

# EggNotes

## Board of Directors

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Fields Services Coordinator

### ▶ 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 ◀

Regular Office Hours  
April 15 - Good Friday, Office Closed

### Egg Price Update Effective March 6, 2022

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.780	↑
A	Large	2.780	↑
A	Medium	2.490	↑
A	Small	2.160	↑
A	Nest Run	2.617	↑
A	Pee Wee	0.270	-
B		0.760	-
C		0.150	-

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](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca)

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



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Email: [info@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:info@eggs.ab.ca) Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

# Board Update

## ➤ Alberta Avian Influenza (AI) Update

The Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Response Team (APIEMT) – including Egg Farmers of Alberta, Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, and Alberta Turkey Producers – is working closely with Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to manage the outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) in the province. There are multiple confirmed cases of AI on commercial poultry farms in various counties in central Alberta.

At this time the cause of the confirmed cases of AI is unknown, but is believed to be linked to migratory birds, as has been the case recently elsewhere in both Canada and the United States. Alberta poultry farmers and industry partners are implementing enhanced biosecurity measures to protect their flocks and safeguard the supply of fresh, local eggs and poultry products. The APIEMT is providing regular updates to Alberta poultry producers, value chain partners, and industry stakeholders. A regularly updated statement is being maintained on the EFA website.

## ➤ Board Update

Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Marcella Van Stryland, from Harhil Farm Ltd., has been chosen for EFA's 2022 Director Development Program. Marcella previously represented Alberta as a 2020 mentee in Egg Farmers of Canada's Women in the Industry program, which was launched in 2019 to help prepare female farmers to assume leadership roles within the egg industry. She is a strong supporter of the supply management system and believes in its continued importance to Canadian egg farmers. Marcella is eager to learn more about how the EFA Board operates, as well as the regulations and policies that govern EFA and the provincial egg industry. She also looks forward to networking with the EFA Board and staff, and her fellow egg farmers. Please join us in congratulating Marcella and welcoming her to EFA's Director Development Program!

## ➤ Levy Increase

Effective April 10, 2022 (week 16/22), the levy will increase by \$1.424 bird (\$.053/dozen). The increase is mostly related to an increase in the levy which took effect on March 20, 2022 and is required to finance the Pooled Income Fund (PIF). The unexpected emergence of the Omicron variant in late 2021 resulting in public health restrictions imposed across the country in early 2022 adversely affected the projection for supply and demand used in EFC's original 2022 budget forecast. The projections reviewed at the February Board meeting, showed that the PIF would fall into a deficit position in the very near future and therefore a levy increase was approved.

In addition, the CETPP Fund Levy also needed a slight adjustment from 5 to 6 cents/dozen in order to cover off additional transitions to enriched than previously anticipated when the budget was prepared. New Levy schedules have been provided to producers to reflect these changes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Laurel Martin at [laurel.martin@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:laurel.martin@eggs.ab.ca) or by contacting her by phone at 403 250-1197x121.



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# Healthy Birds

## ► Grandfathering and Retooling Criteria

Within the layer Code of Practice there is a clause that "pre-existing furnished and loose housing systems have transitional time periods to allow farmers to make changes to their housing systems to meet certain final requirements. Systems installed or re-tooled after April 1, 2017 must meet all final requirements immediately." Hen housing measurements and certificates have been issued in consideration of transitional requirements where applicable. The most common situation where a producer may be operating under transitional requirements would be loose housing systems where 172.8 sq. in. of floor space and 3" of perch space is more favourable to the 144 sq. in./5.9" final requirement.



Re-tooling is defined in the Code of Practice as: "A major renovation or overhaul of existing housing systems and/or structures that is not part of normal or routine repair or maintenance. The addition of enrichments or furnishings that were not included when housing systems were installed is not considered to be re-tooling." Specific activities that constitute re-tooling, as per Egg Farmers of Canada, are detailed in the table below

Activity	Re-tooling
Addition of furnishings (e.g., perches, nests, dust bathing boxes, foraging sites, scratch pads) to become Code compliant.	No
Addition of new feed or water lines, or new type of feeding/ watering system installed.	No
Addition of new feed pans or water nipples or cups to existing line.	No
Furnishings added to an enrichable colony.	Yes
Addition or extension made to barn, and installation of new equipment in extension.	Yes
Replacement of large equipment, such as nests, in more than ½ of the system.	Yes
New row/tier of housing system installed in lay facility (e.g. 3rd row installed in aviary or 3rd tier or enriched colonies installed in lay facility). This applies to equipment that is purchased new, or purchased or previously owned.	Yes
Complete replacement of housing system in existing barn envelope.	Yes

Recently, Egg Farmers of Canada added a caveat that any activity that increases lay facility bird capacity by 5% or more beyond the "current capacity" should be considered re-tooling. Current capacity for this purpose can be defined as the number of birds placed prior to the implementation of the Code.

