

EggNotes

Board of Directors

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Vice Chair: Conrad Vanessen 403-635-7998
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EFC Alternate: Jerry Hofer 403-363-3501
Director: Elie Hofer 780-691-8512
Director: John Hofer 403-363-0393
Director in Training: Marcella Van Stryland 403-784-3519

EFA Vision Statement
Healthy Food, Healthy Farms,
Healthy Families



EFA Mission Statement
Cultivating a sustainable egg industry
together with farmers, consumers & other
stakeholders

EFA Staff

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EFA Office Hours

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

Egg Price Update Effective January 29, 2023

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen
A	Extra Large	2.840 ↓
A	Large	2.840 ↓
A	Medium	2.540 ↓
A	Small	2.180 ↓
A	Nest Run	2.672 ↓
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 portal.

EggNotes is the official newsletter of Egg Farmers of Alberta.
Submissions should be sent to:
info@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: May 12, 2023

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 is deeply committed to sustainability, innovation, and giving back. From investing in research to supporting worthwhile causes, from collaborating with various stakeholders to feeding a hungry world, there are many exciting ways that EFA and the egg industry are fulfilling these commitments. The Poultry Innovation Partnership (PIP) and Heart for Africa (Canada) are two such endeavors that EFA is proud to be involved with.

The Poultry Innovation Partnership was launched in 2020, as a new beginning for the Poultry Research Centre, which was originally founded in 1986. EFA has been a partner since the start, recognizing the unique opportunity to leverage the world-class poultry expertise that we are fortunate to have in our backyard, to pursue research, extension, and tech transfer. Watch future issues of EggNotes for deeper dives into various projects being worked on by the PIP. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about the PIP, please visit their website: poultryinnovationpartnership.ca

Heart for Africa (Canada) was created to bring hope and nutrition to the Eswatini population, especially the orphaned or vulnerable children. Project Canaan is Heart for Africa (Canada)'s 1,000-hectare land development project. The community and multi-commodity farm includes 2 layer barns filled with laying hens, thanks to the generosity of volunteers and supporters. Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) contributes on-the-ground expertise, after working closely with the community to establish the egg farm. If you would like to learn more about Heart for Africa (Canada) and Project Canaan, or if you would like to pledge your financial support, please visit their website: heartforafrica.ca/egg-project

A group trip for the Canadian egg industry to visit Project Canaan has been arranged for November 2023. The cost of this once in a lifetime trip is \$1,800 (US\$), which includes accommodations, meals, and an exciting itinerary. Airfare to and from Johannesburg, South Africa, is extra. More information about the trip can be found on the Heart for Africa (Canada) website: heartforafrica.ca/trip-efc-november-2023



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After Hours Phone Line - Emergency Response

Egg Farmers of Alberta has a new phone number for emergency response: 368-996-3447. This number will be posted on the Producer Portal and published in each issue of EggNotes, located in the footer on the first page.

When the Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Response Team (APIEMT) activates their Emergency Operations Centre the phone will be monitored outside EFA office hours. This will assist EFA staff in transitioning who is on call to support producers, while providing producers with a consistent point of contact.

Please be aware that while the line is monitored after hours when the Alberta Poultry Industry's Emergency Operations Centre is activated, it is NOT monitored 24/7. The line is NOT for emergencies requiring police, fire or an ambulance - 911 remains your best option.

As always, if you have concerns about the health of your flock you should call your veterinarian or the Chief Provincial Vet at 1-800-524-0051. If you have concerns about sick or dead wild birds, please call 310-0000.

Avian Influenza (AI) Update

As of the time of publication, there are currently 2 active Primary Control Zones (PCZs) in the province, with 60 total confirmed cases (33 commercial poultry farms + 1 commercial mixed poultry farm).

Western Poultry Conference

The Western Poultry Conference will be held on June 14th & 15th at Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta. Producers can find out more about the agenda and register at <https://westernpoultryconference.ca/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 19 - 23 | Aggie Days (Calgary)
May 3 | EFA Board Meeting
May 11 | 2023 QE2 Purchase Deadline
May 22 | Office closed in lieu of Victoria Day

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Missed a recent webinar? You can watch the recordings of past webinars on the producer portal > <https://portal.eggs.ab.ca/producer-portal/learning-portal/webinars-and-eggbites>



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Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP)

Federal Programs

The five-year, \$3.5 billion Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership includes six federally funded national programs:

1. AgriAssurance: Available to national not-for profit organizations to help the industry build consumer trust by adopting new standards and tools.
2. AgriCompetitiveness: Available to national not-for-profit organizations to help Canadian agriculture and agri-food improve its competitive advantages. It supports industry activities to identify best practices and build sector capacity, to improve farm business management and farm safety tools and information, and to promote awareness of agriculture.
3. AgriDiversity: Supports under-represented and marginalized groups, including Indigenous Peoples, to increase their capacity to take on a greater leadership role in the sector and build entrepreneurial capacity and business skills.
4. AgriMarketing: Available to national not-for-profit organization to help the industry promote and market its products to consumers in Canada and around the world.
5. AgriScience: Aims to accelerate the pace of innovation by funding and supporting pre-commercialization science and research for the benefit of the agriculture and agri-food sector and Canadians.

The last program, AgriInnovate, is an exception to the programs being targeted at national not-for-profit organizations. The AgriInnovate Program is targeted at for profit companies and supports projects that accelerate the commercialization, demonstration and adoption of innovative technologies.

The program defines "innovation" as the:

- creation of a technology or process that is expected to produce improvements over other competing technologies or processes available to the Canadian agricultural or agri-food sector
- adoption of commercially available technologies or processes to address a deficiency facing the agricultural or agri-food sector.

The technology or process:

- needs to be new to the Canadian agricultural or agri-food sector
- needs to be not yet widely adopted in other countries
- undergoes adaptation (beyond customization).

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Examples of eligible activities include:

- Expansion or modernization of a facility or site to commercialize, demonstrate, or adopt a new and significant agricultural, agri-food or agri-based technology or process innovation
- Commercialization of innovative bio-based plastics and other synthetics as an alternative food packaging material that is new to Canada and provides significant benefits over other bio-based plastics
- Building a new facility to commercialize a new and significant technique to produce alternative protein or other food products
- Commercialization of "new to the ag sector" meat cutting technologies or processes that provide significant benefits over established meat cutting options
- Significant adaptation of robotics equipment used in non-agriculture related sectors to agricultural based situation, such as vertical farm
- Demonstration of a new and significant artificial intelligence technology platform to assist growing or food processing operations

Provincial Programs

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation has launched the new Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership programs. Producers can visit <https://www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap-programs> for the latest information. All programs will begin accepting applications as of April 3, 2023. Producer facing programs include Efficient Grain Handling, Farm Technology, On-Farm Value Added, Resilient Agriculture Landscapes, and Water (irrigation and water supply). The Farm Technology program may be of particular interest to egg producers. The program is intended to support the adoption of innovative technology that minimizes waste and optimizes efficiency. It also supports producers to adopt farm security tools.

Example eligible expenses include:

- Many components of smart systems such as digital sensors, data collection, connectivity, and automated data analysis programs
- Agriculture-specific drones or robots
- Farm/barn/flock management software or apps (the first year of a subscription is eligible, on-going costs are not)
- ISOBUS Universal Terminals and Task Controllers
- Data storage units
- GPS equipment tags and trackers
- Remote monitoring for fixed cameras
- Remote fuel tank monitors
- Motion detectors and door sensors.



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Healthy Farms

Your Premise Identification Number (PID)

PID links livestock and poultry to land locations or premises and is a tool used to plan for, control, and prevent the spread of livestock and poultry disease. It can also be used as an early warning system to notify people registered in the PID system of a natural disaster such as a flood or fire that could affect their animals or operations. Having accurate animal locations, contact information and other key data in one system is critical for a quick and effective emergency response.



Effective emergency response and the ability to protect your animals depends on accurate information. It is therefore important that you update your PID account when there are changes to your operation (contact information, animal types and capacity, etc.) or if you no longer have livestock on your premises. Inaccurate and outdated information can put your animals at risk during an emergency by delaying notification or delivering an incorrect response from emergency responders.

The following PID account information should be reviewed regularly:

- account contact information
- emergency 24/7 contact information for the premises
- location of the premises where animals are located (i.e.; legal land description or geo-referenced coordinates)
- type of premises/operation (e.g., farm, abattoir, livestock auction, stable)
- types of animals raised, kept, displayed, assembled, or disposed of on the premises
- maximum capacity for each species of animal on the premises.

There are 2 ways to review/update your information:

- Visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises to update your information online. Click the "Apply or Sign-In Online" button to log-in and access your account.
- Call the Premises Identification Program Delivery staff at 780-422-9167.



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Farm Safety Modules, from AgSafe Alberta

As part of the revised safety assessment that EFA is rolling out in June, producers will have access to four learning modules.

The first three modules are related to Hazard Assessment, Hazard Controls, and Emergency Response Planning.

Hazard Identification and Assessment will cover how to proactively assess all jobs for hazards and train workers to carefully evaluate existing and potential hazards at the work site. It is important to involve all the members of your farm team for awareness and because someone might see something you do not.

Hazards Controls come into play once you have assessed the hazards on your farm. You can now determine what measures can be put into place that will eliminate or reduce the risk of harm from that hazard.

Emergency Response Planning is important for any business and can help everyone understand their role in the event that an emergency happens. While fire and flood are probably the ones that first come to mind, take time to consider scenarios like armed theft or others not welcome on your property, a tornado, or even a downed powerline. Make sure you are not the only one who knows these procedures as there will be days when you are not at the farm.

The last module will be an overview of the questions and how to complete the required forms. This module will be considered equivalent to what is covered at the upcoming Farm Safety Workshops in June.

The modules are not available yet as they are undergoing updates but will be ready for you in the coming months – stay tuned!

National Virtual Audit Policy

The intent of both the SC-SC™ program and the ACP is that the audits are conducted on-farm annually. During the early days of the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020, and the onset of HPAI in 2022, some virtual audits were conducted due to the uncertainty of the viruses. Although this is not an ideal method of auditing, this was a stopgap measure that was occasionally used in order to uphold EFC's Annual On-Farm Program Audits Policy.

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A clear policy has now been put in place that outlines the eligibility requirements, and criteria of implementation, in times of requested or ordered stand-downs. The intent of this policy is not to replace on-farm visits, but to make audits possible during brief periods where an in-person audit may be deemed impossible.

Farms will be eligible for a virtual audit as long as the following criteria have been met:

1. The farm must be in good standing with both EFC and EFA
2. The farm must be located in a CFIA-designated primary control zone.
3. Initial audit results for both ACP and SC-SC™ ratings must be 95% or over for the previous 2 audits. Due to this requirement, new entrants are not eligible for a virtual audit for two years.
4. The farmer must have the ability to provide the required documentation using one or more of the following technologies:
 - Live video (ie: Zoom, Skype, etc.)
 - Photos or video clips
 - Scanned records
 - The farmer must be able to live-stream from the facility OR must be able to message photographic evidence to the auditor simultaneously during a walk-around (ie: via text message, FaceTime, WhatsApp, email, etc.). This means a viable Wi-Fi connection and/or data must exist
5. The most recent audit must have been conducted in person (a virtual audit cannot take place for two (2) consecutive years).

When a virtual audit is to be conducted, EFC will schedule the appointment and provide the list of required records for virtual audit to the farmer. The list of required records will be sent to the farmer at least 72 hours before the virtual audit. The auditor will reserve the right to conduct a scheduled on-farm visit following the virtual audit should any concerns be raised during the virtual audit.

EFA Field Services Coordinators will also continue to follow policy that they will not visit farms in CFIA-designated primary control zones for the purposes of counting or Salmonella testing. As Salmonella testing is an essential activity, a third party will be contracted to visit these farms as necessary to conduct testing. This allows us to guarantee there will be no other farm visits by that individual without a stand down period. When timing and zone status requires, counts will be conducted virtually via digital record submission.



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Healthy Birds

Meeting Reports on Salmonella and Water Management

New on the producer portal is meeting reports for Making Water Quality Part of Your Management Culture and Salmonella: Prevention is Key to Management.

Did you know that there are non-antibiotic options to lessen your risk of Salmonella such as improvement of gut health, water or feed acidification, bacterial binding agents, and other gut health products like essential oils and antimicrobial peptides? Or how about that iron in your water supply can cause bacteria like pseudomonas, salmonella, and E.coli to grow?

Learn more by visiting the research outcomes page on the producer portal and reading these reports!

In-Ovo Vaccinations Against Salmonella and Other Bacterial Pathogens Research Findings

The research study at the University of Saskatchewan on In-ovo Vaccinations Against Salmonella and Bacterial Pathogens has concluded. Researcher Dr. Wolfgang Koester presented his findings to the research committee. A video recording of his presentation along with a question-and-answer period is now available on the producer portal under 'Learnings and Education', Research and Outcomes.

Water Testing Template

Water quality is a critical element for optimal bird health and welfare. Egg Farmers of Alberta in consultation with Poultry Innovation Partnership and Alberta poultry veterinarians has developed a water testing template which is available on the producer portal under Farm Programs. This template provides an overview of how to test for different water parameters, record your results, and compare them to what the optimal standards are.

EFA Funded Precision Feeding Research Project Factsheet

Posted on the producer portal is a new EFA funded research project factsheet on precision feeding. Did you know that feeding birds high metabolic energy diets can increase egg production but also results in bird's laying smaller eggs? Find out more by visiting the producer portal at <https://portal.eggs.ab.ca/learning-portal/research-and-outcomes>.



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Questions about Water? Use the “Ask the Expert” Forum on the Producer Portal

There is a new section on the Producer Portal Forum: Water Issue and Treatment.
<https://portal.eggs.ab.ca/producer-portal/forum/forum-home/water-issues-and-treatment/water-issues-and-treatment>.

This is a place to discuss water testing, treatment, and other water related challenges or solutions. The thread is monitored by Dr. Mohammad Afrouziyeh from the Poultry Innovation Partnership (PIP).

Dr. Afrouziyeh has extensive experience in poultry nutrition and has worked as a poultry nutritionist for more than a decade. He recently developed a web-based Water Decision Tree App in collaboration with Dr. Susan Watkins (University of Arkansas professor). This app is intended to communicate information regarding water management on poultry farms and help you to make the best decisions regarding the water you provide to your flocks.

We also highly encourage producers to share information on people or contacts with expertise in this area so we can continue to grow our community of practice. ***All producers who share a water expert contact or post a water treatment question on the forum prior to June 30th will be entered into a draw to win a water ORP and pH meter.***

An ORP (oxidation-reduction potential) and pH meter can be used to help you understand what kind of sanitation program will work best. Measuring pH before and after filters can also help you check your water system maintenance. In addition, checking the water ORP at the end of the drinker line can help you to better understand the efficacy of your chlorine sanitation program.

The Silent Robber of Egg Size – Focal Duodenal Necrosis (FDN), from Steve Laycock, Accelerated Agriculture Inc.

Egg producers aim to maximize the size of eggs and overall egg production without sacrificing hen health or eggshell integrity. Every flock reacts differently to management tactics. Egg size is first affected by pullet size at the onset of lay, then lighting for stimulation, and finally the nutrient levels such as methionine and energy levels that we use in the feed.

A few years ago, I was lucky enough to meet Dr. Bernie Beckman, the Director of Technical Services at Hy-Line North America. I described my challenge of having case weight stalls in several flocks. Dr. Beckman immediately identified the issue as FDN.

You can find the rest of this article on the Producer Portal, under Learning and Education and search in Farm Resources and Documents 'FDN'.



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Classified Ads

Poultry Equipment for Sale!

- Big dutchman flat chains feed drives and corners
- Egg gathering equipment for big dutchman conventional cages
- End manure drives big dutchman

If interested, please contact Joe at 403-323-7705

Diamond Farmpecker for Sale!

- Very good condition
- 1,800 dozen eggs per hour
- 90 degree takeaway conveyor

If interested, please contact Felix at River Road at 403-388-8834 x 224

Are you selling equipment that you would like featured here?

Contact Tate O'Dwyer, EFA's Marketing & Social Media Coordinator at 587-391-6122 and your ad could be in the next month's edition! Classified ads are also located on the Classified forums section of the Producer Portal.



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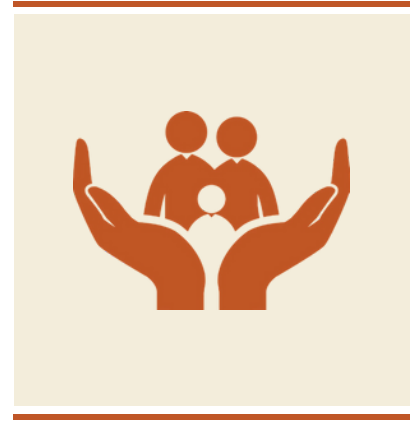
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Healthy Communities

Food Banks Alberta Appreciation Brunch

Egg Farmers of Alberta is pleased to have started a new collaboration with the restaurant group, OEB Breakfast Co. OEB has locations in Calgary, Edmonton and across the country. As part of this, we hosted a joint food banks appreciation brunch for staff and volunteers at OEB's Mission location in Calgary on March 21st! 11 people attended (including members from the Calgary Food Bank, Airdrie Food Bank, Unison Kerby Centre, Food Banks Alberta, and the Veterans Food Bank Association). OEB did a fantastic job at setting the private space for this event and the feedback we have received has been nothing but positive.



We are in the midst of working on potentially doing a similar appreciation brunch at one of their Edmonton locations in the future for food banks around that area. EFA is excited to grow this collaboration with OEB further.

To learn more about OEB, visit: <https://eatoeb.com/about/>

To learn more about Food Banks Alberta, visit: <https://foodbanksalberta.ca/>



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Mental Health Resources

On March 8th, the first ever National Symposium for Mental Health in Agriculture took place. A meeting report summarizing the content of this symposium has been added to the producer website under the Healthy Communities and Mental Health pillar.

During the session, AgKnow which is collaboration between Agriculture Research Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) and the University of Alberta presented their mission to promote mental health and resilience among farmers and farm families so that they can lead fulfilling and productive lives.

Currently AgKnow is offering two free therapy sessions per participant with their network of 12 mental health professionals knowledgeable in farm culture. To access these sessions or other AgKnow resources please visit <https://www.agknow.ca/>.

Emergency Contact List

The emergency contact list has been integrated into the producer portal under forums. Now, during an emergency depopulation or transportation incident, producers can access contact information for other producers in the area who may be willing to provide assistance.

Producers who are interested in helping their peers in the event of an emergency can put their contact information and other details directly onto this page.

Alberta Open Farm Days Reminder

EFA encourages farms to participate in this year's Open Farm Days, running August 19th and 20th, 2023. The deadline to register your farm is Sunday, April 30th. Register your farm at: <https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/host-farms/registration/>



Marketing Highlights

Here's a snapshot of some recent highlights in the marketing world!



Egg Ambassador Workshop



EFA hosted an Egg Ambassador workshop on March 30th. David Webb spoke to farmers about the program, what 2023 opportunities there are, and the resources available. 14 farmers attend the full-day workshop. There was plenty of great engagement and conversation throughout the day!

Brant Colony - Article



One of our community partnerships is with Alberta on the Plate. They recently published an article talking about Brant Colony's net-zero egg barn. You can read the article at:
<https://www.albertaontheplate.com/industry/net-zero-egg-farming/>



Earth Day is April 22



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