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES
64 EAST LAKE AVE NE, AIRDRIE AB, T4A 2G8
LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

TOPICS

- Dr. Holly Sellers: Layer Viral Diseases & Immunity
- Dr. Tom Inglis & Dr. Darko Mitevski: Vaccine Program Design, Titers & Results
- Elite Farm Services, Chris Vanrietschoten: Vaccine Administration
- Poultry Partners, Shawn Fairbairn & Airell DesLauriers: Practical Layer Nutrition & Feeding Strategies

Featuring
Dr. Holly Sellers
Professor in Poultry Virology
at the University of Georgia

RSVP with the link below:
<https://forms.microsoft.com/r/GfyUkH2kgW>

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Poultry Health Services

ELITE SERVICES