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For example, if perching was not existent, or very low, then adding the amount of perching required for the historic placement in that barn would not be considered a re-tool, but rather adding furnishings (ex. perch) to bring the lay facility up to be Code compliant. However, if a farmer wanted to add enough perching to go 5% over what they would normally house, then this is considered a re-tool and they should be updating everything to meet the final Code requirements.

As always, if you have any plans to expand the capacity of your facility you should discuss those plans with your EFA Field Services Coordinator (Murray or Dave) in advance.

### ► **Announcement for Poultry Industry - UCVM Hires Dr. Ashish Gupta**

The University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), with funding from the poultry industries, has hired Dr. Ashish Gupta as poultry pathologist and instructor.

Dr. Gupta will join UCVM in April 2022. Dr. Gupta is originally from India and brings a wealth of knowledge in poultry diagnostics with experience teaching veterinary students. He completed his BVSc&AH (DVM equivalent) and MVSc in India before moving to Saskatchewan. While at the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Gupta completed a PhD in Anatomic Pathology, poultry, studying inclusion body hepatitis in broiler chickens, and an MVet Sci and Certificate Diploma in Anatomic Pathology. He is well-versed in the Canadian poultry industry through attending local poultry meetings and visiting poultry farms, hatcheries, and processing plants. Dr. Gupta plans to write the board examinations for both the American College of Poultry Veterinarians and the American College of Veterinary Pathologists this summer.

The UCVM and the DSU are excited to welcome Dr. Gupta to the team! For more information about poultry diagnostic services, please contact the DSU at [DSU@ucalgary.ca](mailto:DSU@ucalgary.ca) or call (403) 220-2806.

### ► **Chick Health - Nutrition, Diet, and Comfort Considerations**

Setting your chicks up for success will help improve their growth rate, enhance yolk sac utilization, and boost their immune systems. The Poultry Innovation Partnership (PIP) has shared some excellent information in their latest newsletter on early nutrition and dietary considerations and an infrared thermometer tool that can be used to check chick comfort. For more information, please visit the following links below:

<https://poultryinnovationpartnership.ca/early-nutrition-and-dietary-considerations/>

<https://poultryinnovationpartnership.ca/thermoscan-for-chick-comfort/>

If you are interested in getting updates like these directly from PIP, please sign up for their mailing list here: <https://poultryinnovationpartnership.ca/stay-connected/>



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# Healthy Eggs

## ► Salmonella in the Egg Industry - Webinar Follow-Up

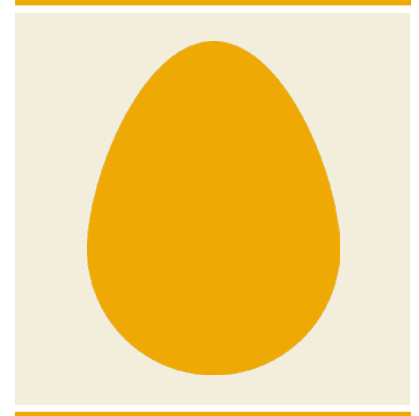
On February 24th EFA hosted the engagement webinar, “Salmonella in the Egg Industry.” The question was asked: “What is the percentage of flocks getting SE that are injected versus flocks that are not injected?” and there was a commitment to follow-up with producers.

Historically, vaccination rates have been low and EFA has not collected the vaccine history on SE positive flocks in Alberta. Given low vaccine rates and the low number of SE positives, it would be difficult to draw statistically relevant conclusions from this information. Nevertheless, considering the increasing use of Salmonella vaccines, we have revised our procedures and are committed to collecting this data moving forward.

The related information below is available from scientific literature:

- In a risk assessment that evaluated the effects of several risk management options on the prevalence of *S. Enteritidis*-contaminated eggs DeWinter et al. (2011) demonstrated that vaccination of all regulated laying flocks in Canada could reduce contaminated egg prevalence by 96%.
- The average prevalence of positive eggs from positive non-vaccinated flocks is 25 times that seen within *S. Enteritidis*-positive vaccinated flocks (Davies and Breslin, 2004).
- Field studies on Salmonella vaccination have demonstrated the reduction of fecal shedding with both live and inactivated Salmonella vaccines (Timms et al., 1994; Linde et al., 1997; Feberwee et al., 2000, 2001; Davies and Breslin, 2003, 2004).

Dr. Mike Petrik developed a report on Salmonella vaccines and their efficacy which includes additional scientific data on the prevalence of Salmonella following vaccination. The report can be found by navigating to the Learning and Education section of the producer portal and searching for “Petrik.”



# Healthy Farms

## ► Reminder on Scheduling Salmonella Testing Field Visits

EFA Field Service Coordinators are working to schedule all SE testing visits the day after egg pick-up. We are working with the graders to keep an up-to-date list of egg pickup days, however things can and do change quickly. We could use your help! If there has been a change to your egg pick up day or we have the day wrong, please let Murray or Dave know when they call to schedule. This will minimize any eggs being on hold pending test results.



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## ➤ **Electrical Hazards (From AgSafe Alberta)**

This month we look at electrocution as a hazard on the farm. When the conditions are right, electric shocks can be fatal even at low voltages. Since our bodies are approximately 70% water, it is easy for electricity to pass through us in just seconds. A mild electric shock can cause headache, muscle fatigue or spasms, temporary loss of consciousness and temporary difficulty breathing. Serious and potentially fatal side effects of electrocution can result in severe burns, vision loss, hearing loss, brain damage, respiratory arrest or failure, cardiac arrest and death.

Sources of electrocution can include damaged cords, automatic feeding systems, power outlets, machinery and more. It is important to ensure these items are repaired when needed and to lock out and tag out these items when being worked on. A lock out, tag out card lets others know that you are working on the equipment and protects people from getting hurt, contact AgSafe if you would like some of these for your farm.

Additionally, take a walk around your farm and note some of the following things that can help to protect you and your workers:

- Are your farm's outlets, switches, and light fixtures rated for the environment (weather, dust, moisture)?
- Are there any panels, circuits or outlets that are overloaded?
- Do the electrical tools you are using have proper grounding protection?
- Is there a place on your farm that equipment could come into contact with a powerline? (It is critical to leave 7m between your equipment and the powerline to avoid the chance of an arc flash).
- Last, are there underground lines that you need to locate before digging?

While it seems like we may not hear of electrical injuries happening on farms very often, when they do happen they can cause significant injury. The following link is the story of Curtis Weber a worker who experienced this in Saskatchewan when he was just 17 and how it has impacted his life The Curtis Weber Story on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/SLUpjxe642s>

## ➤ **Common CARs Issued to Date in 2022**

So far in 2022 there have been a couple commonly occurring Corrective Action Requests (CAR). Below is a reminder to producers to adhere to the following to avoid an issued CAR:

- Euthanasia SOPs templates must be updated to reflect the circumstances followed on your farm. Please make sure the SOP specifies what steps you are actually taking on farm.
  - A reminder that Euthanasia SOP templates for cervical dislocation, blunt force trauma, decapitation, and CO2 gassing are available on the producer portal.
- While generators do not need to have an alarm system, there must be an alarm system in the barn or an emergency plan if the power goes out. Please have this information available prior to your audits.



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# Healthy Communities

## ► EFA Regulations & Bylaws Update

On February 17, 2022, the Egg Farmers of Alberta Plan Regulation was approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development. Both the Plan Regulation and the Egg Farmers of Alberta Marketing Amendment Regulation have been filed with Alberta's Registrar of Regulations. This approval includes EFA's new Bylaws, which took effect on February 28, 2022.



The creation of EFA Bylaws has granted the EFA Board of Directors more authority when making amendments separate from the comprehensive regulatory review process that requires multiple approvals, including by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development. The Board must consult with producers when considering a potential amendment. Any amendment to the EFA Bylaws that requires approval by the EFA Board, must also be approved by the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council before the amended Bylaw can take effect.

In accordance with Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAPA) requirements, information about the regulations & bylaws governing the provincial egg industry can be found on EFA's website (<https://eggs.ab.ca/about-us/>), along with links to each document.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 15,** Office Closed for Good Friday

**April 19,** CEIRA AGM

**April 20-21,** Quebec Egg Farmers AGM

**April 25,** PMC Meeting

**May 9 & 10,** EFA Board Meeting

**May 12,** Purchase deadline for QE2

**May 26,** Quota Exchange deadline for QE2



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## ► Communications Update

We believe in two-way communication between our consumers and us, and we want you to stay informed, be active and engaged about our social media happenings. Each month we'll include a communications update of a piece of work that we are proud to show you! We would also love your opinion on what you want to see, so if you have suggestions feel free to send them to [adelina.banaj@eggs.ab.ca](mailto:adelina.banaj@eggs.ab.ca) or call 587-391-6122.

## ► Monthly Social Highlights

Continuing with our 3 main overarching themes year-round, we are sharing a variety of content this month. We are celebrating National Eggs Benedict Day by sharing our collection of eggs benedict recipes. We are also sharing useful nutrition facts around eggs & cholesterol and how lutein found in eggs protects against heart disease. For the farming theme, we are sharing facts about EFA's Producer Environmental Egg Program (PEEP). Here's what you can expect to see on social:

