

EggNotes

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▶ **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
September 5 - Labour Day, Office Closed

Egg Price Update Effective June 12, 2022

Canada Grade	Size	Price Per Dozen	
A	Extra Large	2.960	↑
A	Large	2.960	↑
A	Medium	2.660	↑
A	Small	2.300	↑
A	Nest Run	2.786	↑
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

Next Issue: September 16, 2022

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



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P: 403-250-1197 Toll Free: 1-877-302-2344 F: 403-291-9216
Website: eggs.ab.ca Producer Website: albertaeggproducers.ca
Email: info@eggs.ab.ca Office hours: M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Board Update

- ▶ Your Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) Board of Directors would like to remind Alberta producers that continued diligence is critical to mitigating the risk of Avian Influenza (AI). Even with an abundance of caution and heightened biosecurity in effect, the Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team (APIEMT) recently received confirmation of the 32nd case of AI in the province.

With the fall migration just around the corner, EFA appreciates the mindfulness and commitment to effective biosecurity by all Alberta egg farmers. Your dedication will help keep your flocks safe and healthy, while mitigating the risk of further spread of AI. Please refer to the APIEMT memo that was distributed to all producers on July 21, 2022, for detailed recommendations that remain in place for enhanced biosecurity on Alberta poultry farms.

▶ Levy Update

The EFA Board of Directors reviewed the 2022 Levy Change at their most recent meeting, which included the 4 cent EFC levy decrease. The Board decided to amend the levy requirements to \$14.21 per bird for registered producers and \$0.5253 per dozen for non-registered producers, effective September 4, 2022 (week 37/22).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 16**, AI Impacted Producer Sessions
- August 18**, Research Committee Meeting - EFA Board Office
- August 22**, Climate Change Risk Assessment Meeting
- August 23**, Buyback Assessment Team Meeting (TO)
- August 25**, APIEMT Lessons Learned
- September 1**, Board Meeting - EFA Board Office
- September 5**, Labour Day - Office Closed



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Healthy Birds

➤ A Story about Transport, Regulations, and the SPCA - and a friendly reminder!

A few weeks ago, an egg farmer in Northern Alberta had an unexpected visit from the Alberta SPCA. The farmer ships pullets to Central Alberta via a major highway on the outskirts of Edmonton. The investigator communicated that the farmer had been reported 3 times for concerns related to mortalities and air flow in the vehicle and the third time they traced back the license plate to identify the farm and came to inspect. The investigator asked many questions about having livestock transportation training, the density of the birds during shipment, mortalities during transit, and the design of the vehicle as it pertains to airflow. Ultimately this producer was able to demonstrate that the mortality during transit was one bird out of over 10,000, appropriate transportation training was completed and documented, and their trailer has an innovative and progressive air flow design in lieu of standard open air. Nevertheless, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all producers of the following:



- The amended Health of Animals transport regulations went into effect February 2020. Throughout this process questions have arisen over interpretation and implementation of the regulations. EFA and EFC have worked with CFIA to create a national question and answer (Q & A) document for the egg industry about the amended transport regulations. An updated Q & A document verified by the CFIA is available on the Producer Portal under Learning & Education by searching “transportation”. It includes information on what is defined as a compromised or unfit bird, feed, water, and rest withdrawal times, and crating requirements.
- To assist producers with transportation record keeping, templates are included in your record keeping calendars to fulfill the requirements CFIA transportation regulations.
- Only commercial haulers (those hired to transport poultry) need to have a 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 have a responsibility to inform the recipient of that flock on the details of your transportation documentation.
- For producers interested in becoming fully certified in transportation training, the CLT online poultry transport module has been revised to align with the updated CFIA transportation regulations and is available at <https://clt.online-compliance.com/>
- The current Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation was released in 2001 <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/transportation> The revision of this Code started in 2018 and is scheduled for completion in 2023.



➤ Call for Participation in Water Quality and It's Impacts on Vaccine Efficacy Study

Egg Farmers of Alberta recently provided funding for a research project called *Investigation of Procedures and Water Quality Impacting Vaccine Effectiveness in Egg Layers in Alberta*. The researcher is now seeking participation from poultry producers to allow the collection of samples on egg laying farms in Alberta. Outlined below is further information on the background and rationale for the study, objectives, requirements for participation, and benefits to the producer.

Background and rationale for the study:

As a nutrient, water is essential for the flock performance. The source of drinking water for poultry flocks can originate from various sources and includes surface water and ground water. Most often the water is not treated and can have various concentrations of constituents and, they possess different properties that are beyond the acceptable levels.

Given the importance of use of water with acceptable physical, chemical and microbiological levels in maintaining bird health, the goal of the proposed work is to characterize the quality of drinking water provided to table egg layers in AB and see if the drinking water quality provided post-vaccination influence the vaccine-mediated control of economically important poultry diseases. Since water can be a vehicle for transmission of zoonotic microbial infections and hazardous chemicals, indirectly, the study will reveal potential human health hazards impacting the health of poultry workers. Overall, the generated data will increase the sustainability and productivity of table egg layer industry by (a) advancing the knowledge on influence of drinking water quality on the efficacy of vaccines used by egg layer industry and (b) optimizing vaccination practices minimizing the impact of drinking water quality. The outcomes can be implemented by the table egg layer industry in AB and elsewhere in Canada.

Objectives of the study:

Objective 1: To investigate the association of quality of drinking water made available following vaccination and procedures and the effectiveness of current vaccination programs as determined by serological responses in the table egg layer industry in AB.

Objective 2: To determine the effect of drinking water quality on the efficacy of vaccination of layer chickens.

Objective 3: To formulate possible mitigation strategies minimizing the impact of water quality on vaccine induced immune response in egg layer industry in AB.

What is required if my animal participates in the study:

For this study we need to analyze bird's drinking water quality using tests. Water samples will also be collected in sterile tubes for lab tests. In addition, we will also be collecting blood samples from 12 birds for serology for various poultry vaccines. There will be three visits based on the age of the layer flocks starting at 18, 30 and 45 weeks of age and at each time 12 blood samples will be collected.

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Participation of your farm and your cooperation is needed for this study as well as for the layer production.

What are the possible benefits to participation in the study:

At the end of the study we will be able generate data about the drinking water quality of your farm. We will also be able to share the impact of drinking water quality on the effectiveness of vaccines. Finally, we can develop a protocol aiming the highest favorable drinking water quality for poultry layer farmers. These outcomes will not only be beneficial for your farm but also the layer farmers in Alberta, even throughout the country.

If you have questions or are interested in participating and providing samples to this study, please contact Jenna Griffin at 403-250-1197 x 129 or jenna.griffin@eggs.ab.ca.

➤ **Heat Stress in Poultry – From Alberta Poultry Veterinarians**

As we move into the latter (and likely warmer) half of summer we would like to take a moment to share this message from the poultry team at Prairie Livestock Veterinarians Inc.:

Heat stress in poultry is a significant concern in Alberta and Saskatchewan this summer. When they become too hot, chickens and turkeys will pant, lift their wings away from their body, rest against a cool surface if available, and increase water consumption. The comb and wattles may appear more red. As the birds become hotter, they need to pant faster to get rid of heat. However, rapid panting is unsustainable and will eventually result in death if the bird cannot find another way to cool itself. Heat stress also results in enteritis and birds becoming more prone to bacterial and viral infections.

To improve cooling in poultry, reduce the barn temperature and humidity and provide better air flow through the barn. Ensure water pressure is adequate throughout the barn. Products such as vitamin C, organic acids, electrolytes, and probiotics can be added to water. Vitamin C specifically helps with heat stress as it helps maintain feed intake, immunity, and growth performance. Organic acids can improve water intake, electrolytes will help maintain hydration, and probiotics will support intestinal health.

-Dr. Teryn Girard, Dr. Hollyn Maloney, & Dr. Greg Dimmers



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Healthy Farms

► How Do You Welcome Newcomers on Your Farm? *From AgSafe Alberta*

Often in the summer we have visitors come out to the farm whether it is family and friends from the city or you have opened your farm for Open Farm Days. It is great to share the story of agriculture and what we do with others. As you explain what you do in a day, do you also mention how you do it safely? Or mention what they need to do to be safe walking around your farm operation? Some tips for welcoming visitors to your farm:



- If they will be walking around and farm activity is still going on consider having them wear hi-vis vests. This helps to make them more visible and helps operators be more aware of their actions which they may not expect.
- Restrict access to busy areas or let them view from a safe place out of the way.
- Post signs to let people know where to find safety equipment (fire extinguishers, first aid kits) and where to muster in an emergency.
- Remember that kids will climb on and into anything, so a quick walk around equipment before operating to check for kids and their toys is often beneficial.
- Keep areas that contain chemicals and/or pharmaceuticals locked up.
- If there are animals remember they may not be used to the noise or quick movements of guests so take caution when approaching them.
- Walk around and completing a review of your hazards and controls and updating them if needed, is great for your farm and for keeping guests safe.

Teaching people about agriculture is great for our industry and keeping them safe while doing it is even better.

Pullet Growing and Moving
Contact Martin at Springview Colony
Phone: 587-816-5112, ext. 531
Email: broilers@svfarming.com



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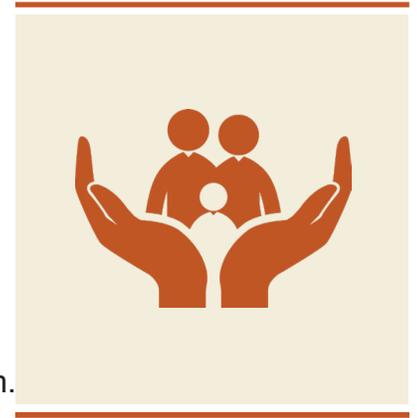
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Healthy Communities



➤ Marketing Update

EFA is excited to introduce our new Marketing & Social Media Coordinator (MSMC), Tate O'Dwyer. Originally from Edmonton, Tate has lived in Calgary for more than 20 years, where he got his start in agriculture with a feed additive company. He is excited to focus on the poultry industry and is eager to continue learning as part of the EFA team.

The MSMC works closely with the Marketing & Communications Manager to develop and implement EFA's annual marketing, public relations, communications, and government relations plan. The MSMC is responsible for managing EFA's various social media platforms and coordinating our presence at major agricultural events.

Tate's first official day with EFA is Monday, August 15th. Please join us in welcoming Tate to EFA and the Alberta egg industry!

➤ 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 david.webb@eggs.ab.ca or call 587-391-6126.

➤ Monthly Social Highlights

Continuing with our 3 main overarching themes year-round, we are sharing a variety of content this month. We are highlighting the affordability of eggs, as both a high-quality and high-value meal option. We are also talking about various hen housing systems, and how farmers maximize the quality of care provided to laying hens in whichever system they choose to operate. Here's what you can expect to see on social:

